



Attendees: Steve Patterson, Scott Dennis, Joe Wessinger, Mike Pletcher, Noah Trembly, Carolyn Bailey Lewis, Paige Stretton, Maryalice Turner, Lantz Repp, J.W. Smith, Dale Hoffman, and Lisa Simmons.

1. **Call to Order**

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

2. **Introductions**

Lantz Repp – Athens on Demand

Lantz Repp requested to meet with the commission to discuss the letter that was sent to Athens on Demand from the Disabilities Commission.

The Athens on Demand service started November of 2012 and is funded by grants. The current mix of grant funding for the budget is: DD Council 50% and New Freedom 50%. There have been over 19,000 riders transported since the beginning of the Athens on Demand.

The amount for funding from ODOT was reduced by approximately \$22,000 for next year. Lantz Repp said driver hours will be reduced and the routes were reviewed to find ways to cut cost. The Saturday ridership has been declining and most cancellations occur in the evening hours. One of the solutions for the budget issue was to cut Saturday services and reduce hours through the week.

Also, future finances with the New Freedom grant could affect the operations in 2018. HAPCAP will continue to work on partnering with other organizations and Athens Public Transit.

Logan Public Transit is now providing service to Hocking College and an expansion to the Lake Snowden facility. There has been discussions with the City of Nelsonville for funding for additional services.

The commission discussed possible funding opportunities; Athens County levy and an Ohio University buy in.

The MOU agreement provides for cooperation between the City of Athens and Ohio University. A partnership with the Disabilities Commission on transportation issues with Ohio University would be worthwhile.

Carolyn Lewis thanked Lantz Repp for attending and said it has been very beneficial to understand the process and how this issue has evolved over time.

Carolyn Lewis asked how to help make the service viable in the future. Lantz Repp said he would like to start an Advisory Group for the Athens on Demand.

3. **Minutes**

Paige Stretton moved to approve the minutes of July 15, 2015. Mike Pletcher seconded. All voted aye.

4. **Old Business**

Sidewalk Update

Review of City sidewalks:

Most areas received 4 to 5 stars, but there are some areas with 1 and 2 stars

The homeowner can elect to have the repairs completed by assessment or on their own. The commission discussed drainage issues on Richland Avenue and sidewalk placement.

October ADA Event

There will be several events held throughout the month of October.

October 6, 2015	Howard Park Site Proclamation, Mayor and President McDavis
October 13, 2015	Dancing Wheels Concert
	Panel Discussions at Scripps Hall
October 19, 2015	Presentation on Therapy Dogs
October 20, 2015	Working with Student Veterans
October 27, 2015	Scott Lissner Presentation

5. **New Business**

Parking Letter

Dale Hoffman attended the commission meeting to voice his concerns about a letter he received on his vehicle from the Disabilities Commission while going to a doctor's appointment at the Castrop Center. He said he has handicap license plates and there was plenty of handicap parking spaces available at the time of his visit.

The commission discussed van accessible and handicap spots and the proper signage needed. The commission will discuss the matter in more depth at a future meeting.

Bicycle for People with Disabilities

Rachael Blatt has acquired a tandem bicycle and she is looking for a place to store the bicycle near the bike path. She would like to make the bicycle available and accessible to anyone who would like to use it. She contacted the Athens Library but they do not have an area big enough to store the bicycle. If anyone has any suggestions, please let her know.

6. Committee Reports

None

7. Announcements

The Athens County Historical Society has purchased the First Christian Church on West State Street. Steve Patterson said they will have a three floor elevator to access the displays and provide accessibility.

The last taping of the radio show went well.

There will be a screening at the Schoonover Auditorium on September 10, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. for the Creative Abundance documentary.

The next meeting of the commission will be September 16, 2015.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Sharlene Bails, City of Athens