

## Accessibility and Advocacy Committee Meeting

Friday, July 11, 2025, 12:00pm – 1:00pm

Athens City Building, First Floor Conference Room

### **MINUTES**

Attending: Lisa Simpson, Stephanie Hunter, Rob Delach, Davey McNelly, Ben Ziff, Dan Schoonover

Quorum was met

### **General Discussion**

The committee briefly discussed the 2025 Goals

- Walk, Talk and Roll completed successfully

- Accessible Business Construction Grant was denied this year

- Accessibility Projects in the City are on their 4<sup>th</sup> bidding with no bids obtained

Considering subcontracting parts of the projects. Curb Cuts #2 are scheduled for next year. The Commission would like to be as explicit as possible on what's needed to avoid mistakes, not being adequate, including what's needed

Stephanie explained that she was successful in giving the engineer a diagram of accessibility for Madison. It was suggested that the committee email the city engineer in December with our suggestions. Stephanie suggested taking a google pic showing why it is not ADA compliant.

Suggestion: Extension of East Elementary Sidewalk, complete a school mural with school art class involved.

- Budget Line to repair curb cuts uptown.

- Mid-block crossings such as by Chipotle or Court St. Diner or Theatre?

- Include Big reflective dots on signs. ("Friends of the Crosswalk")

Stefanie volunteered to make a checklist to make sure things are getting done. It would be good to have someone on the street crew that could take the lead to check the list or be responsible for making sure accessibility happens.

Ben will invite Chuck Mungster (sp?), heading up street repair to September meeting.

The Committee would like to invite the new city engineer to a future meeting.

It was also suggested that we invite the city planner to talk about the ADA transition plan and comprehensive plan. It was suggested that city residents be a part of the group.

It was mentioned that accessibility is often not included in repaving projects, and we'd like this to be included.

Goals should include the # of compliant parking spaces there should be in the city.

### **New Business**

Davey shared that he will be attending the National Council on Independent Living meeting talking with Vice President JD Vance about how to make Medicaid cuts not so bad. Davey mentioned to the committee that the Council had lots of meetings with the Biden Admin's transportation folks, but it's not been good with the new Admin.

Davey mentioned that SOCIL will be getting a beach accessible wheelchair that will go into the water. Strouds Run beach accessibility and playground is great. Many people are utilizing and enjoying them.

SOCIL has a grant for parent support groups and leadership training for high school students.

Ben said they are updating the transportation plan at HAPCAP. He's doing a complete rewrite for Athens and Hocking counties. They are looking for a new group of people to help with planning. Perhaps a commission member should have a seat at the table?

Stephanie shared there will be a transportation studio at Knowlton School.

### **Announcements**

Next Meeting is Friday, 8/8.

Meeting Ended.

