

Athens City Commission on Disabilities

Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2020 – 5:30 p.m.

Athens Community Center

In attendance: *David McNelly, Chair; *Noah Trembly, Vice Chair; *Carolyn Lewis, Treasurer; Frankie Bird, Dianne Bouvier; Robert DeLach; *Scott Dennis, *Rose Dikis (via phone), *Berry Dilley, *Samorra Dower, Paige Fuentes, Annah Korpi, *Sly Mata, Tristen Nelson, *Cheryl Prusinski, *Arian Smedley. Two visitors from Cleveland. (*Commission Member)

Approval of November 2019 Minutes: *Berry moved with one question. The Athena Award Recognition should be Old Business. Arian seconded. Motion passed.*

Treasurer's Report: Carolyn will report at the next meeting. Committee Chairs are asked to get budget requests to her by the next Commission meeting. To our knowledge, \$1,000 for FY 2020.

New Business

- We acknowledged and welcomed new members Samorra Dower, Sly Mata, Councilwoman Arian Smedley, and Preston Silvey (unable to attend). An orientation session was held prior to the Commission meeting.
- ADA 30th Opportunities – Annah Korpi, a member of the Athens Civitan Club, provided an overview of the opportunity to partner and co-sponsor the March 30 screening and panel discussion of the documentary “Intelligent Lives” at Athens High School, 6:00-8:00 p.m. *Motion to partner and co-sponsor, Carolyn. Second, David. Motion carried.* February 20th Event – With the OHIO Graduate Student Senate, we are co-sponsoring disability rights advocate Haben Girma. More details to come.
- Davey nominated Samorra Dower to fill the vacant position of Secretary. No other nominations. Samorra said she will think about it. The Commission will vote in February.

No Old Business

Committee Reports

- The Executive Committee will meet with Mayor Patterson on January 16. Will have quarterly meetings with him.
- The Accessibility Committee meets regularly with City planners to review plans to see where issues are. Met with Jessica Aldeen, one of the City's engineers, to look over plans for street scaping (East Side, Stimson, Washington, etc.). Rob DeLach will develop a summary of ideas to send to Jessica. He discussed the flow of Athens City Source. Noah said cuts to other programs might benefit affordable housing. Davey gave an update on E-Scooter. About 100 scooters will be available in February. In preparation for the next grant cycle, meeting with Jesse Stock to get feedback on the Parking Study grant submitted to the Athens Foundation. Next Accessibility meeting February 13, noon, City Hall.

- The Communications Committee needs leadership and additional members. Rose has been serving by herself.
- Education and Outreach is working on seeking artists designs for a new Athena Award and the Oral History Project. Commissioners should read HB 214 for comment and a vote at February's meeting. Berry discussed the need for a Center for Independent Living in Southeastern Ohio and how she has been urging this since 2002. Davey has been appointed to the State CIL Board representing Southeastern Ohio. He described the functions of CIL's. They are federally and state funded for referrals, resources, linkages, and advocacy. Rose suggested an article announcing Davey's appointment and an interview with Dave Palmer on WATH/WXTQ. Berry also noted the Committee is working on an article a month in the papers about issues of disability and the Commission focusing on a local angle. Berry invited others who are interested in serving on the Committee.
- The Advocacy Committee needs leadership and members.

Announcements

- The March 2 Frontiers in Science event with Temple Grandin was announced by Dianne. Baker Ballroom at 7:30 p.m. (free). Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Professor Grandin lives with autism.
- Arian announced the March 6 Disability Awareness March, 9:45 a.m. line up at Baker Center; 10 a.m. march to the Court House. Developmental Disability Awareness Festival March 18, Community Center. The Commission will have a table.
- Carolyn asked for volunteers as requested by Sandy Shirey, Volunteer Recruitment Lead with the Red Cross, to make calls to people with disabilities or who are shut in during emergencies/disasters. Her contact information is: 740-856-7287 or sandy.shirey2@redcross.org.

Motion to adjourn Scott Dennis. Second Arian Smedley. Adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Minutes

Interim Secretary

Carolyn Lewis