

Athens City Commission on Disabilities
October 16, 2024
Athens Community Center Room A (or via Zoom with ADA request)
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER (Davey)-5:36PM

ESTABLISH QUORUM (Ally) - Ally, Melissa Kitrick from O&E, Deb, Michelle, Carolyn, Lisa, Micah, Davey, Annah

Lisa read the purpose - **PURPOSE:** The Athens City Commission on Disabilities is a committee of city government whose commitment is to provide a means for the concerns of people with disabilities to be heard; to advocate for public policy change; to provide expertise to the community on disabilities; and to tell the community about the strengths and limitations of people with disabilities, as well as how the community can help them improve their quality of life, thereby ensuring equality of opportunity and full participation in community life for everyone.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Davey) (3 mins)

- September 2024-tabling, same as last time – so I need to add the total

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Carolyn (3 min)-2035.94 – raised \$1400 in sponsors,
- 1st Lisa, 2nd Michelle, unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

- **City Council Letter Update** – city ground down 90% of problematic curb cuts downtown, paved the sidewalk next to the city building, now the city owns a concrete grinder so this is a positive update,
- Micah gave update: appearance of federal grant funds
- Davey: expecting response by November 1st
- Micah was asked about line items for the budget advises not to put in mayor's discretionary fund, Micah would need to ask which fund this would most logically come from then once that is identified then ordinance drafted and then law director would review – holy moly early next week and back in committee Monday October 28th, Micah will help with legislation (who will be on email thread: Davey, Ally, Annah, Dianne, Carolyn)
- **Pedestrian Accessibility Committee Update (Michelle)**, already meeting for one year!, looking to establish admin fine for people violating sidewalk policies, so not shoveling, not taking care of them, figuring out if it would become a citation and if city would even enforce it appropriately; encourage more businesses to have bicycle parking, maybe branded bike racks, there's one at Seamen's that is branded and paid for by the brand, following the commission letter, keeping an eye on the ten year plan and what they can do to help with that, Stephanie and rob are looking to draft ordinance(s), Micah is the city council liaison, a lot of barriers for the sidewalk enforcement

OLD BUSINESS

- Athena Award / Disability Commission Commemoration Planning – people are rsvping their tables, the speaker has been granted the accommodations and OU Inn donated free rooms, next big step is how much to increase the food amount -currently 50 meals- have nominees and their families go first, had 70 meals previous years, Micah has a city council intern who is interested in helping, Annah organized childcare, blue level sponsors \$50, honoring Patty, Michelle is scripting and timing and doing stage management,

COMMITTEE REPORTS

-- Executive Team (Ally, Carolyn, Davey, Dianne)

- Streets update
- Accessibility and Advocacy (Lisa/Ally) (5 mins)
 - Sidewalks and Next Steps – pushing for the ten year plan and getting movement on that, matching grant needed at 30k, lower is fine but we want to keep it going, ADA transition plan that includes 10 year plan, ordinances (need to put in budget) versus resolutions (apply pressure for the other asks), talking about outcomes that we want, walk to and roll, need to have that at the front of the agenda, does WTR look different at next year's, dunking booth, pushing them into curb cuts, maybe empathy cards like I have used before, maybe michelle's ideas
 - Next meeting: November 15th at noon – City Building
- Outreach and Communications (Deb and Michelle)
 - Athena Award
 - Next meeting: January 14th 2025

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cathryn Ann Jorden – meeting with her before the next swim season (February)

Water aerobics Lancaster pool social

Stroud run beach – ODNR has permitted everything and accessible trail is happening

Inclusivity walk October 20th at 11am

Ally motioned to adjourn the meeting. Lisa seconded. Unanimously supported. Meeting adjourned at 6:29PM.

Prepared by,

Ally Hughes
Secretary
10/20/2024