



Attendees: Berry Dilley, Larry Jageman, Darrel Purdy, Steve Patterson, Lori Kinney, Scott Dennis, Robin Brigante, Joe Wessinger, Mike Pletcher, Rebecca Darling, Paige Stretton, and Jennifer Galbraith.

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Steve Patterson at 5:33 p.m.

2. **Introductions**

Jennifer Galbraith, Human Resource Director

Jennifer Galbraith's position at the City of Athens includes duties as the ADA coordinator. This entails maintaining compliance with federal and state laws; responsible for enforcing discrimination from hiring for any person with a disability.

To determine whether it is appropriate to ask for individuals to self-identify, the requirements for a federal contractor through the Department of Labor does apply to the City of Athens.

It has been extremely difficult to ask for reasonable accommodations during the interview process. A volunteer form is now available during the hiring process.

Jennifer said she felt it was very important to work with city supervisors to allow for needed breaks and to provide the necessary accommodations according to the needs.

Recently, accommodations were made available for a seasonal employee at the Athens Community Center. Tommy Gibson worked in a seasonal maintenance position part time. He was given a job coach at first but was fully independent within four weeks. This was a very positive experience for Tommy Gibson and city staff.

Rebecca Darling said she had worked with about 22 individuals who were working in downtown Columbus. The benefits of making their own money and the satisfaction of having a job produced big changes in their confidence levels by the end of the program.

Robin Brigante said stories such as these should be published in the local newspapers to bring awareness in the community. The Community Action Team has been very successful in placing individuals.

Robin Brigante explained some struggles she has faced trying to get employment and feels this is an ongoing issue for adults later in life. This would be a good topic for future discussions by the commission.

Paige Stretton said there is a lot of assistance available to individuals in the community but no real uniformity throughout the different organizations. Jennifer Galbraith said, what has been accomplished has been because of the collaboration of several people, such as Scott Dennis. Paige Stretton thanked Jennifer Galbraith for taking the time to make this an important part of her job duties.

Darrell Purdy stated, even with the resources that are now available, about 77% of individuals with a disability who want to work are still unemployed, much still needs to be done to change this.

Robin Brigante shared her story and her struggles trying to get back to work after her accident. Rebecca Darling shared her story about her father's struggles to gain employment when he felt he was ready to ease back into the working world.

3. **Minutes**

Paige Stretton moved to approve the minutes of October 15, 2014. Mike Pletcher seconded. All voted aye.

4. **Old Business**

Center for Independent Living

Berry Dilley said a small group went to visit the CIL located in Lancaster, Ohio. Berry Dilley has been in the process of gathering names to help with this endeavor.

Due to policy changes within the Federal Aging and Disability agency, funding for startup of a CIL might be limited or not available. There is an ADRN, Aging and Disability Resource Network, operating in Marietta, Ohio.

Berry Dilley said she is currently in the information obtaining/idea process now.

The commission discussed setting up a workshop or conference to bring area agencies together sometime in January, 2015.

Steve Patterson suggested the committee work on putting together a Summit to gather all interested parties. Darrell Purdy will partner with Berry Dilley to plan a Summit to get the conversations started.

Scott Dennis commented on the recent transportation summit and said it was very beneficial. O'Bleness and Arlene Sheak were suggested as good partners to be involved.

International Day of Persons with Disabilities

There are no new updates on the planning process for this event at this time. Larry Jageman feels the day will reflect on the entire community and asked how we can be involved. Steve Patterson has reached out to Jenny Nelson several times and feels, if the event does occur, it will be on a smaller scale this year.

Winter Sidewalk Snow and Safety

A copy of a Public Service Announcement on Sidewalks and Snow from the City of Cincinnati, Ohio was passed out to the commission members. The theme of the announcement is geared towards being a Good Neighbor and helping other citizens during the winter months.

Athens is a statutory city and must follow the Ohio Revised Code. The commission discussed adopting a similar PSA to distribute to the local newspapers for Athens. Another suggestion, was to add the service announcement to the city water/sewer bill.

5. New Business

The last taping of the radio show with John McCarthy went very well.

Accessible Parking Summit in Loveland, Ohio

Steve Patterson received a phone call from the Editor and Chief of the Loveland Newspaper. He was interested in how the commission tackled the accessible parking sign issues in Athens after reading an article in the Athens News. Steve Patterson has been asked to be a speaker at an event in Loveland, Ohio to discuss the issue in the near future.

PACDAP

An event was held regarding the accomplishments of the PACDAP team. There will be further updates on where the group will be focusing in the future in regards to the City of Athens MOU with PACDAP.

6. Committee Reports

None

7. Announcements

The next meeting will be December 17, 2014.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Sharlene Bails, Recording Secretary
City of Athens