

Athens City Commission on Disabilities
Accessibility and Advocacy Committee Meeting

March 13, 2026, 12:00-1:00 pm

Athens City Berry Conference Room (or via Zoom with ADA request)

Minutes

Call to Order

Dianne called the meeting to order at 12:06.

Quorum

Present: Dianne Bouvier, Ally Hughes, Dan Schoonover, Lisa Simpson, Stephanie Hunter, Rob Delach, Ben Ziff, Joel Nadler, Annah Korpi, Davey McNelly, Katie Franklin

Quorum established.

Approval of Minutes

Davey McNelly made a motion to accept the February meeting minutes, Ben Ziff seconded, motion passed.

New Business

Walk, Talk & Roll

- Ally announced that the event will take place on Friday, April 10th, which is OU Mom's Weekend. It will begin at 11:30am.
- Rob and Ally are co-chairing the WTR event. They met independently to discuss what worked for the previous iteration of the event, and what didn't work.
- At this current meeting, the group discussed what stations there should be, and settled on five, listed below.
 - o **Station #1:** In front of the Athens Court House. This will be the central or main location, with several pop-up tents and tables, as well as pizza. The City of Athens will also be located at this station, with Gillian from EPW being present to answer questions and offer insight into some of the workings of EPW. (Rob will ask Gillian to be present).
 - o **Station #2:** Stephanie will be discussing sidewalk policy. The exact location of this has not been determined.
 - o **Station #3:** Rob will be at the Parking Garage discussing the accessibility improvements, bike parking, and stamped concrete at that location.
 - o **Station #4:** Ben and Joel will have an APT bus parked next to the Court House on West Washington. They will be available to demonstrate the accessibility functions and features of the bus, as well as to answer any questions the public has about transportation and mobility.
 - o **Station #5:** The Court Street Challenge. This year, the wheelchair challenge will begin at Station #1, with people crossing West Washington using a wheelchair, travelling down Court Street to West State, crossing West State to the corner by Artifacts, and then crossing Court Street to the gas station side of the street. This will be the last station, as

getting people to come back up Court may be difficult. Davey will have SOCIL provide 5-7 wheelchairs for this, and will have staff on hand to ensure people's safety. It was proposed during this time to discuss "spoon theory" with the people taking part in the wheelchair challenge.

- The group also discussed having a punch card or stamps or signatures to show that people have attended each station. If people attend all five stations, they will be entered into a raffle. Possibly a Bagel Street Deli gift card.
- Stephanie plans on walking the area and marking accessibility issues with washable markings.
- As the Outreach Committee is so new, they will be unable to assist with the PR for this event. Dianne will draft a press release and PSA. Rob will work on social media posts, Stephanie will make a video using last year's event footage that Dianne will send her, and Rob will coordinate outreach to local news media. Joe Brumfield will create a poster after receiving event information. The City of Athens post the event on their facebook page/create an event. The committee will supply them with the flyer and map to go along with it.
- The group also discussed inviting the members of Athens City Council. It was not decided who should do this.
- It was confirmed that there will be ALS interpreters present.
- Ally will bring event information to the Commission meeting.

Commission and Committee Goals

- The committee reviewed the Commission's draft goals for the next year. Katie was asked to talk about SMART goals (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Timebound) so we could use this model with our goals. Some goals/bullet points needed rewriting/adding a timebound component. Katie and Annah are working on these goals to ensure they are put together correctly.
- The group discussed notifying the City about issues they find. Annah suggested that part of the communications plan with the City include a monthly mass-email/newsletter to help keep issues that have been reported visible. The committee wants to see issues get addressed.
- There was conversation about the ADA transition plan and working with Sunday Creek Horizons. It was proposed that a goal be added to the ADA transition plan about accessible technology.
- Armory Park is in need of accessibility improvements. The Mayor has said that a family is donating money to improve the park. The committee wants to be sure the improvements include accessibility. Sadie, who runs The Armory, has said she is against bricks or pavers, which is good to hear.
- The group discussed the need for leadership in this committee. Katie and Davey volunteered to be co-chairs. Annah made a motion to approve Katie and Davey as co-chairs, Stephanie seconded, and all voted in favor. Thank you Katie and Davey!

Accessibility Consults

- Dianne and Davey are working with Mt Zion for an accessibility assessment of their passenger drop-off area.
- The Quaker Meeting House in Chauncey requested an accessibility assessment of their parking lot. If anyone is able/willing/wanting to help with this, please contact Dianne or Davey.

Old Business

Sunday Creek Consultants are presenting at the March 18 Commission meeting to talk about the ADA Transition Plan. All are welcome to attend.

Announcements

People wanting to join the Accessibility and Advocacy Committee signed up.

Adjournment

With the meeting concluded, Dan made a motion to adjourn, Annah seconded, all were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ben Ziff

March 17, 2026