



Attendees: Steve Patterson, Lori Kinney, Scott Dennis, Joe Wessinger, Mike Pletcher, Noah Trembly, Carolyn Bailey Lewis, Robin Brigante, Paige Stretton, Maryalice Turner, Bruce Ergood, Berry Dilley, Larry Jageman and Barbara Conover.

Absent Members:

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Steve Patterson at 5:30 p.m.

Steve Patterson said he would like to keep the meeting to half hour to allow anyone who is interested in attending the Town Hall Meeting to do so.

2. **Introductions**

Barb Conover was introduced to group.

Three Rivers Corporation has operated in Athens County since 1992. They strive to provide affordable housing for individuals with disabilities. Three Rivers Corporation's projects are built using a universal design and are very affordable for low income.

There is an investor who proposes to build a 60 unit housing project in The Plains utilizing tax credits. Barb Conover feels this is not a good housing opportunity for such a small community.

Barb Conover said several community members believe the whole project will be affordable housing for low income individuals. The developer is only required to set aside 20% of the units for low income, which will be approximately 12 units. The developer has not identified what the monthly rental price will be for the other units.

An additional concern is the added strain on the limited police and fire protection available in The Plains.

Athens County does need more affordable housing for its residents but Barb Conover is concerned that this project will affect funding for future needs for housing in the area.

The developer has asked the Athens County Commissioners to provide a letter of support for their project. The application will be submitted in February, 2015 by Frontier Community Services located out of Chillicothe, Ohio.

Barb Conover is asking the Disabilities Commission to send a letter of nonsupport to the Athens County Commissioners for this project by the application date in February.

Mike Pletcher moved to provide the letter as requested. Paige Stretton seconded. All voted aye.

3. **Minutes**

Mike Pletcher moved to approve the minutes of December 17, 2014. Joe Wessinger seconded. All voted aye.

4. **Business Items**

Steve Patterson said he was approached to see if the commission would be interested in being a sponsor for the ADA booth at the Nelsonville Music Festival. The cost of sponsorship is approximately \$3,000.

Challenged by Choice

Steve Patterson said he would like to invite Brian Bucher, Adyn's Dream, to be the keynote speaker at the Challenged by Choice event. The event would be a good time to present the Athena Award as well.

Items to consider:

1. Venue for volunteers to participate
2. Date of event
3. Reservations at the Community Center
4. Keynote Speaker
5. Identify individuals to recruit to take on the challenge

The commission discussed having the event in April to allow for student participation at the event. Larry Jageman said different student organizations have helped with the challenge in the past, with the most recent being Dr. Jenny Nelson's class.

The commission discussed the week of April 13-17, 2015 and decided to hold the event on April 16, 2015.

The Commission members were asked to think about names for the challenge and a nomination for the Athena Award. Lori Kinney was asked to provide the proper training for the simulation offered through NAMI and she agreed to do so.

Commission Terms

Bruce Ergood moved to reappoint Lori Kinney and Darrell Purdy to serve on the commission. Mike Pletcher seconded. All voted aye.

6. **Committee Reports**
None

7. **Announcements**

The next meeting will be February 18, 2015.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Sharlene Bails, City of Athens