

**Athens City Commission on Disabilities**

*October 16, 2019*

*Meeting Minutes*

*City Recreation Center 5:30 p.m.*

In attendance: David McNelly, Noah Trembly, Cheryl Prusinski, Berry Dilley, Carolyn Lewis, Pat McGee, Scott Dennis, Rose Dikas (via phone for part of the meeting), Dianne Bouvier, Patricia Ercolino, Paige Fuentes, Tristin Nelson. Guests: Frank C.; Students Bruce Austin, Mijana Mazuv, Claire Geary.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 by Acting Chair David McNelly.

**Approval of September Minutes:** Correction – change candida to candidate in paragraph four. Scott motions. Pat seconds. Motion passes.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Noah had nothing new to report.

Old Business

New Commissioners: Carolyn motions for executive session. Noah seconds. Motion passes. Following discussion and a unanimous vote on three candidates, the Commission will forward names to the Mayor. Davey motions to end executive session. Pat seconds. Motion passes. The Mayor will send appointment letters. Three-year terms begin in January 2020.

**Fifth Annual Athena Award Ceremony:** Berry and Carolyn provides the details.

New Business

**Commission Officers:** Need a nominating committee for a November vote. Scott moves the Executive Committee serves as the nominating committee. Pat seconds. Motion carries.

**Athena Award Nominees and Selection of Recipient:** Unanimous selection of Dr, jw Smith.

Recommendation: City purchases a portable ramp. Motion David McNelly. Carolyn and Pat seconds. Motion carries.

**American Sign Language Estimates:** Davey, Carolyn, and Berry met with the Mayor, He will allocate funds from his budget for interpreters and requested an estimate. Carolyn will work with Cheryl.

**February Speaker at Ohio University:** Carolyn presented an opportunity to partner with Ohio University's Student Senate's Minority Affairs Commission to bring Haben Girma to campus on February 20, 2020, as part of the second annual AccessibleOHIO (February 16-22). Haben is the first deaf-blind Harvard Law School graduate. She presents on disability and innovation, leadership, advocacy, and more. She recently released a best-selling book. The cost to bring her to campus is \$13,000 to be shared among partners. The Mayor has approved \$2,000 from his budget to support this effort. The funds will not come out of the Commission's budget. Pat motions. Berry seconds. Motion carries.

**Committee Reports:**

*Executive* – City Council presentation October 28. Davey requested all Commissioners to attend and said a small part for everyone would be great. He will outline the presentation. Question: Is the room accessible. Yes. The meetings are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor at 7 p.m. A reminder will be sent. There was no Executive Committee meeting. Davey is meeting quarterly with Dr. Carey Busch about common issues and concerns between OU and the Commission. We should promote Athens City Source on November 6. There needs to be a matrix delineating what the priorities are, a plan on how to address them, and a City-generated report that outlines a three to five year plan. Pat questioned how the City spends its money such as an allocation of \$90,000 for a bike trail. He wants us to be aware. Noted was a grant the City received for one million dollars.

*Outreach and Education* – Berry reported on the Calling All Artists flier to encourage Athens community artists to submit designs for a new Athena Award for 2021. The fliers, take-away cards, and City Source information will be given to each Award ceremony attendee.

**Other:** Berry talked about voting accessibility and that it should be placed on the agenda. She will send an email.

Pat motions for adjournment. Scott seconds. The meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

Acting Secretary  
Dr. Carolyn Lewis