AGENDA
ATHENS DISABILITIES COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2025 AT 5:30 PM

1. **Call to Order**

2. **Establish Quorum**

3. **Purpose** The Athens City Commission on Disabilities is a committee of city government whose commitment is to provide a means for the concerns of people with disabilities to be heard; to advocate for public policy change; to provide expertise to the community on disabilities; and to tell the community about the strengths and limitations of people with disabilities, as well as how the community can help them improve their quality of life, thereby ensuring equality of opportunity and full participation in community life for everyone.

4. **Disposition of Minutes:**

   - January, 2025

5. **Treasurer's Report**

6. **New Business**

7. **Old Business**

8. **Committee Reports**

9. **Announcements & Other Business:**

   - DD Awareness Month Line-Up 2025

   - The Ride Ahead Film

10. **Adjournment**

The City of Athens supports the Americans with Disabilities Act. Requests for reasonable accommodation may be made with the ADA Coordinator in the City Building or by calling 592-3367.

Athens City Commission on Disabilities
January 15, 2025
Athens Community Center Room A (or via Teams with ADA request)
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Davey called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm.
Present: Michelle Hahn, Deb Burleigh, Davey McNelly (chairperson), Ally Hughes (secretary), Carolyn Lewis (treasurer), Annah Korpi, Lisa Simpson
Guests: Mike Linscott

Quorum is met with 7 of 11 members present.

Approval of Minutes

- Discussion on amendments to minutes. Lisa made a motion to accept the November Minutes. Michelle seconded. Passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

- Carolyn does not yet know what the Commission's budget is for 2025. Will likely know next week.
- Lisa made a motion to accept the report, Deb seconded. All approved.

The Union

- Mike Linscott plans to demolish part of the exterior patio of the Union to make space for a lift. Ramp is a non-option because of space, so it would have to be a lift with construction and demolition.

- Requesting letter of support.

- Commission discussed need for temperature stability and Davey shared contact information.

Review of work on Union and Court

- Truncated domes have not been fixed yet.
- The Commission needs to continue to watch and report issues to City.
- The City does not have the "People Power" needed to address ADA concerns even though it is written into the contracts.
- The approach is that it is "everyone's job".

OLD BUSINESS

- New Commission Member Recommendations
    - Joe Brumfeld is retiring from the Commission.
    - Ask Mayor's office to send a letter of recommendation (Carolyn sending that email).

- East State St right of way request by Alan Swank. Commission discussed and will not be assisting. Davey following up.
- Micah is running as President of City Council.

COMMITTEE REPORTS
-- Executive Team
- Preparing in advance for new Commission Exec Team members – we might start asking members if they want to start attending Exec Team meetings.

-- Accessibility and Advocacy
- Committee Goals, Streets and Sidewalks discussion, Accessibility grants, and use of Matrix.
- Need to publish the Bagel Street story
- Sarah Doherty and Michael Hicks might have ideas as well.
    - Next meeting: February 14th at noon – City Building

-- Outreach and Communications (Deb and Michelle) (5 mins)
- Communications Goals
    - Athena Awards
    - Increasing public profile
- Recommendation for Communication officer, splitting accessibility and advocacy committee
- May be time to have column in paper again
- Next meeting: February 11th at 5:30 pm – City Building

ADJOURN
Lisa motioned to adjourn the meeting. Deb seconded. Unanimously supported. Adjourned at 6:30PM.

Prepared by,

Ally Hughes
Secretary
2/19/2025

Developmental Disability Awareness Month

ACBDD
ATHENS COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

MARCH 2025

Uplifting Voices

Below is a line-up of several events in Athens, Ohio, in recognition of Developmental Disability (DD) Awareness Month, which is every year in March. Some events are organized by the Athens County Board of Developmental Disabilities (ACBDD). Some are organized by community partners. DD Awareness Month is a month-long observance that brings attention to the varied and unique experiences of individuals with developmental disabilities. It is a time to celebrate achievements, advocate for rights, and promote understanding and inclusivity. This year's theme is "Uplifting Voices!"

TUES, MARCH 4 ALL DAY	**ADVOCACY DAY at the Statehouse in Columbus** On this day, hundreds of advocates travel to the Ohio Statehouse to advocate on issues important to Ohioans with developmental disabilities. Several individuals affiliated with Athens County People First will be traveling to Columbus to participate.
FRI, MARCH 7 10 A.M.	**MARCH ON COURT STREET for Disability Awareness** The official kick-off to DD Awareness Month in Athens is the March on Court Street. The march this year will be on Friday, March 7. All are welcome! Bring your friends, bring your signs, and bring your enthusiasm!
FRI, MARCH 7 ALL DAY	**ACBDD SPECIAL EDITION Published this year by The Post** On this day, the annual ACBDD Special Edition will be published in The Post. The ACBDD Special Edition is published every year in March. It is a collection of stories about the lives and achievements of individuals with developmental disabilities in Athens County.
TUES, MARCH 11 10 A.M.	**PEOPLE FIRST ATHENS COUNTY Recruitment event** Join members of the Athens Chapter of People First of Ohio for a recruitment event at RHDD on Connett Road in The Plains. People First of Ohio is a statewide organization that advocates for the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities.
WED, MARCH 19 7 P.M.	**SCREENING OF "THE RIDE AHEAD" at Baker Theater** Join us for a screening of "The Ride Ahead," a film by Samuel and Dan Habid. Ohio University's School of Visual Communication and Alden Library are the generous sponsors of this event. There is no charge for admission.
THURS, MARCH 27 6-8 P.M.	**DD AWARENESS FEST at the Athens Community Center** The annual Developmental Disability Awareness Fest at the Athens Community Center will be on Thursday, March 27, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Join us for an evening celebrating community partners and friends! If you would like to showcase your services, RSVP by visiting www.athenscbdd.org.
TBD	**SCREENING OF "CRIP CAMP" location TBD** Join us for a screening of "Crip Camp," a documentary film directed, written, and co-produced by Nicole Newnham and James LeBrecht. Southeastern Ohio Center for Independent Living (SOCIL) is sponsoring this event. Additional details will be shared as they are announced.

For more information, visit www.athenscbdd.org

A film by
Samuel Habib & Dan Habib

Samuel Habib is a typical 21-year-old, itching to move out, start a career, and find love. But no one tells you how to be an adult, let alone an adult with a disability. Can a community of disability activists help him follow his dreams?

@TheRideAheadFilm
@TheRideAhead
The Ride Ahead
www.rideaheadfilm.com

Ohio University Baker Center Theater

1 Park Place, Athens, Ohio

March 19, 2025 • 7:00 pm

Open captioned

Request accommodations at 740-591-9387 or go to this link:
www.eventbrite.com/e/the-ride-ahead-film-screening-tickets-1224980281999

Screening sponsored by Ohio University's School of Visual Communication and Alden Library and the Athens City Commission on Disabilities