

Accessibility and Advocacy Committee Meeting MINUTES

Friday, August 8, 2025, 12:00pm – 1:00pm -Athens City Building, First Floor Conference Room

Attending: Lisa Simpson, Stephanie Hunter, Rob Delach, Davey McNelly, Ben Ziff, Joel Nadler, Dianne Bouvier, Lacey Rogers **Quorum was met.**

General Discussion

July meeting minutes approved. Rob made motion. Stephanie seconded.

City Zoom account not working for us, Davey will set up an account for us to use on zoom.

Lacey's new title is Community Engagement Accessibility Coordinator.

Meagan Jennings didn't respond in time to attend this meeting. The new city engineer will be taking over in September = Jerrad.

Rob attended ODOT construction orientation training. The county planner was also there.

Ben still planning to invite Chuck Nungster (Sunday Creek Horizons) to a meeting.

The newly installed wave sensor door switch at the city building is very nice and appreciated.

Dianne spoke with Sam Tutton and Kiana Obrien (spellings=?) regarding the ADA transition plan and Sam said that he would like to hear about our high-level priorities. Dianne asked for a list of what the City is asking from them for the ADA plan. We need to know the requirements so we know how to help. She will invite them to a future meeting. We are happy to hear that the plan is in start-up phase.

Lacey has been designated as the contact person for ADA grievances in the city.

Davey enjoyed the DC conference. He learned that most of the push buttons are converting to wave which is wonderful. Davey's is in his 4th year of going to DC. He talked to JD Vance staff by going into their offices to find them and talk, which was an interesting experience. He attended a budget and management meeting where they talked about people making the twice a year medicaid reviews, which will be less invasive for people. People with more significant disabilities will be grandfathered in.

Davey talked to Bernie Sanders. He also met with Ohio US Reps office staff for Balderson, Husted and Moreno.

They hold a large disability dance party which is alot of fun.

Davey talked about having good socialization with different advocacy organizations and funds for class action lawsuits. The Disability Rights and Ohio Buckeye Hills DD Council were defunded, and we want these important advocacy organizations back into the budget.

Committee questioned if there is an Ohio University Director of the ADA yet. Not that anyone knows, but Davey will reach out to Michael.

Stephanie has completed the bus stop audit for all Athens City bus stops and all are #'d.

All bus stops are on the GIS except #5 & #6 which didn't appear to be listed anywhere. Stephanie and Rob are working together to finish the project.

Old Business

There are still no bids this year for uptown sidewalk construction projects, even with separating the electrical work into a separate bid.

Downtown Logan's sidewalk has been completely rebuilt with stamped concrete and 14 ft wide sidewalks with curb bump outs. Rob showed the committee a picture of the amazing work. Dianne looked up the construction company they used. You can google a list of contractors used by a specific city.

Davey explained that businesses that have their lots resealed or paved don't always ask for accessible parking to be added back in, or newly added. We should watch and try to catch projects that we see to call the business and request this be done. Davey did this with the Kindred Market and the owner put one in.

The Athens Art and Community Fest uptown on Union Street had a good turnout. We liked the location

New Business

Davey and Ben will reach out to the future guests they identified to attend a future meeting.

Dianne and Rob will share last year's accessible task force and pedestrian/bicycle plan for the ADA transition plan. The Pedestrian/Bicycle Committee also recommended a 10-year plan with details spelled out to Andy Stone.

The Armory project is nearly completed and accessible. There is an elevator and a 300 person capacity space with a very nice stage. There is a community welcome event planned on 10/21 from 6-8pm.

Announcements

The next Athens Food for Thought Series is scheduled on 8/24 from 2-4 at the Athens Community Center.

Meeting Ended w/motion by Dianne and second by Steph. **Next Meeting is Friday, 9/12.**