

Athens City Commission on Disabilities
July 15, 2026
Athens Community Center, Conference Room
(ADA - requested virtual access)
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Agenda

CALL TO ORDER (Annah K) (1 min)

ESTABLISH QUORUM (Annah K) (2 mins)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Anna) (1 min)

- June 2026

TREASURER'S REPORT (Ally) (2 min)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Executive Team (Dianne) (1 min)
- Outreach and Communication (Annah K) (5 min)
 - o [Calendar](#) of other Commission meetings
 - o General updates
- Accessibility and Advocacy (Katie) 10 min
 - o Plans for meeting with Gillian on July 17
 - o Overview of [Matrix](#) and how decisions were made about priorities
- Athena Award Committee (Michelle) (5 min)
 - o Provide updates (press release, information Commission members can disseminate about nomination process, former nominees and plan)
- Bylaws Committee (Michelle) (5 minutes)
 - o Provide updates

OLD BUSINESS (10 min)

- Website updates/archives (Joe)

NEW BUSINESS (5 min)

- Guests at next meeting: Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities

Accessibility and Advocacy	Outreach & Communication	Ad hoc: Bylaws	Ad hoc: Athena Award	Ad hoc: Nominating Group	Accessibility Consultation Team
Katie, co-chair Davey, co-chair Dianne Ally Hughes Ben Ziff Stephanie Hunter Rob Delach Tisha Springer John Staser	Annah, chair Dale Gabe Deb Andrea Seth Adriana?	Michelle Dianne	Michelle Debbie John McCarthy Anna	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, August 11th, 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 Meetings: July 17th, 12:00-1:00 pm and August 14th, 12:00-1:00 pm**

Full Commission

- Meets the third Wednesday of the month at the Athens Community Center, Room A. **Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 19th, 5:30 – 6:30 pm**

Exec Team

- Meeting time to be determined.

Athens City Commission on Disabilities
June 17, 2026
Athens Community Center, Conference Room
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Minutes

Annah called the meeting to order at 5:32pm

Present: Dale Ellis, Dianne Bouvier (Vice Chair), Annah Korpi (Chair), Michelle Hahn, Anna Heinrich (Secretary), Gabe Scotto, Debbie Burleigh, Aly Hughes (attending remotely), Joe Brumfield

Guests: Anne Rubin

Established Quorum

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Dianne made a motion to approve the April 2026 minutes, Michelle seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Ally received an update from Monica regarding expenditures.
 - We started 2026 budget with **\$3,000**.
 - Total cost of Walk, Talk, & Roll event was **\$786.01**. This included the cost of ASL interpreters and food.
 - We received a **\$20** cash donation during Walk, Talk, & Roll.
 - Total balance now is **\$2,233.99**.
- We will need to consider the costs of interpreters going forward as this will be coming out of our budget.
- Michelle made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, Dianne seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Team

- The Executive Team wrote letter to the Ohio House Finance Committee regarding an amendment to House Bill 795 which would have banned Medicaid from paying family members to care for disabled and elderly relatives. The

purpose of the letter was to encourage them to slow down and reconsider this portion of the amendment. Ultimately, the Ohio House Finance Committee removed the family caregiving amendment and moved forward with some aspects of the bill. This has not been reviewed yet by the Governor. The letter we wrote can be viewed [here](#).

- ADA Transition Plan Update:
 - Representative from Sunday Creek Horizons came to our last meeting and gave an overview of what is included in the transition plan.
 - Things are moving forward through the City and Sunday Creek Horizons.
 - Andrew Chiki has put together a tool (app) to track pedestrian infrastructure. This tool is still in the pilot phase. This will include location/mapping information, and places for photos and descriptions of the issues. The goal is to put together a report of what is there and what needs to be remediated. They are also trying to determine what is a priority.

Athena Award Committee

- Current members: Michelle Hahn, Anna Heinrich, John McCarthy, and Deb Burleigh.
- The group hasn't met as a full committee yet but has been having discussions online.
- The committee plans to send out a call for nominations after getting feedback during today's meeting. The nominations will be completed online. The wording has been updated to obtain more information about each nominee. Nominators will be able to upload supporting documents and photos. The deadline for nominations is in September.
- Last year there were only 4 or 5 nominations, and we would like to have a larger selection this year.
- Ideas of places to post nomination form: City website, email list, press release to newspaper, WOUB, etc.
 - We are asking all commission members to help get the word out. It is nice when people outside of commission make nominations.
 - Michelle will send out a template to the commission members that they can use when asking people for nominations.
 - Gabe can help with writing the press release for nomination process.
- Other ideas discussed:
 - Moving ceremony portion to 5:30 to give attendees more time to arrive after work.
 - Starting with food so people can eat when they get there.
 - Room Layout (this is somewhat dependent on who the entertainer is):
 - Discussed not including table in front of where the awards are. We could just have the podium.

- The quilt needs to be hung in a certain place due to the infrastructure of the room. We need to make sure we are not blocking the quilt with tables.
- The area for food will depend on what is done for catering. Hors d'oeuvres vs. a full meal.
- Accessibility: The Athena Award uses conference rooms A, B, and C at the Community Center. We can't have more than 60-70 people in that space as we need to allow more room between tables.
- The photographer started taking pictures earlier than they were supposed to last year. This will need to be communicated more clearly to the photographer.
- Michelle will talk to Monica to see if the mayor is available from 5:30 – 6:30 on November 4th. If he is not available, the City Council President could come in his place.

Outreach and Communication Committee

- There was no meeting this month because Annah Korpi was not available.
- The committee is working on reactivating the **Athen City Commission on Disabilities** Facebook page. The goal is to post one post per week.
- Conversation with Storytelling Institute - Dianne and Annah met with the Storytelling Institute to discuss how to tell stories of people with disabilities. The Storytelling Institute has graduate students who can help with this kind of project. This resource is available if we have a vision.
- Annah created a [calendar](#) that lists when other Athens City Commission meetings occur. It would be helpful for each member to attend at least one meeting this year to help explain to other groups about who we are and what we do. Our appearance at the last few city council meetings has been beneficial.
- Facebook posts and newsletter – Annah is trying to focus on Facebook and calendars.

Accessibility and Advocacy Committee

- Committee met on Friday via Zoom so that everyone could see the Matrix together. Committee went through the Matrix to see which items need more details. Does the Matrix need to be restructured to be a more useful tool? Would like to determine what information is the most helpful.
- Committee picked 5-7 things to go over with Gillian.
- Micah McCarey recently put together a document to serve as a training tool for city council representatives to learn about accessibility issues.
- Dianne talked to the Mayor about bidding process
- Walk Talk & Roll Follow-up letter to City staff: Tisha, Katie, and Dianne wrote a letter about what was learned during this event. There has been some movement in some areas since then.

- Discussed time limits for accessible parking spaces. Accessible parking spaces currently allow users to park for 4 hours.
- Discussed accessibility at parking garage. The new system to exit the garage is not accessible to all users. This is still being worked on.
- Discussed number of accessible parking spaces. Are there any places that need accessible parking spots? Suggestions can be sent to Dianne. (Rob Delach is working on adding them to open map of city.)

NEW BUSINESS

- City Council discussion on Accessibility – Discussion regarding who is the most appropriate person (Mayor vs. City Council) to approach with questions or concerns.
- By-laws Committee – Dianne and Michelle will be meeting to go through the by-laws.
- Accessibility Consultations – tabled to next meeting
- Website updates – Joe Brumfield has been reviewing the Athens City Commission on Disabilities website. Joe will come up with list of suggested changes.
 - Website issues discussed:
 - The website is difficult to navigate.
 - The general and commission documents are about 4 years old. Can these be archived and updated with current information? What should be included in the General Documents section?
 - Can there be links to our social media pages?
 - Athena Award – list of Athena Award winners needs to be updated. Could we include information about the artist who created award?
 - Some videos are linked on website, but are hard to find.
 - Matching Fund Application needs to be removed.

OLD BUSINESS

- 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, co-chair	Annah, chair	Michelle	Michelle	John McCarthy	Dianne
Davey, co-chair	Dale	Dianne	Debbie		Davey
Dianne	Gabe		John McCarthy		
Ally Hughes	John McCarthy		Anna		
Ben Ziff	Andrea				
Stephanie Hunter	Seth				
Rob Delach	Adriana?				
Tisha Springer					
John Staser					

Dianne made a motion to end the meeting, Deb seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:33pm

DRAFT