Athens City Disabilities Commission Meeting Minutes
Aug. 16, 2017

Athens Community Center, Conference Room, 5:30 pm
Called to order at 5:35

Attending: Brian Bucher, Joe Wessinger, Larry Jageman, Scott Dennis, Robin Brigante, David McNelly, Pat McGee, Noah Trembly, Maxine Rantane, Berry Dilley, Rose Dikis, Lara Edge

Approval of May and June Minutes:
Both approved once spelling corrections to Maxine Rantane and Pat McGee's names are corrected in both months.

Old Business

Athena Award
David McNelly, Noah Trembly reporting
Two finalists out of a total of six nominations.
After about 15 minutes of discussion, Noriko Kantake was chosen to be the recipient of the 2017 Athena Award in a 5-4 vote.

Recipient of Athena Award Choice ()
David McNelly: Summary, had 4 candidates, about going above and beyond, but recommend two for commission to choose: NORIKO KANTAKE & ELISE SANFORD. Noriko working with autistic families, started summer camp for kids, forming parent support groups, getting information to parents. Elise founder of Athens Photographic project, helped people with mental illness gain confidence.
Comments: Berry Dilly: knows Elise and what she's done. Rose: Elise started program, volunteer, retired but program continues. Maxine: met Noriko years ago, knows how good her program works, all volunteer. Calming presence instills trust and security for children. (Way above and beyond).
David McNelly, suggests co-winners.
Lara Edge: We only have one trophy. Don't dilute award.
David Motion: Motion for Winner and Finalist to receive recognition. Rose seconds. Motion denied.
Vote on Award: 5 for Noriko and 4 for Elise.
Member: We should recognize the people who nominated others. Did candidates know they were nominated. Should the nominees be told they were nominated? (Lara)
Rose wants a letter to be sent; David agreed to get with Rose.

Challenged by Choice and Disability Speaks
Lara Edge / Berry Dilley
- Small group got together in July to review the equipment and materials for Challenged by Choice. The committee recommends that all commission members that are able should attend a simulation prior to the event, so they can be informed and be of assistance at the event. Members agreed that a lunchtime session would be best. Date to be determined and emailed to the group.

Accessibility Project
David McNelly

First pilot businesses (The Union, Broneys, Ohio Realty) happened in July, and were very successful. Business owners were enthusiastic and responsive.
Three more in the pilot program are being scheduled.

New Business

Strategic Plan / End-of-Year-Report

Lara Edge: Our by-laws say we should do an end-of-year report, and, yet, one has never been done. This year we are doing one to be presented to City Council in November. Strategic plan and business goals will be determined at the September meeting to be included in the end-of-year-report.

Committee Assignments

Lara Edge: committee assignments could change for 2018 based on what goals we choose.

Treasurer's Report

Noah Trembly

- $950 in the budget. No outstanding bills.
- That includes a $100 donation.

Announcements

- Challenged by Choice, Sept. 13
- Disability Speaks, Sept. 14
- Next Commission meeting: Sept. 20