

**City of Athens Commission on Disabilities  
Meeting Minutes for Jan. 18, 2017  
5:30 p.m.  
Athens Community Center**

**Call to order:** 5:36 p.m.

**Members attending:**

Lara Edge, Joe Wessinger, Berry Dilley, Rose Dikis, Noah Trembly, David McNelly, Scott Dennis

**Non-voting members and guests**

Steve Patterson (mayor), Sarah Grace, Chris Linscott (PACDAP's Accessibility Liaison Committee representative), Larry Jageman, Stephanie Morris (director of the Athens County Community Choir), Michelle Ajamian and her son Wren

**Approval of minutes from November and December:**

- Approved

**Athena Award**

- Mayor Steve Patterson nominates outgoing Ohio University President Rod McDavis because of his work to make OU more accessible:
- Renovating the Gateway so it's accessible
- Started PACDAP
- Helped obtain a quarter-million-dollar grant for accessibility
- Signage, including the way-finding signage that's coming soon
- Partnering with the city on disability issues

Discussion: Nominations for the Athena Award are to be accepted until March 1, according to Commission By-Laws. McDavis is leaving Feb. 17. It was agreed that he could still be a nominee because it's not without precedent: the first award was given posthumously.

Action item: Lara Edge to contact technical support to get call for nominations and the nomination form on the Disabilities Commission page before week's end:

<http://www.ci.athens.oh.us/index.aspx?NID=99>

**Challenged By Choice and Disability Speaks**

A plan with a focus on people responsible for designing and constructing buildings, was approved by the Commission.

Dates are:

Orientation Lunch: Wed, April 5, noon. Bob Evans.

Dinner and "Disabilities Speaks:" Thursday, April 6, 6 p.m. Community Center B&C. (Larry has reserved).

Discussion: Keynote speaker should be an expert who advocates for Universal Design/Accessibility. The Committee is working on that.  
Committee members are: Larry Jageman, Berry Dilley, Rose Dikis, Scott Dennis.  
Larry asked Chris Linscott to join the subcommittee to help find volunteers to be aides.

**Accessibility Project:**

Moving training forward to April or even summer depending on when the “Trainer” is available, and to avoid a conflict with Challenged By Choice and Disabilities Speaks.

Need to create a “request for funds” report to give the Mayor so he can seek funding from council to pay for training expenses

NEW BUSINESS

**Athens County Community Choir**

Director Stephanie Morris: the Choir is seeking new members for its new season starting Feb. 1, and is open to all. Practices are Wednesday mornings and Thursday afternoons. See attached brochure for details. And attached sign-up sheet.

**Announcements**

- Disability Awareness Festival is March 21
- Next Commission meeting is Feb. 15, 2017, 5:30 p.m.

**Adjourn:** 6:56 p.m.