

ATHENS CITY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

Athens Community Center, June 15, 2016, 5:30 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order
 - Called to order at 5:36
2. Introductions
 - Attending were: Mayor Steve Patterson, Lori Kinney, acting vice-chair, Joe Wessinger, Rose Dikis, Scott Dennis, Noah Trembly, Lara Edge, Berry Dilley, Darryl Purdy, David McNelly
3. Approval of Minutes
 - Both 3/16/16 and 4/20/16
 - Approved
4. Old Business

Athena Award

- Congrats to last year's recipient, Larry Jageman, and this year's recipient, Michael Pletcher
- Members urged everyone to make more effort to get nominations from the public.

Strouds Run ADA Trail Update/Request

- The effort to make the trail ADA compliant is within \$3,000 of its goal.

5. New Business

Discussion of Nomination of a new Vice-Chair

- No nominations made. Nominations to be considered at next meeting when Chairman Carolyn Lewis is expected to return.

Joint PACDAP Meeting

- Mayor Steve Patterson canceled the joint meeting set for July 20, tabling the discussion. New date for joint meeting to be determined along with the goals.

ADA Chair Lift

- Mayor Patterson urged all members to attend a ribbon-cutting ceremony in which a giant Passion Flower, donated by Passion Works and signed by former Athens mayors will be unveiled. Date TBD.

Back to the Commission's Roots

- Mayor Patterson urged the commission to return to its roots of helping people with disabilities, saying we need to increase awareness of the commission, increase membership in the committee to be inclusive of all types of disabilities, and

increase our efforts to make the Athens community a leader in accessibility for all.

- Discussion of whether or not to become a committee on both disabilities and aging. No motion made. Mayor Patterson said he was not in favor, citing the commission's needs to get back to its roots.
- Improvements needed at Community Center
 - Recommendations, in the form of a printout and reproduced below, were discussed:
 - Level main entrance pavement
 - Install double hand rails for the three wheelchair ramps
 - Install an automatic door and level the sidewalk at the top of the wheelchair ramps
 - Widen the van-accessible parking spaces (or create three van accessible spaces in the parking lot across from the wheelchair ramps since three commissioners have these chairs and meet at the ACC monthly). People who have a motorized wheelchair have a problem.
 - Configure the women's restroom adjacent to the fitness center with a wheelchair counter and soap and towel dispenser on the same side of the room and at an accessible level for someone in a chair.
 - Create access to the benches between the front entrances; most importantly, install a handrail at the ramp at the west end so that people with canes can access the benches; if financially possible, move the benches so that a wheelchair can be pushed in the aisle created between the benches and the wall.
 - Internal handrails in the main hallways of the center to accommodate people who have balance issues.
 - Make the fitness center accessible to a person in a motorized wheelchair and include equipment for paraplegics (like a hand bicycle to strengthen arms).
 - Create a formalized reporting process for people who encounter access problems to both hear about their access difficulties and address their concerns.
 - The [Athens City Source App](#) was mentioned as a tool to report problems.
 - **Athens Differently-abled Artists Society**
 - A flyer was handed out for distribution and is included in an attachment with the email distributing these minutes.

6. Committee Reports

Communication Committee

- Challenged by Choice and Disability Speaks
 - Rose Dikis handed out a report that listed the media reports:
 - The communications team wrote, edited, and distributed news releases and garnered coverage:

- Athens Messenger: 4/12; 4/20 (front page); 5/10 (front page reprint of WOUB online)
- Athens News: 4/13 and 4/17
- WOUB Online: 4/18
- OU Compass: 4/10
- ACTV/City of Athens: YouTube and Facebook page
- Facebook: articles from the Challenge are posted

7. Announcements

Next Meeting - Wednesday, Aug. 17, 2016

8. Adjournment

- 7:00 p.m.