



Attendees: Lori Kinney, Berry Dilley, Larry Jageman, Steve Patterson, Rose Dikis, Scott Dennis, Robin Brigante, Jenny Nelson, Debbie Schmieding, Maryalice Turner, Paige Stretton, and Rebecca Darling.

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Steve Patterson at 5:35 p.m.

2. **Introductions**

Introductions were made.

3. **Minutes**

Scott Dennis moved to approve the minutes of August 20, 2014. Larry Jageman seconded. All voted aye.

4. **Old Business**

Strategic Plan Change Teams

Previously, a summary of the strategic plan was put together by Darrell Purdy. Steve Patterson would like to form the following change teams:

Accessibility Team (Accessibility, Services, and Programs) - Robin Brigante

Inclusion Team (Employment) - Scott Dennis

Strategic Partnering and Event Planning Team (Partner with other agencies) - Jenny Nelson

Communications Team (Website, Press Releases) -

Leadership Change Team (Educate and promote change) - Steve Patterson, Lori Kinney, Robin Brigante, Darrell Purdy

Housing and transportation issues could fall under the Accessibility Team's responsibility. The teams will be independent but ultimately intertwined.

Scott Dennis made a motion to create the new change teams for the Disabilities Commission. Robin Brigante seconded. All voted aye.

Sidewalk Assessment Follow-up

A Map of the City of Athens 2011 sidewalk assessment was passed around. The map shows the quality of the sidewalks at the time of the assessment. Noah Trembly is working on an ADA inventory of the city sidewalks. The assessment process allows the homeowner the option to have the amount added to their taxes or to pay to replace the sidewalk on their own.

Berry Dilley would like to see the sidewalks on East State close to Court Street repaired. It can be difficult to navigate brick sidewalks, especially for, wheelchairs. Some changes to specs for brick sidewalks might be done through an enhancement to city code.

This project will take some time; there are approximately 86 miles of streets in Athens. To provide guidance on sidewalk assessments, Lori Kinney wanted to know the standards for sidewalks under ADA. Steve Patterson will suggest to Noah Trembly that he set down with Andy Stone to get information on the standards for sidewalks.

New city construction includes sidewalks when possible. Typically, the first build of a sidewalk is done by the city but then the repair is on the homeowner.

Athena Award

Steve Patterson spoke with local artist Kevin Morgan and he said he would be very interested in working on the art work for the Athena Award. Berry Dilley felt we should reach out to Athens Municipal Arts Commission for ideas on the artwork for the award.

The parking lot at Krogers was redone but no changes were made for van only accessible parking spots.

City website and Brochure Resources

These will be good projects for the Communications Team to work on in the future.

5. New Business

Debbie Schmieding

Debbie Schmieding was a board member on the CIL that covered Athens and Washington counties. Steve Patterson gave the new members some background on the Centers for Independent Living. Currently, there is no CIL located in Southern Ohio. Generally, they offer services for individuals with disabilities as a one stop resource center.

The past CIL was based in Marietta, housed at Washington State College. This center established a staffed computer system for job readiness and employment opportunities. Ohio University would be a good partner and the Athens Village efforts is a good correlation. Debbie Schmieding offered to try to locate the original paperwork that was submitted to start up the CIL that was previously located in Marietta.

To establish Darrell Purdy as a board member, support from area officials would be helpful. Pam Petula felt a representative from this area on the OCIL board would be extremely important to the efforts to get a CIL established. The commission discussed different individuals who

would be beneficial is this endeavor: Debbie Phillips, Lou Gentile, President McDavis, and Jimmy Stewart.

The startup grant for a CIL is approximately \$250,000, with 75% of the staff being individuals living with a disability.

Adhoc Committee-Berry Dilley Chair

Rose Dikis, Maryalice Turner, and Robin Brigante (added resources: Darrell Purdy, Debbie Schmieding)

1. Work on CIL – old blueprint
2. Member at OCIL

211 and SE Ohio Aging and Disabilities Resource Network

The 211 system is a major resource that provides listing of area information. SE Ohio Aging and Disability Resources Network is a good resource as well.

The Emergency Preparedness Team needs to meet to work on setting up a volunteer registry.

Walk the Walk

The annual NAMI “Walk-the-Walk” will be held on Saturday, October 18, 2014. Lori Kinney asked if the commission would be willing to sponsor this event again this year. The donation is \$150.00 per organization.

Paige Stretton inquired about how to make all walks more accessible. The Walk the Walk is held annually for Mental Health Awareness. Part of the walk is accessible for participants but the portion at The Ridges is not.

Steve Patterson moved to support the “Walk-the-Walk” with a donation of \$150.00. Scott Dennis seconded. All voted aye.

Japan Exchange Program

The dinner will be held on Friday, October 17, 2014, 6:00 p.m. at the Beacon School. An invitation was extended to the members to attend.

The commission discussed various ways to raise disability awareness through articles, community calendar, Letters to the Editor and radio shows.

6. **Committee Reports**

None

7. **Announcements**

The next meeting will be October 15, 2014.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Sharlene Bails, Recording Secretary
City of Athens