



Attendees: Lori Kinney, Larry Jageman, Steve Patterson, Scott Dennis, Robin Brigante, Carolyn Bailey Lewis, Noah Trembly, Maryalice Turner, Paige Stretton, Joe Wessinger, Dianne Bouvier, Bruce Ergood, David McNelly, Paul Wiehl, Ivan Marcus, Jill Harris, Joe Lalley and Caryn Bailey.

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Steve Patterson at 5:37 p.m.

2. **Introductions**

Steve Patterson welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

Cake Cutting Ceremony – ADA25 Anniversary, Passage of Americans with Disabilities Act

Mayor Paul Wiehl did the honors of cutting the cake. Steve Patterson read the Proclamation reaffirming the efforts of the Americans with Disabilities Act and its purpose.

3. **Business Items**

Steve Patterson asked everyone to review the scope and collaboration outlined in the MOU.

Dianne Bouvier announced some of the ADA25 Celebration series events. The events are open to the public and they are encouraged to attend. One of the keynote speakers, Scott Lissner, will discuss universal design on October 27, 2015.

Dianne Bouvier said this was a collaborative effort; as a group much can be accomplished. Steve Patterson thanked all of the partners, collaborators, and sponsors.

Brief update on projects:

1. Sells Park accessibility ramp is underway
2. City Building lift project approved
3. Sidewalk repairs projects

Mayor Wiehl asked for suggestions for planning projects in 2016 for sidewalks. Carolyn Lewis said the West Union changes have made a difference.

MOU focus:

1. Group Consultative Role
2. Emergency Preparedness
3. Removal of barriers
4. Raise awareness through communication and education

Emergency Preparedness

The plan is to downsize the initial group to work towards smaller goals. The group will discuss using Everbridge and a voluntary registry.

Fred Davis, Jill Harris, and Lantz Repp are among the individuals who will be instrumental in the progress of this committee. Mayor Wiehl said the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan would be very useful in the review process.

Group Consultative Role

Mayor Wiehl suggested adding a review process of plans for projects by the Disabilities Commission in the Title 41 plan review process.

Removal of Barriers/Awareness

Noah Trembly's sidewalk project is approximately 35% complete. The commission discussed some areas that need sidewalks and the obstacles involved in working towards accessibility for all. Robin Brigante feels communication and education ties in to all of the other issues faced with removing barriers.

Ivan Marcus asked about federal and state funding for sidewalk projects and he explained a homeowner's perception of increased taxes and spending of revenue for sidewalk projects. Steve Patterson said new city projects include sidewalks and an assessment of the area. Mayor Wiehl said the repair of the sidewalk is the owner's responsibility.

The commission discussed forming a link between OU and the City of Athens websites and providing help to businesses in Athens that are not accessible.

Steve Patterson said advocating for individuals should be one of the main focuses of the Disabilities Commission. Robin Brigante suggested inviting business owners to be part of Challenged by Choice event. In the past, the commission has discussed a rating accessibility sticker, similar to the 30 mile meal program.

Access Zone Pilot – Mary Alice Turner, Carolyn Bailey Lewis

A tickler list for businesses on accessibility is needed. Paige Stretton suggested a contest for the design of the sticker. Larry Jageman suggested, at a minimum, diverse involvement of committee members.

It was mentioned that Krogers and Texas Roadhouse do a very good job at providing employment opportunities. The Thai Restaurant on Union Street is a good example of an accessible business. The commission had various opinions on accessibility for the Kroger's

parking lot. Larry Jageman would like to include organizations in the education process. The Emergency Preparedness process needs to move forward.

The Challenged by Choice Event - April 14, 2016

Dianne suggested and Carolyn Lewis agreed to a joint collaboration on the Challenged by Choice event next year. The Disabilities Awareness Festival is normally held in March.

Carolyn Bailey advised the commission of a circulating petition to request Athens on Demand restore Saturday service.

Steve Patterson discussed the bylaws for the nomination of a chair for the Disabilities Commission. Steve Patterson said his experience has been very rewarding and he has enjoyed his time as chair.

Steve Patterson nominated Carolyn Bailey Lewis to serve as the new chair. Robin Brigante seconded. All voted aye. The commission members were asked to consider nominations for Vice Chair and Treasurer.

7. **Announcements**

Please join the Ohio Japan Exchange Program on Friday, October 23, 2015, at the Beacon School for their annual dinner.

The next meeting will be November 18, 2015.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Sharlene Bails, City of Athens