

Athens City Commission on Disabilities
May 20, 2026
Athens Community Center Room A (or remotely with ADA request)
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER (Annah) (1 min)

INTRODUCTIONS (Dianne) (2 min)

ESTABLISH QUORUM (Anna) (2 mins)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Annah) (1 min)

- April 2026

TREASURER’S REPORT (Ally) (2 min)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Executive Team (Dianne) (5 mins)
 - o ADA Transition Plan Update
 - Stakeholder list

- Outreach and Communication (Annah K) (5 min)
 - o Update on activities
 - o Conversation with Storytelling Institute
 - o Calendar of other Commission meetings

- Accessibility and Advocacy (Katie) (10 min)
 - o Confirm goals
 - o Matrix review/Invitation to Gillian Garland, Assistant City Engineer, EPW
 - o WTR follow up plan

NEW BUSINESS

- Discuss Athena Award (Michelle) (20 min)
 - o Goals, format, engagement, soliciting nominations

OLD BUSINESS (10 min)

- Review Commission goals and assign to committees and commission members
- Here is where the current committees stand. Anyone else to add?

Accessibility and Advocacy	Outreach & Communication	Ad hoc: Bylaws	Ad hoc: Athena Award	Ad hoc: Nominating Group	Accessibility Consultation Team
Katie Davey Dianne Ally H Ben Ziff Stephanie Hunter Rob Delach Tisha Springer John Staser	Annah Dale Gabe John McCarthy Andrea Seth Adriana?	Michelle	Michelle Debbie	John McCarthy	Dianne Davey

ANNOUNCEMENTS (2 mins)

ADJOURN (1 min)

Future Meetings

Outreach and Communication Committee

- Meets the second Tuesday of the month at the Athens City Building, Berry Conference Room, first floor. **Next meeting: Tuesday, June 9th, 4:30-5:30 pm**

Accessibility and Advocacy Committee

- Meets the second Friday of the month at the Athens City Building, Berry Conference Room, first floor. **Next Meeting: Friday, June 12th, 12:00-1:00 pm**

Full Commission

- Meets the third Wednesday of the month at the Athens Community Center, Room A. **Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 17th, 5:30 – 6:30 pm**

Exec Team

- Meeting time to be determined.

Athens City Commission on Disabilities
April 15, 2026
Athens Community Center Room A (or remotely with ADA request)
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Annah called the meeting to order at 5:30pm

Present: Dianne Bouvier (Vice Chair), Dale Ellis, Annah Korpi (Chair), Katie Franklin, John McCarthy, Michelle Hahn, Anna Heinrich, Deb Burleigh, Gabe Scotto,

Guests: Eva McLaughlin (OU Student)

Established quorum

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **Katie motioned to approve the March 2026 minutes, Dianne seconded and the motion was approved unanimously**

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Ally Hughes was unable to make it to the meeting today so there was no report today. Approval of treasurer's report was tabled until next meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Executive Team**
 - Secretary vacancy – Margaret had to step down. Anna Heinrich volunteered to take over the role. Dianne made a motion to amend bylaws to be able to vote now instead of waiting until next month since there is only one candidate. Annah seconded the motion. Anna left the room while everyone voted. Anna was elected as secretary for the remainder of this term.
 - [Strategic Planning Calendar](#) – The executive team has updated our goals and strategic planning calendar. It is helpful to have 12 month calendar to know what is coming up.
 - Updated [Goals](#) – We talked about this at the last meeting and made changes per discussion:
 - Points 1 and 2 – a few small changes
 - No changes to Point 3.
 - Considerable changes to Point 4 pre previous.
 - Changes to Point 6 (Ad Hoc Committees).
 - Nominating Committee – specifically for nominating and electing officers. This is not designed for nominating new members. **Add “Form a nominating committee in accordance with the bylaws by the end of July”**
 - Athena Award Committee - **Remove “completing nomination process by end of April”** Will discuss nomination process at

next committee meeting. Will check info in bylaws about nominating committee.

- Point 7 – added point about developing handout. Interested in addressing technology accessibility issues.
- **Dianne made a motion to pass goals with changes above (in bold), Gabe seconded, and motion was approved unanimously.**
- **Outreach and Communication**
 - Goals and plan - There were two new people (both were OU students) in attendance at the most recent committee meeting. The following issues and ideas were discussed:
 - Communication - sending group texts to notify people of meetings.
 - Issue with people stealing bricks from the roads creating accessibility barrier.
 - Profiling people with disabilities. Letter to editor? Story for stakeholders?
 - Goal to interface with other commissions and groups.
 - Getting meeting info on calendars – will discuss at committee meeting.
- **Accessibility and Advocacy**
 - Recap on Walk Talk and Roll – We used a different format this year by having people visit stations instead of walking as a group.
 - What do we feel like was accomplished?
 - Community awareness was raised.
 - Community building/networking. Micah McCarey (Athens City Council President) was in attendance.
 - Court St. Challenge went well.
 - Received more email addresses.
 - What attracted people?
 - Signage?
 - People were enticed by pizza.
 - A lot of people walked by, unsure of what it was. We did not have time to get out signs since tables/tents were not set up early.
 - Future ideas: Sign that says “Ask us about accessibility”? Mascot?
 - Goals – will discuss next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS – (Annah has to leave early, Dianne took over at this point.)

- [Matrix](#) – Suggestion for the Accessibility and Advocacy to discuss in next meeting and report out at May Commission meeting – The main purpose here is to try to record what issues around accessibility people have noted. There is a spreadsheet to try to identify who reported it to the city, what was their response (plan to get fixed) and did they get it fixed. Part of the purpose is to hold the city accountable.
- ADA Transition Plan – Megan Jennings came to the last meeting. Ideas and discussion:
 - Review/update Athens Pedestrian Accessibility prioritization list - Michelle on task force to help city implement plan. Created a prioritization list. We could go through list to see what has been taken care of from list (about 3 years old). Look at this and provide to consultants.
 - Help create opportunities for gathering stakeholder input - members' thoughts on groups?
 - We need input from people with disabilities and other stakeholders. Ideas discussed:
 - We could host a meeting?
 - We could go to other meeting? Sort of a new project that relates to how to figure out _____. Thoughts? Other ideas?
 - Other stakeholders we could connect with:
 - NAMI, Athens Health Department, Age Friendly Coordinator, Meredith Erlewine, Developmental Disabilities Board
 - Add to next month agenda – ask people to bring list of stakeholders they're aware of/connected with.
 - Question was raised about how the city budgets for changes. Dianne explained need for plan to be more likely to receive funding. We need to determine our role on how to be proactive on this.
- Committee Membership
 - John McCarthy – Outreach and Communication
 - Deb Burleigh – Athena Awards
 - People need to think about what committee they want to join. We can also ask community members to join committee.

Accessibility and Advocacy	Outreach & Communication	Ad hoc: Bylaws	Ad hoc: Athena Award	Ad hoc: Nominating Group	Accessibility Consultation Team
Katie Davey Dianne Ally H	Annah Dale Gabe	Michelle?	Michelle		Dianne Davey

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Exec Team

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Meeting adjourned at 6:30pm