Attendees: Scott Dennis, Lori Kinney, Joe Wessinger, Larry Jageman, Steve Patterson, Noah Trembly, Robin Brigante, Darrell Purdy, Ben Fultz, Berry Dilley, Mike Pletcher and Martha Yates.

Absent Members: Carolyn Bailey Lewis.

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Steve Patterson at 5:40 p.m.

2. **Introductions**

Ben Fultz was reintroduced to the commission members. Steve Patterson welcomed everyone and asked if they could read the electronic minutes before the meeting to help move the agenda along.

3. **Minutes**

Scott Dennis moved to approve the minutes of February 19, 2014, with corrections. Joe Wessinger seconded. All voted aye.

4. **Old Business**

Strategic Plan

Darrell Purdy handed out copies of the Preliminary Summary of the Strategic Plan Part Two, dated 3-19-2014. The proposed proposal identifies the six goals. The previous goal, Oversight, has been changed to Leadership and an Assessment Goal has been added. Darrell would like to see the formation of groups, consisting of three to five individuals, to identify objectives. Also, Darrell Purdy offered to keep working on fine turning the objectives.

Steve Patterson suggested that we reach out to the original group to be part of the change teams to further this process. Steve Patterson explained Darrell Purdy's involvement with the Ohio University change team process and his expertise in this area. Larry Jageman asked if it might be beneficial to send out the summary to individuals who have been a part of the commission in the past. Steve Patterson agreed and said the former commission members should be asked to

be part of the smaller change teams after the document is reviewed by the commission. Larry Jageman agreed this would be a good idea. Robin Brigante could not attend the retreat but asked if she needs to participate in the change teams, definitely yes. The commission was asked to review the document and provide comments back to the commission members.

Service Award Ad Hoc Committee Report (Berry Dilley, Rose Dikis, and Carolyn Lewis)
The Service Award Committee decided it was too soon to give out a service award without proper publicity. The committee felt the award should be given at an event sponsored by the Disabilities Commission, possibly the Challenged by Choice yearly event.

Berry Dilley presented the proposed documents; The Annual Athens City Disability Service Award and the Nomination Form. Examples of the Fauquier County Disability Service Award and the Houston Mayor's Disability Advocate of the Year Award forms were given to the committee for their review.

Larry Jageman passed around a copy of the original form bringing to the attention of the commission members some goals that he feels are important to the service award nomination. All of the information was given to the subcommittee to review and bring back recommendations to the commission.

By-laws Ad Hoc Committee Report (Steve Patterson, Lori Kinney, and Robin Brigante)
The committee worked on updates and changes to the Athens City Commission on Disabilities By-Laws.

Article III Power and Duties
Advise the Mayor, Director of Human Relations, and Director of Code Enforcement on issues and opportunities as they relate to people with disabilities;
Berry Dilley said when the commission was originally formed the commission advised only the Mayor but she definitely agreed with presented the changes.

The Commission shall advocate on behalf of people with disabilities by recommending necessary procedures, programs, legislation or administrative action to promote universal design and equal rights and opportunities for people with disabilities.

The Bylaws will have appendixes attached; such as the application form, Service Award form, etc. It was suggested the Strategic Plan should be attached as an appendix.

Ben Fultz asked if the commission had considered an open forum at an Ohio University location. Scott Dennis mentioned the Town Hall meeting as an avenue for such an open forum. Martha Yates suggested a lot more PR for these events.

The commission discussed improvements to the uptown area. Ben Fultz voiced concerns about many businesses in the uptown area having steps that are not accessible for individuals with disabilities. Joe Wessinger commented that many businesses uptown are not very accessible for individuals who do not have a disability. The group discussed reaching out to AUBA to create open communications to further improvements to the uptown area.

The commission members were asked to review the document and bring back comments for the next meeting. Lori Kinney worked on making the changes to the document as presented to the commission.

Noah Trembly feels the commission should work towards improvements to the sidewalks in Athens for better access for individuals with disabilities.

Self-assessment Ad Hoc Committee report
This will be tabled until the committee has time to meet and discuss.

5. **New Business**

Disability and Accessibility Planning MOU
Steve Patterson met with OU to discuss collaboration with PACDAP and the commission on a Disaster plan. PACDAP would like to meet with the commission members to start working on issues but they are unable to meet on April 16, 2014. The commission discussed changing the meeting date to April 15, 2014.

Berry Dilley said there are accessibility issues at the Ohio University Schoonover building. Harry Wyatt is aware of the issues. It was mentioned that Tri County has not fixed the push button on the front door to their building. Fred Davis Director of EMA and Joe Adams from Ohio University will be the partner contacts for the comprehensive disaster preparedness plan.

Challenged by Choice Event Date
Ohio University has formed a disability organization and they plan to have a Challenged by Choice event in the fall. The commission talked about moving their Challenged by Choice event to spring, partnering with the OU organization, or not continuing the event. Larry Jageman said the students have helped with our Challenged by Choice event in the past and we might lose some involvement if they have their own but said there are many other student organizations that could help. Ben Fultz felt the event can and should evolve. The commission members felt we should continue with our own event, tentatively, for spring of next year.

Mike Pletcher moved to change the date of the Challenged by Choice to April, 2015. Joe Wessinger seconded. All voted aye. Larry Jagemen moved that we offer support to the OU Disability Organization with their event, if requested. Steve Patterson seconded. All voted aye.

6. **Committee Reports**

None

7. **Future Meeting Items & Announcements**

The next meeting; TBD.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

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Sharlene Bails, Recording Secretary
City of Athens