

Athens City Commission on Disabilities
January 15, 2025
Athens Community Center Room A (or via Teams with ADA request)
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Davey called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm.

Present: Michelle Hahn, Deb Burleigh, Davey McNelly (chairperson), Ally Hughes (secretary), Carolyn Lewis (treasurer), Annah Korpi, Lisa Simpson

Guests: Mike Linscott

Quorum is met with 7 of 11 members present.

Approval of Minutes

- Discussion on amendments to minutes. Lisa made a motion to accept the November Minutes. Michelle seconded. Passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

- Carolyn does not yet know what the Commission's budget is for 2025. Will likely know next week.
- Lisa made a motion to accept the report, Deb seconded. All approved.

The Union

- Mike Linscott plans to demolish part of the exterior patio of the Union to make space for a lift. Ramp is a non-option because of space, so it would have to be a lift with construction and demolition.
- Requesting letter of support.
- Commission discussed need for temperature stability and Davey shared contact information.

Review of work on Union and Court

- Truncated domes have not been fixed yet.
- The Commission needs to continue to watch and report issues to City.
- The City does not have the "People Power" needed to address ADA concerns even though it is written into the contracts.
- The approach is that it is "everyone's job".

OLD BUSINESS

- New Commission Member Recommendations
 - Joe Brumfeld is retiring from the Commission.
 - Ask Mayor's office to send a letter of recommendation (Carolyn sending that email).

- East State St right of way request by Alan Swank. Commission discussed and will not be assisting. Davey following up.
- Micah is running as President of City Council.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

-- Executive Team

- Preparing in advance for new Commission Exec Team members – we might start asking members if they want to start attending Exec Team meetings.

-- Accessibility and Advocacy

- Committee Goals, Streets and Sidewalks discussion, Accessibility grants, and use of Matrix.
- Need to publish the Bagel Street story
- Sarah Doherty and Michael Hicks might have ideas as well.
 - Next meeting: February 14th at noon – City Building

-- Outreach and Communications (Deb and Michelle) (5 mins)

- Communications Goals
 - Athena Awards
 - Increasing public profile
- Recommendation for Communication officer, splitting accessibility and advocacy committee
- May be time to have column in paper again
- Next meeting: February 11th at 5:30 pm – City Building

ADJOURN

Lisa motioned to adjourn the meeting. Deb seconded. Unanimously supported. Adjourned at 6:30PM.

Prepared by,

Ally Hughes
Secretary
2/19/2025