

ATHENS CITY COMMISSION ON DISABILITY
Athens Community Center
Oct. 19, 2016, 5:30 p.m.
Meeting Minutes

Introductions

Members Attending: Lori Kinney, Steve Patterson, Scott Dennis, Lara Edge, Noah Trembly, David McNelly, Joe Wessinger

Members not attending: Robyn Brigante, Rose Dikis, Carolyn Lewis, Patrick McKee, Darrel Purdy

Non-members attending: Michelle Asamian, Pam Beam, Jay Beam, Billy Peacock, Christi Hysell

Approval of minutes

- Approved pending edits

OLD BUSINESS

PACDAP

— Steve Patterson gave a brief history: Original plan was to meet with PADCAP once a quarter with goals that included:

- identifying barriers and issues with inclusion that needed to be brought to OU president's or mayor's attention
- strategic planning – what can we work on together
- reporting out on joint endeavors (such as disability day)

The 25th Anniversary of the ADA event was a joint effort. The commission and PADCAP have touch points in common, which means working together makes sense. Meetings are meant to be informative and to prevent feelings of being left out. Some of the fault is with the commission for not reaching out. The mayor recommends the commission start fresh in January to begin joint meetings anew.

OU has a million-dollar budget for ADA improvements over the next four years. The commission has a budget of \$1,500, which may go to \$2,000 in 2017. Proceeds go mostly toward the Athena Award.

Nomination of Officers

— Nominations will be accepted at the November meeting.

Accessibility Project

— Darryl assessed Casa on Oct 14. Other thoughts to help move the project forward:

- Attend the Chamber of Commerce meeting the first Wednesday of the month. Michelle Oestrike is the president.
- Talk to the Uptown Athens Business Association
- Government buildings need to be included

- Volunteers to work on the project committee are:
 - David McNelly
 - Noah Trembly
 - Lara Edge
 - Darryl Purdy

NEW BUSINESS

Athens Photo Project

The wall on the parking garage is new project for the Athens Photo Project. Christi Hysell, accessibility advocate is seeking help on how to make the exhibit accessible to all:

- pictures you can feel
- a link to hear the description
- interpreters for ASL

Personal Plus Gala

Semi annual gala is being held next Wednesday Oct. 26.

Discrimination issues

The mother of a son with disabilities shared a letter she wrote to the mayor. Attached below.

Steve -

Maybe you can help. My son Wren spent a long time deciding what he wanted to buy at Speedway in Athens last night (Richland Avenue). When he got to the counter to pay for what he had chosen, the manager told him to leave because he was stealing. Wren asked the manager to prove it, and she asked him to empty his pockets. He did, and there was nothing there. She told him very firmly to leave and not come back.

I am going to try to meet with them, but this might be a good thing for the disabilities council to work on. Raising awareness among store owners that there are people with developmental disabilities in the community and that they are not allowed to discriminate or refuse service to them. I am sure this may be happening to other folks in our community and we need to move toward those who have developmental impairments being understood. (It's easier to think disabled means a wheelchair and not see other disabilities, I think.)

Also, FYI, the police need some info too. I called and they had no idea about the Americans with Disabilities Act. The officer said any business can refuse to serve anyone they choose.

I didn't look far, but I found this--**The right of public accommodation is also guaranteed to disabled citizens under the Americans with Disabilities Act, which prohibits discrimination by private businesses based on disability.**

I really get it that the manager may not have known she was dealing with someone with disabilities, but she was, and it was his disability that made him take a long time to choose what to buy.

When his staff picked him up, she got the story and called the store, and the cashier said the manager was busy. The cashier said a customer said they thought Wren was shoplifting. But Wren's staff went through his back pack and nothing he didn't own was there.

I hope someone can back Wren up on this. He has made huge strides in being in the community and this is a setback.

Thanks for your time.

Michelle