



Attendees: Steve Patterson, Lori Kinney, Scott Dennis, Joe Wessinger, Mike Pletcher, Noah Trembly, Carolyn Bailey Lewis, Maryalice Turner, Darrell Purdy, J.W. Smith, and Larry Jageman.

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Steve Patterson at 5:34 p.m.

2. **Introductions**

Donald Eager was unable to attend the meeting due to a family emergency.

The first meeting with PACDAP to discuss the MOU will be held on July 15, 2015. The commission members introduced themselves to J. W. Smith.

3. **Minutes**

Maryalice Turner moved to approve the minutes of May 20, 2015. Darrell Purdy seconded. All voted aye.

4. **Old Business**

The Challenged by Choice event was recapped at the last meeting.

Carolyn Bailey Lewis suggested discussing a date for next year's event. The commission would like to hold the event on April 14, 2016.

5. **New Business**

Commission's Definition of Disability

Darrell Purdy said he has concerns about a trend forming, a misconception that everyone has some form of disability.

He feels the commission should start with a definition of disability and it should align with the World Health Organizations and the United Nations definition.

Carolyn Bailey Lewis read the definition of disability provided by Darrell Purdy; a disability is just not a health problem but requires interventions to remove environmental barriers, etc.

Carolyn Bailey read the ADA definition; disability is a legal term rather than a medical term.

How society reacts to individual differences and the bias connected with this in a social context. If we all have disabilities, it becomes harder to request accommodations. Maryalice Turner asked how to help with this misconception. Darrell Purdy felt a good definition in concert with a reputable organization, such as the United Nations, is a good start. Is there a definition you have in mind; Darrell said yes.

Lori Kinney offered to look up NAMI's definition of disability. Darrell Purdy will email a definition and a couple of articles relating to this issue. The commission discussed the difference between a medical conditions and a disability.

Larry Jageman felt there is a bigger issue than just the definition. One response would be the definition as a first step in an ongoing process. Adding the definition in the Athens City Code might be needed.

Project Proposal: "Accessibility Athens" Pledge

Darrell Purdy proposed an idea to the commission. While he was surfing the web, he found a group in Washington, DC who did a summer project focused on reaching out to businesses in their community asking them to take their accessibility pledge. The project included providing resources to the business to help them make their building more accessible. Maryalice Turner said this is similar to the 30 mile meal with a public health rating and a sticker in their window broadcasting their accomplishments.

Noah Trembly said he has been visiting restaurants and coffee houses in Athens to see if they are accessible and has a report of his findings. J.W. Smith asked if this should this be expanded beyond restaurants. Darrell Purdy and Noah Trembly will work on an idea to present to the commission.

Annual Community Forum

Carolyn Lewis said an ADA anniversary event will be held on July 25, 2015. PACDAP and OU will be working on a series of events in October. The Mayor and the OU President will sign the official proclamation on October 6, 2015.

Diane Bouvier and Steve Patterson met to discuss the first joint meeting with the Disabilities Commission. The approved MOU and a draft agenda was given to the commission members.

The Scope of Agreed Collaborations were read aloud. A Disaster Preparedness Plan is needed. It was suggested to have at least quarterly meetings with PACDAP and the Athens City Commission on Disabilities.

J.W. Smith said he would like to see the City of Athens and Ohio University give serious consideration to employment for individuals with disabilities. Scott Dennis said the City of

Athens seasonal employment process was part of this effort last year. In New York you can bypass the Civil Service test if needed for individuals with disabilities.

Darrell Purdy agrees with help finding employment but he would like to create opportunities for individuals to work in all of Athens, not just a job but a career. The Athens Developmental Disabilities Board goes through the process of trying to find a job that suits the individual and what they feel that are good at doing.

Maryalice Turner said there should be an expectation that people want to work. Darrell Purdy said we are missing out because we are not paying attention to this group who can contribute to society.

JW Smith asked if there is a subcommittee on the commission for employment issues. A subcommittee will be added with Scott Dennis as the chair.

6. Committee Reports

Athena Award

Steve Patterson showed a picture of the new Athena Award design by Kevin Morgan. The cost will be \$200 to \$250 for the award.

The Disability Access form from Rose Dikis will be posted on the website for individuals to report on issues.

Noah Trembly advised the group of a possible job opportunity coming up in the future for him. The commission read and discussed their Mission Statement.

7. Announcements

Carolyn Lewis said Adyn Bucher was a guest speaker on the radio show. A summer fundraiser will be held on Saturday, June 27, 2015, at the Shade Winery.

Senior Safety Day at the fairgrounds was well attended. Larry Jageman suggested a joint event next year; Senior and Disabilities Safety Day. Fred Davis would be a good point of contact to discuss this with. An OU student with a hearing disability might be interested in serving on the commission.

The next meeting of the commission will be on July 15, 2015.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Sharlene Bails, City of Athens