



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

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Steve Patterson at 5:31 p.m.

2. **Introductions**

No new introductions

3. **Minutes**

Joe Wessinger moved to approve the minutes of March 18, 2015. Scott Dennis seconded. All voted aye.

Rebecca Darling has graduated from Ohio University. Rose Dikis has expressed interest in becoming an appointed member of the commission. Steve Patterson asked her to forward her resume to the Mayor for his consideration.

Noah Trembly has been asked to set on the State Board of Developmental Disabilities and he has accepted.

4. **Old Business**

Challenged by Choice Event

Scott Dennis felt the event was well organized throughout the day and evening. Robin Brigante suggested we invite individual to participate, earlier in the year and target people who have the ability to make changes.

Carolyn Bailey said the comments from Andy Stone the City Engineer, were very impactful. Maryalice Turner felt the conversations from the individuals who participated should be the main focus. She felt a guest speaker was not really necessary and that all individuals who agree to do the challenge should attend the evening event.

Rose Dikis will send the link to the video as soon as the editing is done by ACTV.

Darrell Purdy discussed raising awareness for issues that are not easily simulated by the challenge with conversation/dialogue on these issues at the challenge. Larry Jageman talked about communicating with the public, acceptance, and support.

Rose Dikis's Communication Committee Report of May 20, 2015:

Media goals for the Challenged by Choice

1. Create and implement a media plan for the Challenge
2. Create a Facebook page for the Commission

The commission discussed accessible city buildings. Maryalice Turner feels the Challenge is beneficial because it raises awareness in the community but she feels strongly that the commission should have a voice about Ohio University's noncompliance. The barriers that individuals with disabilities face and what are we doing about this.

Darrell Purdy said he was hired three years ago to address these issues at OU for individuals with disabilities but there has been some resistance to the change. Darrell Purdy expressed how dishearten he is about this.

Steve Patterson said there is a MOU between the city and the university and he feels this a good avenue to enact change. Carolyn Lewis said an addendum has been added to the agreement with PACDAP and she read the changes to the commission.

Accessibility Discussion

Rebecca Darling sent an email to the group letting them know she has graduated and advised them about an issue. While working with the Gateway to Success program, she and participants found several access issues at the Ohio University campus.

Rebecca Darling said she encountered some disturbing issues with construction work outside Nelson Dining Hall. Darrell Purdy said he has addressed The Nelson Dining Hall issue. The sidewalk and the ramp will be open and signage will be provided.

Darrell Purdy felt the more individuals complain that we want better than this and we deserve better than this; more will be done to improve the campus. Mike Pletcher asked how to make this happen; phone calls, letters, and emails to individuals in power.

The City of Athens is working on a smart phone app, which would allow residents to take pictures of problems on sidewalks, streets, etc. Accessible issues could be a part of this process as well. Maryalice Turner has visited Wright State University and it is a fully accessible campus. Robin Brigante said finances are used to form groups to discuss the problems but no money is set aside to fix them.

The efforts with PACDAP is a good start to work toward change on campus. Rose Dikis suggested a survey on accessibility issues sent to Athens residents and students. Some type of form on line to identify problems is needed.

First, the problems need to be identified, and then individuals who can make changes need to be made of aware of them.

Rose Dikis made a motion to put together a form to identify barriers and ADA complaints. Maryalice Turner seconded. All voted aye.

Larry Jageman suggested some form of audio recognition on the new app.

5. **New Business**

Rose Dikis will forward her resume to the Mayor for consideration as a commission member. The commission needs to start thinking about a chair nomination. The nomination committee will review and make recommendations. Berry Dilley would like to expand the members of the committees to provide expertise in different areas as needed.

The commission members were very proud of Noah Trembly's appointment to the Ohio State Disabilities Board. A joint meeting with PACDAP and the Disabilities Commission will be held on July 18, 2015. The ADA 25th Anniversary will be on July 26, 2015.

6. **Committee Reports**
None

7. **Announcements**

The next meeting will be June 17, 2015.

Adjournment

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

Sharlene Bails, City of Athens