

Athens City Commission on Disabilities
September 17, 2025
Athens Community Center Room A (or via Zoom with ADA request)
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER (Dianne)

ESTABLISH QUORUM (Ally)

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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Dianne) (3 mins)

- July, August 2025

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Carolyn (3 min)

NEW BUSINESS

1. Athena Award

OLD BUSINESS

1. New Commission Member Recommendations

COMMITTEE REPORTS

-- Executive Team (Ally, Carolyn, Davey, Dianne) (5 mins)

- Updates on ADA transition Plan

-- Accessibility and Advocacy (Lisa/Ally) (5 mins)

- Committee report
- Next meeting: October 10th at noon – City Building

-- Outreach and Communications (Deb and Michelle) (5 mins)

- Athena Award, Communication
- Next meeting: October 14 at 5:30 pm – City Building

ANNOUNCEMENTS

October 1 Spooky Season / Disability Dance Party

ADJOURN

Athens City Commission on Disabilities
July 16th, 2025 5:30-6:30 p.m. Community Center

Agenda

CALL TO ORDER by Davey McNeely at 1733

**Present: Davey McNeely, Dr. Carolyn Lewis,
Michelle Hahn, Debra Burleigh**

ESTABLISH A QUORUM Unable to establish Quorum

TREASURER REPORT Balance \$2035.94

OLD BUSINESS

Athena Award- Call for nominations to be announced soon with both online and paper forms this year. This may increase participation and make it easier for people to nominate.

Commission members encouraged to make nominations Renomination of past candidates encouraged as most of those continue their work in the community and deserve acknowledgement.

Another change to the form this year includes deleting request for letters of support. Instead we will contact the nominators to obtain their referrals for their nominee and we will contact them for support and further information.

Athena Award to be held Nov. 5th 2025 at the Community Center at 5 PM. The room has already been reserved and Monica Flowers is to get the event on the Mayor's Calender.

Food alternatives discussed and we will order Hordevours and/or finger foods and beverages this year. Discussion to be continued.

Medicaid Cuts-Davey McNeely reported that the state of Ohio has proposed a \$600 million cut in addition to the federal cuts, projected to start in 2026. National Council for Independent Living (NICL) is a good source of current information and an online call to action.

Accessible Swimming-Sensory friendly swimming times continued Sundays at 11 AM and has been well attended. Attendees are currently not required to get out of pool during adult 15 min. breaks which makes it easier for all concerned.

Stroud's Run Adaptive Area Opening Review-Ribbon cutting and speakers for new adaptive area took place earlier in July. Changes to the park were funded by grants in the amount of approximately \$400,000. The

grants were obtained by Managed Care Medicaid programs in our area.

NEW BUSINESS

Commission Member proposals- We now have 9 members and would desire to have 11 members of the Commission. Davey suggested David Hartinger as a possibility and he will reach out to him.

Executive Committee

Through a grant we were able to send representative to meet with 5 other counties to a Leadership Forum for building future leaders.

Accessibility Committee

ADA transition plans-we have asked to our next meeting Megan Jennings, City planner and someone from Engineer's office concerning this.

We have not received any bids for ADA modifications and do not understand why we have not. Andy Stone is reaching out to find out why not.

Outreach and Communication Committee- We are continuing to work on a monthly column about our

endeavors to be published and we have contacted the Messenger and ANews and are awaiting to hear back.

Meeting adjourned at 1758.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURN

Athens City Commission on Disabilities
August 20, 2025
Athens Community Center Room A (or via Zoom with ADA request)
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Davey McNelly, Michele Hahn, Diane Bouvier, Lisa Simpson, Lacey Rogers, Annah Korpi, Deb Burleigh, Carolyn Lewis

CALL TO ORDER (Davey)

ESTABLISH QUORUM (Davey)

PURPOSE (Read by Michele): 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.

TABLING OF MINUTES - We didn't have a copy of last month's minutes so decided to table the approval for July 2025.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Carolyn Lewis, treasurer, reported out
- \$2,035.94 reported
- Diane made motion and Michele seconded and unanimous yes

NEW BUSINESS

Athena Award

- Michele talked about having a new nomination form that is digital this year.
- So far one nomination.
- Rather than have support letters, people put names of "references" that the committee can reach out to and get feedback about the nominee.
- Catering is still in progress
- Location at the Community Center
- Nominations due September 2nd. Please nominate people and/or encourage others to nominate people.
- Wednesday November 5th at 5 pm is the event
- Looking for single or a couple musicians

OLD BUSINESS

New Commission Member Recommendations and Committee Reminders

- looking for new members; we are at 9 people and we'd like 11

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Team

- Davey is going to commit to getting the minutes and agenda out a week in advance
- Let's invite more people to the committee meetings and Commission meetings

Accessibility and Advocacy

- We'd like to invite city planner again and city engineer
- Review of accessibility, ADA transition plan talk (Annah and Diane will invite Sunday Creek to meetings. Currently in back and forth
- When repaving blacktop, city or business doesn't always put in ADA spaces (blue lines but not the diagonal lines; Davey spoke with Kindred Market and they finally did. Should we do letter to the editor? Should we chalk lines? Should we ask Kindred to write a letter to the editor?
- Next meeting: Sept 12th at noon – City Building

- Suggestion to look over the matrix at next Accessibility meeting and then Commission
- Invite Andy and Mayor Patterson to November meeting so they come every 6 months

Outreach and Communications

- Athena Award, Communication
- Next meeting: Sept 9th at 5:30 pm – City Building

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- October 21st City welcome event 6-8 pm at the Armory
- Food for Thought event to discuss dismantling of DEI programs (sponsored by Athens Community Relations Commission) 2-4 at the Community Center
- SOCIL Strouds Run Beach Day September 10 – Looking for volunteers
- SOCIL-OU-Voinovich received \$45,000 from DD council to create a disability advocacy, leadership council for youth, parent mentorship

ADJOURNED 6:27

SPOOKY PARTY

👻 Spooky season starts here—come join the fun!

👻 Costume Contest! FREE ENTRY

🍷 Wine, Mocktails & Food

👼 Crafts and Dance

🍷 Donate \$30 to design your own spooky glass

🎫 Raffle to Support SOCIL



Disability Friendly Event

Donate



VALLEY VIEW HILLS WINERY
29176 KLUMP RD,
SUGAR GROVE, OH 43155

WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 1

5 PM - 8 PM

If you have questions, need accommodations, or would like to donate contact Jeff Williams with SOCIL at 740-689-1494 ext 205