

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