

Athens City Commission on Disabilities
February 18, 2026
Athens Community Center Room A (or via Zoom with ADA request)
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Members: Dianne Bouvier, Ally Hughes, Anna Nagy-Heinrich, Michelle Hahn, Rob Delach, Mayor Steve Patterson, Annah Korpi; John McCarthy (on zoom)

Guests: Joe Brumfield, Katie Franklin, Kalah Russell, Dale Ellis, Gabe Scotto

CALL TO ORDER

- Dianne welcomed New and Former Members. Everyone introduced themselves.

ESTABLISH QUORUM

- Ally established quorum

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Deferred to March meeting to approve January meeting minutes

TREASURER'S REPORT

- We have no current Treasurer; Dianne reported that the City Council allotted the Commission \$3,000 for 2026, the same as 2025.

ORIENTATION OF NEW MEMBERS

Dianne started by going through the power point orientation for new members. See attached document.

- 1) HIGHLIGHTS OF 2025
 - a) Discussed two signature events, including Athena Awards and Walk, Talk and Roll
 - b) Communicated with city about accessibility issues
 - c) City hired consultant to work on the transition plan
 - d) Coordinated media coverage of different issues
- 2) BYLAWS
 - a) History: Commission made in 2004
 - b) Dianne read the mission statement
 - c) Membership includes mayor's designee, city council rep (John Staser) and others, 11 minimum including half with disabilities and at least one family member with disabilities; other good candidates are friends, service providers, etc.
 - d) Executive team: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer needed. People were encouraged to nominate themselves; voting will occur at the next meeting. Those interested in being on the slate for any Exec Team position should let Ally or Dianne know by the end of the month. Roles were described as in the power point (attached). Dianne offered to be considered as vice chair, Ally treasurer, Annah chair
- 3) COMMITTEES AND ROLES
 - a) Exec team
 - b) Accessibility and Advocacy committee
 - i) Organizes Walk, Talk and Roll
 - ii) Keeps a record of issues in the city and looks at it and updates it and communicates with city about it (called the Matrix)
 - iii) Discusses transportation and parking challenges and pedestrian infrastructure
 - c) Outreach and Communication committee

- i) Organizes media outreach
 - ii) Historically has communicated content (social media, story-telling, videos, letters to the editor)
 - iii) Has organized the Athena Award program
 - d) Liaison to Pedestrian Accessibility and Bicycle Task Force
 - e) Potentially other ad hoc committees, including Athena Award committee and bylaw revision committee
 - f) Decision making follows Roberts Rules of Order
 - g) Commission and Committees must follow State and Federal regulations
- 4) GOALS
- a) Annah went over the proposed goals (see attached goals and calendar)
 - b) Katie suggested we consider SMART goals as we flesh them out

MEETING TIMES

- We discussed meeting times for Accessibility Committee and Outreach Committee to see when people could come
 - After work: Anna, Gabe, Joe B
 - Both during day and after work: Katie*, Kallah, John*, Dale, Ally, Dianne
 - During day: Annah
- Kallah and Gabe both express interest in Outreach committee; Katie and Joe Accessibility Committee; John M. possibly Transition Plan ad hoc; Michelle would like to chair ad hoc Athena Award committee
- We considered other meeting spaces for Outreach committee: Athens Library, Community Center, OU Library

WALK TALK AND ROLL

Ally and Rob are coordinating and will let people know what roles are needed. Event is scheduled for Friday, April 10, mid-day

- 1) Have stations with themes
- 2) Showcase what the city has done well
- 3) Highlight what else needs to be done
- 4) Have tables at the Court House

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MAYOR

- 1) Mentioned Athens Community Beautification day and how 1500 students used to volunteer. He mentioned talking to the university president on how to get students more active with volunteer work in the city, like snow removal.
- 2) Mentioned how snow affects ADA parking spaces and curbs and bus stops
- 3) His point is that the city is trying to think creatively about how to leverage the resources we have at the university and within the city

Next Commission Meeting: Wednesday, March 18, 5:30 – 6:30, Athens Community Center, Room A. Commission meetings are the third Wednesday of the month. Sunday Creek will be visiting then.

Outreach and Communication Committee

- Meets the second Tuesday of the month, from 5:30 – 6:30 at the Berry Conference Room, first floor of the Athens City Building. **Next meeting:** March 9, 2026 at 5:30 pm

Accessibility and Advocacy Committee

- Meets on the second Friday of the month, from 12:00 – 1:00 at the Berry Conference Room, first floor of the Athens City Building. **Next meeting:** March 13, 2026 at 12 pm

Exec Team

- Meeting times to be determined.

MEETING CONCLUDED at 6:32 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Annah Korpi, Member
February 20, 2026