

Athens City Commission on Disabilities

Accessibility and Advocacy Committee Meeting Minutes

Friday, January 10, 2025, 12:00 – 1:00

Athens City Building, First Floor Conference Room

Attending: Ally Hughes, Davey McNelly, Dianne Bouvier, Annah Korpi, Lisa Simpson, Stephanie Hunter, Sara Doherty, Lacey Rogers

Quorum was met.

Ally started the meeting at 12:06pm.

November 8, 2024 Minutes Approval: motion by Stephanie, Davey 2nd, Motion carried.

Monica Flowers is our contact at the City Building now for the listserv communication.

Leadership Nominations in 2025: Ally and Lisa requested finding new co-chairs. The group nominated Rob Delach and Stephanie Hunter to take the lead. Lisa and Ally will stay on to assist co-chairs. Lisa will retire next year and be stepping down from the commission and committee.

2025 Goals:

1. Walk, Talk and Roll - Create a sub committee for planning - (Sara expressed interest)
2. Create a calendar to review/remind of current issues.
3. Matrix Maintenance and Follow-up Process - (Suggestion to use calendar. Ally will follow up on getting the matrix on the city website.)
4. Revive Accessible Project Grant Program

Discussion: Davey and group noted that the accessible parking uptown didn't get cleared of snow. Anna offered to call her city contact and Lacey offered to check in also.

Accessibility Project Matrix: Lacey agreed to follow up on our best process for using the matrix. A suggestion was made to prioritize 3 changes and determine who will be involved in follow up.

Follow up on Bus Stop Access. A bench was put in with the \$800 that was available and with the minimal space available. Again, not accessible due to snow.

Ordinance Request to the City Council: The city council is not in agreement for funding on fixing projects at this time. Discussion regarding the City's challenges such as the ownership barrier. Stephanie shared about assessment loans.

Accessibility Grant: We need a grant summary for completed projects and photos to share for public education/advertisement. We need to look for other funding streams such as Sister's Health Foundation grant as the City Council have said they may be willing to allocate 30-40% as a match.

Health Request: There was a request for the committee to discuss potential health mitigations with the end goal being actionable, practical solutions such as air purifiers/exchange systems, public education. Perhaps collaborate with the Health Department. Anna agreed to send an email on behalf of the committee to the Health Department to ask what they might have available.

Advocacy Education: More is needed for Disability Rights Movement, Disability History, Independent Living Movement.

Need more Film Screening Hosting

Anna shared a film screening that is being hosted locally and will forward the information.

Need to collaborate with Sarah.

Patrice: The Movie was recommended to all.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:00pm.