

Athens City Commission on Disabilities

Accessibility and Advocacy Committee Meeting

Friday, February 13, 2026

If you need an accommodation to participate, please contact Dianne Bouvier (dianne.bouvier3@gmail.com) or Ally Hughes (allyhughes10@gmail.com).

Agenda

Call to Order

Establish Quorum

Welcome and Introductions

Approve Minutes

- Approve November 2025 and January 2026 Minutes

2026 Committee Goals – For discussion

1. Annual events: Walk Talk & Roll - what might it look like, when
2. Sunday Creek Update
3. Improve accessibility in the City of Athens
 - . Solidify Process for working with EPW on construction projects
 - a. Track issues via the Matrix
 - b. Serve as Accessibility Consultants

Current Accessibility Issues in the City

Announcements

Adjourn

Athens City Commission on Disabilities

Accessibility and Advocacy Committee Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2025

Present: Davey McNelly, David Hartinger, Margaret Hutzel, Lacey Rogers, Ben Ziff, Joel Nadler, Rob Delach, Dianne Bouvier, Michelle Hahn, Annah Abetti Korpi

Guest: Mayor Steve Patterson

The meeting was called to order by Davey McNelly and Quorum was established.

Rob moved to approve the 9/2025 meeting minutes as presented. Dianne seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Update on Guest Contacts for future meetings:

Anna Heinrich, Accessibility Coordinator, University Accessibility, Ohio University @ a.heinrich@ohio.edu 740-593-2620

Kerri Griffin, Director of Civil rights Compliance and Title IX Coordinator; ADA/504 Coordinator, Ohio University @ griffink@ohio.edu 740-593-9140

Michael Hicks, Assistant Director for Employee & Campus Accessibility & Deputy ADA Coordinator, Ohio University @ hicksm2@ohio.edu 740-593-2620

Update on City Projects and Accessibility Plans – Mayor Patterson

Mayor Patterson reminded the committee that he fought to create a MOU for addressing accessibility issues between and with the City and Ohio University. He reminded us that Ohio University is a property owner, and sidewalks are the responsibility of the owner.

He gave an update on the sidewalks/crosswalks DOT Grant. The city put out bids 4x with little response. Too much work is available right now for contractors, so Athens is getting left behind.

Hocking College can bid on the contracts, but it requires a lot of oversites, which is fine.

The Mayor will check resources with the National Summit League of Cities.

Court and Union plan to be completed this summer. Mayor Patterson said he is ok with stamped concrete due to the extreme maintenance for bricks.

The bid for State St. - funding is there. Must be completed before 10/2026.

Court and Washington is the least of priorities right now.

Court and State Street require a lot of underground work.

City ADA Compliance follow up – Jared Balderson is the new Engineer and Director of Engineering
[@jbalderson@ci.athens.o.us](mailto:jbalderson@ci.athens.o.us) 740-593-7636

Mayor Patterson said he would check in with Jared.

The Mayor mentioned that he had experienced linear truncated domes in Europe which are specialized tactile walking surface indicators designed to guide, align, and locate paths for people that are visually impaired indicating a safe, intended path of travel. In the US, some hospitals and train stations use them. Annah said she would include in the transition plan.

Rob mentioned that he is in the process of remapping all curb ramps and data – update metrics for bike taskforce.

There was mention that the City will need a Pedestrian Crosswalk near the Sunset Motel.

The gap with the new brick work at the County Courthouse was mentioned.

It was noted that there is vendor and accessible parking on East Union near the Gate.

Davey explained that he did a walk-thru at the Armory for ADA compliance and they are going to fix the issues he noted.

There is a plan to make the Armory Park accessible. An Athens Business wants to invest in the Armory Park and perhaps pave and put in park benches.

An outside electric outlet is needed. The Mayor said the City could do this.

It was mentioned that the Committee wants to make sure the City know about and has access to the Google Doc – Accessibility Matrix.

The Mayor explained that Gillian Garland replaced Jessica as Assistant City Engineer.

We will invite Gillian to the next meeting and ask if she can meet to update the Committee Quarterly. She can let us know the priorities and which projects are next.

The Mayor mentioned that 145 curb ramps have already had work done. One of the priorities is to have long stretches of brick sidewalks change to concrete (such as Shafer St.) which is already in the comprehensive plan.

It was suggested that there is a need for a Guide and Criteria to give uniformity on what's expected.

Update on Sunday Creek ADA Plan

Davey and Dianne are meeting weekly with the Sunday Creek on the ADA Transition Plan as they don't have the expertise needed. The Committee asked if the City would be open to hiring a consultant to make sure it's compliant with the ADA. It was mentioned that this greatly helped Marietta with their plan. Dianne said she would send a contact to the Mayor. The Mayor will meet with Sunday Creek asking for a coordinated effort. Perhaps make contracts to allow for this inclusion to help be mentors.

New Business

Davey explained that he did a walk-thru at the Armory for ADA compliance and they are going to fix the issues he noted.

There is a plan to make the Armory Park accessible. An Athens Business wants to invest in the Armory Park and perhaps pave and put in park benches.

An outside electric outlet is needed. The Mayor said the City could do this.

Michelle stated that the Committee needs somewhere to post information on the city site. The Mayor said to send information to Scott for government oversight.

Rob mentioned that Google Meet is free. He can send out an availability poll if needed.

Add: joel.nadler@hapcap.org.

It was mentioned that it would be nice to map the accessible bathrooms in town. Some mentioned were at Donkey Coffee and the Athens City Building and Casa.

Dianne moved to adjourn the meeting. Annah seconded.

Athens City Commission on Disabilities
Accessibility and Advocacy Committee Meeting
January 9, 2026, 12:00-1:00 pm
Athens City Conference Room **(or via Zoom with ADA request)**
Minutes

Call to Order

Annah Korpi offered to lead the meeting which started at approximately 1:05.

In Attendance

Dan Schoonver, Lisa Simpson, Stephanie Hunter, Rob Delach, Ben Ziff, Joel Nadler, Gillian Garland, Annah Korpi

Approval of the Minutes

- It was said that we do not have minutes for our last meeting and would review them at the next meeting.

New Business

Gillian Garland, Assistant City Engineer for the City of Athens attended the meeting and we covered different topics/questions

- PROCESS
 - o She gave us an overview of how capital improvement projects work (e.g. water, sewage, street projects). If it's over \$75,000, they have to go to the bidding process. Also, some projects are housed in her department, others are housed in the Mayor's office (e.g. the armory) and a handful are under the city planner.
 - o For most projects, her office is involved in the planning, implementation, and inspection. If it's a small project, the brainstorming/cradle phase might start in the Mayor's office but if it's a major project with grants involved, she is usually involved "cradle to grave": scoping, concept, design, final plan, bidding, construction, punch list, and closing are some of the stages in that whole process.
 - o Garland mentioned that the most successful projects have clear intent and honor that intent throughout the end of the project (so no "scope creep" or "funding creep" as she called it)
 - o Large ODOT projects have required "phased reviews"
 - 1) Accessibility and design
 - 2) Environmental compliance
 - 3) Right of way issues (?)
- INSPECTION AND ADA COMPLIANCE
 - o Only in the past 1.5 years has the city had a hired and trained inspector to to ensure compliance at the end of the project (AJ). That inspector has training.

- o Some of the problem is that the contractor is gone by the time inspection is done and problems are found. It was asked whether the inspector could come while the contractors will still present and then again during the punch list process, especially as it pertains to ADA compliance but also usability
- CURRENT PROJECTS
 - o The underground utility project at the end of Court must be complete by October due to funding parameters
 - o The Court and Union crosswalks/curb cuts project could be tied into that or instead, could be approached in short bursts of improvements
 - o Rob shared a map he made of additional curb cuts that could be addressed were the city to have time and funds
 - o Future projects could involve improving the sidewalks, curbs, bumpouts, lights, etc. on circulatory routes in the city
- RELATIONSHIP WITH DISABILITIES COMMISSION
 - o The Commission's existence and input is helpful for grant applications
 - o Having the Commission available to review projects to look for ADA features is also helpful
 - o Garland suggested that after the initial "draft" of a project, our input could be helpful so that there is a concept to work with but it's not too late in the design plans that the process has to move backward
 - o Rob asked if there would be a new sidewalk assessment that provides GIS data and clear categories of need; the EPW or the Planning office could do that but there are advantages to the EPW doing it
 - o The ADA transition plan was briefly discussed and how the EPW would have a role in that. To be determined.
 - o It was noted that it would be beneficial for Garland to continue to come quarterly to the meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Annah Korpi
January 13, 2026