

Athens City Commission on Disabilities Outreach and Communications Committee

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Berry Conference Room, City Building, Athens, Ohio

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Minutes

Members Present: Michelle Hahn, co-chair; Carolyn Bailey Lewis

Members Absent: Debra White Burleigh, co-chair; Melissa Kitrick

Guests: Rees Morris, Birch Moonwomon

Call to Order: Hahn called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Establish Quorum: A quorum was not established.

Approval of Minutes from January 14, 2025: Without a quorum established, approval of the January 14, 2025 meeting minutes was tabled.

Potential New Members

- Rees Morris is a student at Ohio University who serves on the student senate as the Senator for Accessibility and Accommodation.
- Birch Moonwomon is a community member with writing and editorial experience.

Disability Fair Tabling

- The Athens County Board of Developmental Disabilities is holding the Developmental Disabilities Awareness Festival on March 27 at 6:00 p.m. The Athens City Commission on Disabilities will have a table at the event, with both Hahn and Burleigh representing the commission.

Communication Outlets

- Which news outlets have we been in before? - The Athens City Commission on Disabilities had a regular column in the Athens News called Athens Ability. The column was

published 5 times in 2020-2021. Other articles have been published in the Athens Messenger by interested parties, but not regularly.

- What do we want to do now? - The Post has a new editor. Morris noted that there is also a student publication focused on politics, The New Political, that may be a potential outlet; The Athens Independent is also a potential outlet. Hahn will work up a communication plan to help determine our next steps.
- Morris suggested that he could forward news along to all Ohio University students.

Walk, Talk, and Roll

- The 7th Annual Walk, Talk, and Roll is scheduled for April 4, 2025, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at the corner of Court Street and Washington Street in front of the Athens County Courthouse.
- Lewis is working on the news releases; Morris will talk with The Post editor about covering it.

Announcements

- Pending legislation, SB1, is having hearings in the Ohio state senate. Folks are urged to contact their senators to express their thoughts.

Next Meeting

- The next meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2025, 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., Berry Conference Room, City Building, Athens, Ohio.

Adjourn: Hahn adjourned the meeting at 6:10 p.m.