



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

1. **Call to Order**

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

2. **Introductions**

The WOUB crew was introduced to the group.

3. **Minutes**

Robin Brigante moved to approve the minutes of February 25, 2015. Joe Wessinger seconded. All voted aye.

4. **Business Items**

Challenged by Choice

The committee discussed the list of participants for the challenge over the phone, prioritized the list, and sent out invitations.

Confirmed participants:

Rich Campitelli, Director of the Recreation Department
Andy Stone, Director of Public Works
Joshua Wise, new Kroger Manager
Jennifer Wilfong, AEP Customer Service Representative
Daz Patterson, OU student
Ali Pillow, OU student

OU student volunteers:

Chaundrea Simmons
Whitney Hatano

At the last radio station taping, individuals were asked to contact the commission if they would like to volunteer to assist or participate.

The keynote speaker for this year has been confirmed and it will be Dr. JW Smith. The first Athena Award will be presented to the recipient in the evening at the Disabilities Speaks program.

The Ponderosa in Athens has been reserved for noon for the Challenge. Rooms B and C at the Athens Community Center are reserved for the Disabilities Speaks program.

Mayor Wiehl has approved the expenses for refreshments and the new banner for the commission. The banner will say, "Athens City Commission on Disabilities".

The commission discussed media coverage for the event. Larry Jageman passed out a draft flyer for the Challenged by Choice. Steve Patterson agreed to review and provide feedback to Larry with revisions.

Tables for the exhibitors will be setup around the room at the Disabilities Speaks event.

The Communications Committee will work on the PR for the Challenged by Choice. Carolyn, Mike, and Darrell are working on inviting individuals to be participates in the Challenge.

Larry, Scott, Steve, Lori, and Rose will assist with the orientations at Ponderosa for the disability simulations. Darrell Purdy and Bruce Ergood discussed social connections and how technology directly or indirectly affects relationships and individuals attitudes.

Carolyn Lewis suggested each member to personally invite 3-4 individuals to come to the Disabilities Speaks event.

Disabilities Speaks Program:

- MC – Steve Patterson
- Individual Experiences
- JW Smith, Keynote Speaker
- Athena Award

The Athens City Government Access will film the Disabilities Speaks program.

New Business

The commission members were asked to think about the concession area for the new swimming pool and the possibility of providing a training café for individuals with disabilities. The City of Mansfield, Ohio has partnered with the DD board in their city building. With the possibility of a new city pool, it was suggested that such a program could be implemented. The design for the new pool needs to be an accessible universal design for the building and parking.

The commission discussed a campaign effort around disability rights and education and future discussions on the matter.

The commission discussed the difficulties with accessibility at the Bob Evans restaurant in Athens. Bruce Ergood suggested having a representative from the Disabilities Commission

attend a city planning meetings. Steve Patterson said he would discuss the issue with John Paszke.

The Athena Award concept was emailed to the commission members to review. The design was done by Kevin Morgan.

5. **Committee Reports**

Noah Trembly has started on the sidewalk survey for the City of Athens. The Richland Avenue construction is underway.

Carolyn Lewis will contact Andy Stone about an accessibility issue near the Thai Paradise Restaurant.

Mary Alice Turner discussed some upcoming improvements to the Athens County Board of DD and voiced her excitement on her new position.

Carolyn Bailey Lewis has been nominated for an Athens Hometown Heroes.

6. **Announcements**

The next meeting on April 15, 2015 will be canceled due to the Challenged by Choice event on April 16, 2015.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Sharlene Bails, City of Athens