

# **ATHENS CITY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES**

## **MEETING MINUTES**

Athens Community Center, March 16, 2016, 5:30 p.m.

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Paige Stretton, acting chairman, called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

### **2. ATTENDING:**

Paige Stretton, acting chairman

Lara Edge, member

Joe Wessinger, member

Scott Dennis, member

Darryl Purdy, member

Noah Trembly, member

Rose Dikis, member

Steve Patterson, mayor and member

Larry Jageman – retired member, former chair

David McNelly, – candidate for open Commission on Disabilities position

Berry Dilley, communications committee

Pete Wuscher, advocate, mental health, addiction, does advocacy for disabilities and arts – concerned about housing availability. Attending on behalf of Chuck Lehman.

Chuck Lehman, lives in Logan now, former Athenian desperate for housing in Athens, a veteran.

Paige provided contact information to help.

Meredith Erlewine, Friends of Strouds Run

### **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes were unanimously approved.

Rose Dikis pointed out that 5 months of minutes are missing from the website.

### **4. OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Challenged by Choice**

April 13, OU Inn, Wilson Room

Trainers/setup 11:30–2 pm; participants 11:45–1:30

Includes limited menu lunch

#### **Athena Award**

Rose Dikis nominates Mike Pletcher posthumously.

Darryl seconds the motion.

Larry Jageman was named to receive the 2014 award but award has not been presented, yet.

Steve Patterson has the awards.

#### **Disabilities Speak**

April 14, 6-7:30 pm, Athens Community Center

Includes pizza and soft drinks

Guest Speaker, Gary Humphrey Jr.

Overall presentation by Darrell Purdy: “What Makes a Community Inclusive and Why It Matters Now More Than Ever.”

-- Gary is an adjunct pastor with a rare disability. He has some good stories. 15-minute speech.

-- Noah Trembly unable to help with setting up table. Scott Dennis offered to help instead.

### **Commission Board Positions**

- Should have 9 positions, plus secretary, equal 10
- By Laws
- Secretary Position - Lara Edge nominated
  - Motion carries

Currently serving:

Joseph Wessinger

Robin Brigante

Carolyn Lewis (chairman)

Noah Trembly

Paige Stretton

Scott Dennis (over term)

Darrell Purdy

Rose Dikis

Steve Patterson

Stepped Down - Maryalice Turner

One position still open – nominations needed

### **Add another position?**

- Motion to add 2 members, for a total of 13, to commission carries.

### **Change Bylaws?**

- Tabled

### **Athena Award**

- Motion to give award to Mike Pletcher (posthumously) this year carries.
- Commission members agreed to solicit nominees for next year from the public.
- Larry Jageman was named to receive the 2014 award but award has not been presented, yet.
- Steve Patterson has the awards.

### **Commission Name Change**

Need ad hoc committee to explore this with both groups (and joint committee)?

Berry Dilley says via email: "I have been noticing that housing and services often combine aging and disabilities and am wondering if the commission should consider changing its name to include the aging population as well. For instance, the Aging and Disability Resource Network is, I believe, a Federal Agency and we have a local office in Marietta. Mindy Cayton, of the ADRN came to speak to the Commission about a year ago. We could be the Athens City Commission on Aging and Disabilities."

- Tabled

## **5. NEW BUSINESS**

### **Disability Awareness Festival**

We should be much more involved!

Mayor Steve Patterson thanked members who attended the event.

Mayor Steve Patterson introduced Ron Lucas who is working with high school students to assess accessibility — especially the Athens Armory — as it's brought back into civic usability.

### **Strouds Run ADA Trail Funding**

Meredith Erlewine, with Friends of Stroud's Run, asked Commission for recommendations on resources for help with raising the remaining \$14K for an accessible trail that would include a fishing dock. Recommendations made to check with Eagle Scouts (who can build benches, etc), Awesome Fund, Hocking College. Member may also contact her directly with ideas.

6. Committee Reports

- no discussion

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

-- Berry Dilly had flyers for the Appalachian Ohio Fair Housing Initiative, which provides fair housing education and outreach throughout rural Appalachian Ohio. Hosting a conference on April 8 at the Community Center, which includes a training. FREE and open to the public. Berry will have flyers and application forms.

Next Meeting - Wednesday, April 20, 2016, 5:30 PM

8. Meeting adjourned at 7:05