



Attendees: Lori Kinney, Scott Dennis, Joe Wessinger, Mike Pletcher, Noah Trembly, Carolyn Bailey Lewis, Robin Brigante, Paige Stretton, Larry Jageman, David McNelly, Dale Ellis, and Sarah Nelson.

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Lori Kinney at 5:31 p.m.

The Blue Zone Project Lecture was announced by Lori Kinney. The Walk the Walk for mental health awareness will be held on October 17, 2015 at the Athens County Courthouse steps.

2. **Introductions**

David McNelly – FANs Initiative

The FANs initiative is a volunteer organization called Friends, Ally and Neighbors. Dale Ellis said his goal is to not be viewed differently. This organization is working towards trying to bridge the gap for individuals who might be isolated with their disability by:

Holding networking events once a month, hosted by HAVAR this month;
Develop normal relationships;
And provide support and friendships.

FANs is a volunteer group that helps match people with core support groups or individuals. Dale Ellis explained some of the activities he has participated in and how it has helped him. Some groups have even helped out with home repairs, moving, and hosting of events.

Please check out the Athens County FANs Facebook page.

There is currently a FANs survey through SurveyMonkey located on the Facebook page. The goal is to have 300 surveys filled out.

Robin Brigante mentioned working towards accessible businesses to allow for individuals to have more opportunities. One of FANs objective is to increase volunteer opportunities.

David McNelly said they are working with OU to put together some video footage of what they have accomplished so far.

Paige Stretton asked how FANs if funded. Currently, this is a volunteer effort; no grant funding. Paige Stretton said she would volunteer to do an Athens Foundation grant for them. Carolyn Lewis would look into the procedure for a 501(c) nonprofit status.

Some of the participating agencies for FANs are HAVAR, Echoing Meadows, and RHDD, Inc. David McNelly will be meeting with The Athens Village next month for continuing outreach.

3. **Minutes**

Joe Wessinger moved to approve the minutes of August 19, 2015. Mike Pletcher seconded. All voted aye.

4. **Old Business**

October ADA Event

Ohio University is partnering with the Disabilities Commission on some of the ADA events. There will be a kickoff event, training, focus on job hunting, working with student veterans, accessible planning, panel discussions, Dancing Wheels, and Therapy Dogs.

The kickoff event will be held on October 6, 2015 at the Howard Park site.

Commission Chair

Lori Kinney said it is time to start thinking about the nominations for officers for the Disabilities Commission. According to the by-laws, the nominations should be brought to the October, 2015 meeting.

Parking Letter

Robin Brigante said there were other people who received the letter that day. Robin Brigante discussed the personal aspect, individuals who park in the wrong spots, and her strong feelings about the education of the van accessible spots and how they should be used.

Robin said she views the letter as an educational aspect to the community. Paige asked, what does an individual with a handicap tag do if there is only a van accessible spot available and some locations only provide one spot, which is considered a van accessible spot. Paige said she has parked in a van accessible spot because it was the only space available. Robin Brigante will send the letter around to the commission members for their review.

Lori Kinney suggested changing some of the wording, courtesy of the Athens Disabilities Commission, and add a more educational aspect to readjust the letter.

Robin Brigante explained the background on the letter and asked about supplies to distribute the letter. Paige Stretton asked if she could provide a budget for the costs associated with the letter.

Robin has information for the commission that she will forward on through email.

5. **New Business**

Toolkit

Paige Stretton said she had no clue on how to get information or how to go to an event with a disability. This would be a Toolkit for event planners to provide access to information on how to make an event accessible. Is this something we would like to do and please get with her if you would like to work on this project?

This information would be provided on the website. The Toolkit would be a resource for individuals to plan an event or make their property accessible. Robin Brigante agreed this would be a good resource for individuals.

Larry Jageman suggested a Resource Toolkit Committee. Robin Brigante seconded. All voted aye. Lori Kinney and Larry Jageman offered to send resource information and Paige Stretton and Robin Brigante agreed to work on the Toolkit.

6. Committee Reports

None

7. Announcements

The next meeting of the commission will be a joint meeting with PACDAP on October 21, 2015.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Sharlene Bails, City of Athens