

City of Athens Community Arts, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Minutes
June 18, 2020
Zoom Meeting 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

In Attendance: Mark Ferguson, Shauna Switzer, Travis Gatling, Alan Swank, Nic Palmer, Brandon Thompson, Councilwoman Beth Clodfelter, Erin Helms. **Absent:** Terri Moore, Daniel Brown.

Call to Order - 5:30 pm

Approval of Minutes – Moved to next meeting as recommended by Mark Ferguson

Old Business

- Community Center Phase 1
 - Erin Helms informed board that Community Center reopened on Monday (June 15th). Everything has been going smooth without an abundance of complaints. Feels like most patrons/users understand new procedures. Currently ACC is only open to members, military, and punch card users.
 - Erin informed group of user numbers...Monday had 65 members use the facility along with 3 military and 4 punch cards with \$985 in membership sales, June 16 there were 49 members, 9 military, 3 punch cards with a total of \$315 in new memberships, June 17 51 members, 5 military, 2 punch cards and no new memberships and as of noon on June 18 there were 25 members, 1 military, and 1 punch card. At this point in time Erin informed board that we having a slow start but the slowness seem to help staff get acquainted with the new routine. Staff are cleaning and sanitizing nonstop and there is a hope that public recognizes that effort. Staff is all doing really well.
 - There was an all staff training the week prior to go over how we are reopening and what new procedures will take place. Staff has been really helpful and eager to get back to work.
- Assessment, Review of new hours and best practices
 - Erin told board that the facility is constantly following guidelines to remain open via cleaning, sanitizing, having hand sanitizer available. She also informed the board of the deep cleaning taking place between 12p-1p while the community center is closed.
 - Councilwoman Beth Clodfelter asked if there is anyone cleaning the machines between usages. Erin answered that staff are monitoring usage and cleaning as well as each patron is asked to clean prior to and after each use.

- Mark Ferguson asked if there is a general capacity limit that the community center is utilizing. Erin informed the board that currently there is no capacity limit rather that all machines are either appropriately spaced or put out of order.
- Councilwoman Clodfelter asked if ACC was hosting daycare/childcare again. Erin answered that currently no there are no childcare programs going on and that the seniors are closed as well. Currently only members are using the facility while it's open.
- Sandlot Request
 - Erin informed the group that Sandlot has cancelled their regular season but has requested to use certain fields for practices and scrimmages for 5 weeks. She informed board that Terri, Director has been working closely with Sandlot.
 - Brandon Thompson asked if the 5 week season was Sandlots usual plan or were they working down from that? Erin responded that to her understanding that was their plan. Alan Swank gave more insight based off what he saw on the Sandlot website was that they chose to do this type of season because of the economic loss they would see as it compared to field costs, not having concessions, and umpire fees, equipment costs, and the cost incurred by the COVID 19 requirements.
 - Alan Swank also brought up some concern about surrounding counties still allowing tournaments. He also stated concern of other areas not complying with certain safety protocols (i.e. Masks in stores)

New Business

- Board Member Reappointments
 - Daniel Brown, Alan Swank, Travis Gatling
 - Mark Ferguson reported that each should have received or should be expecting to receive their letter. Beth Clodfelter stated that she did request reappointment for each at the last city council meeting. Travis stated that his current address wasn't updated but he was aware that he had been reappointed. Mark said he was glad to have each person stay on the board.
- Grant Award.
 - Mark informed the board that the APRD has received a grant from the Athens Foundation in the amount of \$2,000 from the Emergency Response Fund. Funding will be used for Summer Camp to supply face coverings for all the campers and other supplies needed to assist with Covid response. Erin mentioned that the Gaiter masks for the kids have arrived and that they are pretty cool.

Staff Report

- Erin reported on the following
 - Closures and Openings
 - Parks and Trails-Open
 - Playgrounds-Currently closed however with the governor's recent orders that playgrounds can be open we expect to open them soon. APRD is waiting on the guidelines for cleaning and sanitizing once playgrounds are opened back up. Health department suggested cleaning once per day.
 - Alan asked what date they will open. Erin said they are likely to open once the department receives signage but still unsure so she was going to get clarity on that. Alan further commented that with Sandlot being allowed to use the space that community members are seeing that as unfair if baseball can play on a baseball field why can't people play on city owned basketball court. Alan said he's been getting those inquiries.
 - Tennis and Pickleball courts (outside)-open
 - Erin informed board that those courts are being used quite a bit. With that APRD is looking to layout a new pickleball court near the outdoor hockey rink
 - Basketball Courts-Closed
 - Erin informed board that while courts are closed the rims have been repainted and now the department is looking to repaint the backboards and lines
 - Alan interjected that the Governor has already opened those courts and inquired what has the department been doing since March 17? And why, now that we are open, we choose to just now start doing that maintenance? He said it doesn't make sense. Questions are based on what he's heard from the public. Erin responded that Terri should be able to give more insight on this matter upon her return.
 - Adult and youth Sports-plan is to reintroduce adult softball in the fall because it is considered non-contact.
 - Athletic field use is allowed by permission only for organized groups
 - Dog Parks-open
 - Skate park-open
 - Community Center-open to members only. Hoping to allow general public before too long.
 - Gymnasium-currently closed but hoping to open that up on some type of reservation system
 - Summer Camp-scheduled to start July 6
 - ArtsWest-closed. Programs and classes are hopeful to resume in the Fall
 - United Senior Center-Closed

- Rentals-Currently working through allowing this. With limited staff that acc currently has it adds a layer of difficulty to make sure things are sanitized properly between rentals.
- Water fountains/restrooms-in parks they are closed
- Shelters-closed
- Hoping to reopen the closed amenities as soon as we safely can.
- Personnel
 - Some part time staff has been brought back on. Fitness staff has 4 and front desk staff has 4.
 - Seasonal Maintenance will now be able to hire 4
 - 2 seasonal positions for uptown and cemeteries
- Parks
 - Staff is mowing and landscaping a lot. Uptown flowers are getting watered regularly. Working on cemetery upkeep and improvement. Supporting ACC with reopening (moving machines, etc.). Tree and limb removal in all parks. Installing signs in parks.
- Projects
 - Kevin Scurlock has been getting Pressure Washing quotes. However, currently he isn't having luck getting companies to commit to work due to the unknown of what pressure washing does as it compares to spreading germs/covid.
 - Kevin is also getting quotes on painting and repainting shelters, restrooms
 - Swing set was purchased. Still about 3-4 weeks from receiving it.
- Programs
 - Summer Camp-starting July 6 with 50% capacity. Most weeks are full. Laura has been working really hard on making sure camp runs smoothly and safely (temperature checks, handwashing, separation, activities).
- Mark Ferguson asked if department is fully staffed based off of a full time perspective? Erin mentioned that Andrew Chiki's old position that has now been changed to include other duties and assignment is still vacant but unsure of where the department is in filling that position.
- Alan inquired about what ArtsWest is currently doing. Erin responded that Emily Beveridge mentioned setting up a new gallery show that will be online starting sometime the following week and that Emily will be assisting Laura Sowers with summer camp to include activities and arts. Alan then asked about the possibility of opening the musical lending library up. Erin informed Alan that Emily has been in conversations with various entities on how to safely allow the library to be utilized.
- Mark Ferguson asked about the budget impact APRD is experiencing due to the Covid changes the department has to make. Erin responded that there is still a bit of unknown with that but that there is help coming to assist with things ACC has had to put in place

to make sure they comply. Councilwoman Clodfelter informed the board that the State of Ohio has received \$350 million to share among communities in Ohio. Athens is currently working on submitting all the funds used to comply with state guidelines so that they can get reimbursed. Athens has not received anything that would indicate how much they could get but once communities apply then they wait to see how much they get. Erin shared that the department is tracking expenses they have had as it contains to Covid and procedures.

Other Items

- Beth asked if Parks are open except for the playgrounds. Erin confirmed that all green spaces are open. Beth wanted to make sure she could have a meeting in Armory Park. Erin said as long as there is social distance practiced and the group is no larger than 10 that that would be permissible.
- Erin informed the board that she and Laura Sowers have to working on a project of Sensory Path and Storybook Trails. They are looking for ideas to share with the community by use of city parks.

Mark Ferguson made the motion to adjourn. Beth second. Meeting ended at 6:03pm.