

Joint meeting of the Recreation Advisory Board
and Municipal Arts Commission
February 16, 2023
5:30 pm
Athens Community Center, Conference Room B

Meeting was called to order at 5:34 pm by Kelee Reisbeck

In attendance: Director Jordan; (RAB) Daniel Brown, Ash Allanson, Andrea Lewis, Anne L'Heureux, Megan Russell, Annie Valeant, Stuart Goldsberry, Councilman Swank; (AMAC) Devon Sudman, Kelee Riesbeck, Dave Telega, Nancy Epling, Holly ittel, Councilman Risner, Andrew Chiki.

Quorum was established for both the Recreation Advisory Board (RAB) and the Athens Municipal Arts Commission (AMAC).

Approval of Agenda: Daniel asked to add formation of 2 ad hoc committees; Bylaws Committee and and Master Plan Committee to the agenda, and Director Jordan asked that the director update be moved to the end of the meeting in consideration of time.

Approval of Minutes: Andrew Chiki asked that his name spelling be corrected and consistently reflected in the AMAC Jan 11, 2023 meeting minutes. Motion was made by Devon Sudman to approve the minutes with corrections, seconded by Nancy Epling

Daniel Brown asked if there were any changes or corrections to the RAB. None Stated, He made a motion to approve the January 19, 2023 minutes as presented, seconded by Ash Allanson.

RAB updates and projects: Daniel asked to formalize a Bylaws committee. Alan interjected that any changes to the bylaws or charge as outlined is a matter of code, and any changes outside of the ordinance would need to go to council. Andrea clarified that having bylaws was requested by Law Director Eliason, a template was provided. Kelee asked that Dave telega tell the group about his experience formalizing the AMAC bylaws. He stated it was a fairly easy process to work with the template provided and their internal documents to complete it. Daniel Brown agreed to take the lead, and Ash Allanson will work with him to have a document ready for discussion at the March meeting.

Andrea Lewis volunteered to lead the Master Plan committee, Megan and Daniel agreed to serve. Andrea requested alternates so in the event one of the 3 members could not attend a committee or community meeting they would always have 3 members of the RAB present. Annie Valeant and Stuart Goldsberry volunteered to attend if needed.

Andrea asked for new RAB board members, Annie Valeant and Stuart Goldsberry to take a moment to introduce themselves.

Daniel proceeded to update the group on the two upcoming/current projects- “Kids in the Parks” day happening on May 20th, in the interest of time he stated that the rest of what RAB is working on is laid out in Director Jordans report, and turned the meeting over to Kelee Riesbeck..

AMAC updates- Kelee stated that there are some emerging projects and some that are midway in progress the bulleted list highlights what is going on:

- DORA Days interested in having an Art event to happen with it- will work on an ad hoc committee to help plan some of those. (Andrew Chiki gave an update about set DORA days and some partnerships with ACCVB/AACC to have some coordinating events. The calendar is published- and there are open opportunities to include an arts component
- Boogie on the Bricks is scheduled for June 24, looking to see what involvement from AMAC makes sense
- Emily Beveridge provided ArtsWest updates for Director Jordan to present at the meeting including:
 - Wrapping up first half of winter classes (no second session due to how the program is being reshaped for after school programming); *Once* production is coming up Mar 17-19 currently in production and the group is in full rehearsal mode
 - ArtsWest heard from the Dept of Commerce regarding the kiln installation to be installed and Director Jordan now has a path forward on how to get that installed to be able to service the ceramics classes that are ongoing at the facility
 - Tantrum/AMS drama club production will be at ArtsWest in April or May date and program TBD

Other Updates:

- Beacon School in partnership with Alex MS will have a gallery in March and available for public viewing through Spring until a summer installation is chosen.
- Summer themed art camp will take place at Athens Community Center with a complementary gallery show from the camp to showcase the campers work to their parents and community at the Athens Comm Center

% for Art – Andrew Chiki gave bacjground on the program for members in attendance not familiar with the City Program- any new construction project by the city sets aside 1% of total cost of the project to do public art projects, he noted several projects, including the roundabout, Richland Ave tunnel. One of the largest ones will be from funds allocated from the fire station construction and is anticipated to be installed at the site- the ad-hoc committee was established through AMAC and they are getting ready to release the RFP

Holly Ittel, the Adhoc committee chair, gave an update to outline some tdeas including an “art walk” that would allow for participation by a larger number of artists-The RFP will be released end of May- early with the installation of selected art anticipated to be in September 2024.

Andrew further explained that there are several moving parts to the process, Once the ad hoc committee decides on what direction they need to go- site planning needs to occur related to that decision. As an administration they would approve that an RFP can be released. Once the RFP is released the ad hoc committee will decide what is selected. Then once that is made it is reviewed and final approval would be by administration and then shared with council.

% for art Ad Hoc committee members- Beth Braun, Chelsa Morahan, Courtney Koestler.

Additional projects: Athens Poet laureate, Stephanie Kendrick was officially installed and her appointment is for the next 2 years.

The Athens Film and Video Festival (AFVF) is celebrating its 50th anniversary, and a community event including a street closing, and outdoor viewing is being planned.

Emerging project with the renovation of the city building

And the potential of a project with the garage phase 3 will incorporate some additional art. And will be requesting funds soon to work on the project.

Maybe a community arts thing of a NYE ball drop in conjunction with Passion works.

Open Discussion- between. AMAC/RAB

Nancy opened the discussion asking director Jordan for an update on the possibility of Passion works being included in the pool landscape, naming the pillars near the entrance.

Kelee asked the group about potential areas we can work together, and in what areas it makes sense, she mentioned that the group wanted to improve the information on the murals and public art to include artist bio information to be incorporated some way into the Map Athens project that the (Ohio University) museum complex is undertaking. Andrea noted that during the master plan discussion we should coordinate, and incorporate an inventory or art "assets" as well as land and property assets that are relevant to the department so it is included in some way.

Andrew Chiki agreed to get a list of assets together to help guide the discussion.

Director Jordan stated she would work to set some goals of where we need to be for the future and determine what local resources (facilitators/tools) might be available as we work to gather information.

The group took a moment to go around the room and introduce themselves and provide their affiliation.

Director's Report: Director Jordan provided a brief update on the core ongoing and upcoming projects.

- Currently interviewing for the pool/ summer employment
- The department purchased “Istrike” for lightning alerts so they know when to get in/out of the water due to weather
- Sandblasting of splash pad is complete
- Plastic free in 23 ordinance- uodate- after a discussion with Pepsi, it was determined that aluminum cans can be gotten for everything, and to mitigate issues with spills and bees the staff is looking into beverage buddies as an option for patrons to consider. Water is not available in our market in cans or cartons.
- GASA is putting money towards the purchase of soccer goals and it will be going through council for appropriation soon
- New concrete has been poured in the dog parks and water installation is on track to be installed so it is ready for the spring “turn on” date
- Kids to park day and beautification week events are in the planning stages- Splash pad will hopefully be open. There is a plan to have preseason sales and swim tests occurring on that day as well
- Seed broadcasting in the riparian area is being planned to get the pollinator area established
- Summer movie in the parks schedule is being finalized. Pepsi sponsors the licensing fees and drinks, the goal is to have 3 or 4 events, free of charge to the public with free food and snacks to make it accessible to everyone who may want to come Rockin Reggie and the Copperheads have committed to provide some supplemental programming.
- Roof preconstruction meeting occurred today-no closures anticipated with the construction of the roof. Facilities will remain open, and the company had a nice plan in place to limit impact on regular activities.
- No re-bids were received on the the new restroom facilities at West State Street Park, so the department is awaiting proposal on a potential kit, that can be a solution.
- Tennis Court project is moving forward, with surface prep being done by the city.
 - Total Tennis is working with the contracted asphalt company to make sure that the surface will adhere to the base surface, and will work.
 - The asphalt factory is not open yet , but will be open soon with the warmer weather approaching
 - Because of timing Total Tennis schedule is full, so the work is being done now to prep the surface so that it is accessible by patrons
 - Target is April/May asphalt work- and temporary lines will be added to make it usable for the summer, and then have the surface added by Total Tennis when their schedule permits.

Alan Swank- interjected-that we reexamine that we review that this is the best thing to do, and concerned that it will degrade, over time. And respectfully request that the project be rediscussed, now that a full new slate of Board members have been appointed to the RAB. Councilman Swank insinuated that the project illustrations were different than what council approved, Director Jordan stated that the funds, were allocated, for this location, the project is moving forward and the department is working on is working on demo, surface prep, and grading, so that the project can go out to bid.

Councilman Swank mentioned that he was inclined to suggest at committee meeting next week that the funding be rescinded for the project. At this time, Kelee noted that it was 7:00 pm, and suggested a motion to adjourn.

Devon thanked the Rec Advisory Board for the opportunity to open the door for collaboration and invited the RAB to let AMAC know where collaboration can happen as projects come to fruition.

Kelee mad a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:02, seconded by Daniel Brown.

**AMAC next meeting 3/8/23 (at ArtsWest if space is open due to performance rehearsals)
RAB 3/16/23 in City Council Chambers**

Submitted by: Andrea Lewis, Secretary, Recreation Advisory Board.