

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