



Attendees: Steve Patterson, Lori Kinney, Scott Dennis, Mike Pletcher, Noah Trembly, Carolyn Bailey Lewis, Darrell Purdy, Larry Jageman, Andrew Chiki and Joe Brumfield.

1. **Call to Order**

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

2. **Introductions**

Andrew Chiki was introduced to the commission.

3. **Minutes**

Noah Trembly moved to approve the minutes of January 21, 2015. Darrell Purdy seconded. All voted aye.

4. **Business Items**

Arts/West Grant

Andrew Chiki explained that the Arts/West facility needs an accessible ramp to the performance stage. A letter from Chelsa Peterson the Program Specialist at Arts/West was distributed to the commission members.

Arts/West would like to apply for a Christopher Reeve Accessibility Grant to help fund this project. Letters of support and impact statements are needed for the application process. Andrew Chiki said he is asking for some guidance and a Letter of Support from the Disabilities Commission for the grant application.

The current cycle deadline for the Christopher Reeve grant is around March 3, 2015. Therefore, the plan is to submit an application for the next grant cycle, due around August.

The commission members agreed to write a Letter of Support and assist with the grant application.

Challenged by Choice

The Challenged by Choice event will be held on April 16, 2015 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Community Center.

Lori Kinney was asked if she can coordinate the NAMI training simulation again this year and she agreed.

Scott Dennis offered to provide the ear protection for a hearing impairment simulation. Also, he felt that the wheelchair simulation is an effective simulation and the media coverage is well received.

The commission members discussed which simulations would be used for the Challenged by Choice this year. Darrell Purdy wanted to focus on learning disabilities and mental wellness issues.

Steve Patterson agreed that these are very important disabilities but was concerned about how to respectfully carry out mental illness simulations. It has been discussed in the past that it can be difficult to create simulations for learning disabilities. Carolyn Bailey Lewis and Darrell Purdy suggested having material available at the event to highlight these disabilities.

Carolyn Bailey Lewis asked to keep the experiences to 3-5 minutes for each person participating in the challenge.

List of potential participants:

Steve Kramer, Business Manager for Athens County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Rene Middleton - Dean, College of Ed. - middlet@ohio.edu

Valerie Conley - Chair, Counselor Ed. - conleyv@ohio.edu

Dianne Bouvier - Interim Exec. Dir., Instit. Equity - bouvier@ohio.edu

Pres and Mrs McDavis (while they are asked every year, my recollection is they have never participated, so are due)

Tracy Kelly - Exec Dir., Big Brothers Big Sisters - director@bbbsathens.org (maybe she can get some bigs and littles too)

Rockin Reggie Robinson - rockin01@yahoo.com

Robin Barnes - Radio Personality, WOUB - [740-593-1771](tel:740-593-1771)

Josh – Owner of Brenen's

Les Cornwell's daughter who manages the jewelry store

The new manager of Kroger

The Walmart manager

A City Council Person

A County Commissioner (CHRIS CHMIEL suggested)

Rodney Smith, Sheriff

Manager from AEP

Ryan Lombardi, Vice President, Student Affairs, OU

Colleen Bendl, Chief Human Resources Officer, OU OR (MIKE COURTNEY suggested)

Renea Morris, Executive Director, Communications and Marketing, OU

One of the OU head coaches (COACH SOLICH suggested)
Students (I have two or three from my Cross-Cultural Communication class who will participate)
OU Chief Powers
City Fire Chief Ryner
City Police Chief Pyle
Jennifer Kopelwitz, Fluff Bakery Owner
Richard Suk, Band Director
Joshua Boyer, Assistant Band Director
Dr. Andrew Trachsel, Director of Band
Bob Boldon, Head Coach OU Basketball
Kate Bence, Assistant Coach OU
Tavares Jackson, Assistant Coach OU
Marwan Miller, Director Basketball Operations OU
Saul Phillips, Head Coach OU Basketball
Will Ryan, Assistant Coach OU Basketball
Jason Kemp, Assistant Coach OU Basketball
Jared Swanson, Director of Basketball
David McKinley, Graduate Assistant
Brandon Prifzl, Graduate Assistant
Sean Sims, Student Manager
Vicky Korner, College of Education
Steve Beha, Expanding Your Horizons (614-315-5143)
Code Director John Paszke
Planner Paul Logue
Steve Goldy, OU
Joe Lalley, OU
Debbie Phillips
Dave Palmer, WATH
Ric Abel, Former Mayor
Recreation Director Rich Campitelli

Carolyn, Darrell, and Mike will work on narrowing the names down into categories and an invite list.

The simulation training will be held at Ponderosa around lunchtime. Lori Kinney, Scott Dennis, and Larry Jageman will work on coordinating the simulations. Kevin Morgan is working on a concept for the new Athena Award but it will not be ready for the Disabilities Speaks event in April.

Brian Butcher is not available to be the keynote speaker for the Disabilities Speaks event. It was suggested that J.W. Smith would be an exceptional speaker for the evening program. Steve Patterson said he would contact him to see if he would be available.

Snow removal issues:

1. Parking garage accessible van spot
2. Space close to Kiser in the mall parking lot

Noah Trembly will start work on his sidewalk campaign in April.

5. **Committee Reports**

Berry Dilley – CIL Committee

An email was sent from Berry Dilley to update the commission on the CIL Committee. At this time, there is no funding available for the startup of a CIL.

Previously it was recommended to have a representative nominated to serve on the OCIL, which is the state board that oversees Centers for Independent Living. Darrell Purdy has agreed to apply to be nominated to the OCILC governing body.

The CIL committee recommended hosting a gathering which brings several representative from other agencies together with Mindy Cayton as the facilitator.

6. **Announcements**

The Disabilities Awareness Festival will be held on March 11, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. The commission has a table reserved at the event.

Passion Works will be staying in their current space and will be providing some new programs that will be available to the public.

The Red Cross Heroes Breakfast Award Ceremony will be on March 10, 2015 from 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Carolyn Bailey Lewis will be recognized at the ceremony.

The next meeting will be March 18, 2015.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Sharlene Bails, City of Athens