

Athens Arts Parks and Recreation  
Recreation Advisory Board  
January 19, 2023  
5:30 pm  
City Council Chambers

Meeting was called to order at 5:34 pm

**In attendance:** Daniel Brown, Ash Allanson, Anne L’Heureux, Andrea Lewis, Megan Russell, Director Jordan, and Councilman Swank

**Quorum was established**

Daniel asked if there were any additions to the agenda, and asked for approval. Andrea Lewis, asked that the agenda be amended to reflect that the minutes that need to be approved from prior months be updated to March, April, June, December. AL made a motion to approve the agenda with changes, AA seconded the motion, approved by voice vote.

**Approval of the minutes:** Andrea Lewis stated that she contacted Law Director, Lisa Eliason for advice on approval of the prior months minutes in months that no current sitting members were present. The question was asked because councilman Swank had stated in the November meeting that individuals must have been present at a meeting in order to put a motion or second forward on an item. Law Director Eliason responded: *“There is no requirement in Robert’s Rules of Order that a member have first-hand knowledge of something before voting on minutes or other motions. A motion need not be made regarding the approval of the minutes. The chair may say “Are there any corrections to the minutes.” Members may offer corrections, and when there are no corrections the chair says “If there are no corrections to the minutes, the minutes stand approved.” There is no second needed. Then go on to the next item of business. (response via email 1/17/2023)*

Daniel Brown asked if there were any changes or corrections to the minutes from March, April, June, December. No changes or corrections from the Board, the minutes stand approved.

**New Business:** Daniel welcomed the new committee members: Anne L’Heureux and Megan Russell, and started introductions of all members present.

**Discussion of RAB vacancies (2):** Andrea Lewis reiterated the process as she understood it that a recommendation be forwarded to the mayor for consideration and it was up to him to accept or reject the recommendation. Andrea made a motion to recommend Stuart Goldsberry to fill the expired term of Greg Lavelle, and Annie Valeant to fill the term vacated by Rebecca Dillon. Ash Allanson Seconded the motion to recommend Annie, and Anne L’Heureux seconded the motion to recommend Stuart. Approved by vv

Councilman Swank interjected that there was a blip last month due to the minutes not being forwarded to the mayor in a timely manner and asked whose responsibility it was to get the

information to the mayor. Andrea stated she would forward the minutes. Alan stated that the next meeting that council could act on the recommendation would be Feb 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Joint Meeting with AMAC (February 16<sup>th</sup>) Discussion:** Daniel asked that the board discuss potential agenda items for the meeting. Director Jordan gave a brief background of the Athens Municipal Arts Commission (AMAC) for the benefit of the new members. Andrea suggested that the Arts, Parks, and Recreation Master plan be considered as an agenda item, and asked director Jordan about the summer music series. She stated that this year the department would be taking on the planning and programming. Andrea suggested keeping the discussion time open, so that each group can discuss their priorities for the year. Director Jordan mentioned that the AMAC is working on the percent for Art portion of the fire department project.

Councilman Swank asked a few logistical questions, and reminded the group to work with ryan on how to set up the room, and mentioned that the agenda had the incorrect date noted- so it should be corrected to reflect February 16<sup>th</sup>. Andrea asked how many members they should be planning for. Director Jordan stated, 5-7 members, plus Emily Beveridge, Andrew Chiki, and councilman Risner. Daniel will reach out to Kelee to have a discussion about the agenda.

**Old Business- Board Nominations:** Typically the board has a chair, vice-chair and secretary. Ash Allanson stated that it may make sense to move forward with the 3 members who are not new serve in the leadership positions through the end of this year for consistency, so that the new members can get acclimated. Ash recommended that Daniel serve as chair, himself as vice-chair, and Andrea as secretary. Anne seconded the motion. Approved by voice vote. Councilman Swank stated that the officers typically change over in January. Andrea noted that the discussion should occur in November.

#### **APR Staff Report:**

Director Jordan stated that she doesn't have any additional updates regarding the Master Plan and what it would look like. She has reached out to city planner, Paul Logue on what resources we have in terms of professional support to get through the process.

- Planning for summer pool staffing is underway. A pool manager has been hired and prior year staff has been contacted to see if they would like to return.
- WSIT (Water Safety/Learn to Swim accreditation) training has been scheduled for June
- New Splash Pad resurfacing has been scheduled, it will be a poured-in-place rubberized surface
- Promoting OU lifeguard certification but additionally secured their own instructor
- Childcare and programming is still on-going
- SpringBreak camp is being offered again this year due to demand
- Mileage challenge is underway they will hit their 2,000 mile goal
- Working with the Athens, Ohio Soccer organization ongoing discussions on the changes with the soccer facilities
- Sand Lot MOU will be picked up soon

- Registration for art classes has begun, as well as rehearsals for the spring production of “Once”
- Still waiting for the ground conditions to improve to install the new (to-us) playground at West State Street park
- Storm Drainage has been improved on the driving range area

*Introduced intern, Anna who started this week*

- Community events in the parks and programming planning is being planned
- Beatification Day (week) [April] and Kids to Parks Day [May]
  - Asked about logistics on getting a pollinator garden installed in the riparian area, Ann mentioned that Maryann Hopple just put one in at the middle school and would be a good resource to reach out to.
- Still waiting on the stall doors to be installed at west state street park (will be complete prior to opening)
- Invasive Control is still being done. Daniel asked what methods were being used. In the past it was a combination of processes but for the spring the plan is to mow.

**Upcoming projects:** The community center roof is in process, they are having the pre-construction meetings. Alan asked if it would impact the availability at the community center. Director Jordan did not think it would impact the availability, but it would be addressed in the preconstruction meeting.

The new restrooms at West state Street will go out for re-bid, because the last bid came in over the 10% allowable cost that can be accepted. Prior to being resent out BDT was asked to add adult changing tables to the spec.

Tennis and Pickleball bid documents are being finalized. BDT has revised the specs and estimated costs, and anticipated tht it would be out by next week. Ann asked if director Jordan could explain the location of the new courts, she described that the new tennis courts would be behind the bathroom facility on E Park Drive, with the solar panels in the old dog park area, and the pickle ball courts will be on the existing asphalt behind the skatepark adjacent to the basketball courts. Andrea asked if the option to put out two different bid options concurrently was off the table. Director Jordan explained that the cost of asphalt was removed from the bid documents to get a more competitive bid. Councilman Swank interjected that he may have a more recent update, stating that in a discussion with the Mayor and councilman McCarey that the bid may be sent out without a price in order to encourage more realistic competitive bids. He also stated that the demand for the courts is high and individuals in their 70s and 80s are playing a sport for the first-time, some exciting news.

The art gallery at the community center is being revisioned to showcase artwork from area schools. Alan asked for clarification on the Sandlot MOU and the “plastic free in ‘23” and will that be included in the MOU since they are operating a concession stand. Katherine Ann stated she is working on similar initiatives at the pool and is working with Andrew Chiki on it and the Pepsi representatives. She did state that there are challenges with plastic-free options but they are limited due to cost, chance of spill, or risk of insects. It’s not impossible but there are a lot of considerations that need to be worked through.

**Announcements & Other Business** – none at this time

**Next Meeting / Joint Meeting with AMAC – February 16th , 5:30pm**

Andrea Lewis mad a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:44pm, seconded by Daniel Brown, approved by voice vote.

Submitted by: Andrea Lewis, Secretary