

Meeting Minutes
Recreation Advisory Board
SPECIAL SESSION
March 24, 2022, 4:30 pm

1. **Call to Order** – Chairman Thompson called the meeting to order at 4:42 PM. Members in attendance are Chairman Thompson, Travis Gatling, Daniel Brown, Councilmember Alan Swank, and Director Katherine Ann Jordan. A quorum is not present, and the meeting will be an informational session only.
2. **Approval of Agenda** – There are no items added and the agenda stands as approved.
3. **Old Business**
 - a. **Tennis & Pickle Ball Courts** – Director Jordan informed the board that the City is listening to community members about their concern that the city is losing green space. Director Jordan discussed the possibility that the pickle ball project could be affected by the City’s solar array project and could reduce the space for the new pickle ball courts. Director Jordan discussed the ODNR grant and the need for an ordinance if the Board were to apply for this grant. Applying for this grant could affect the timeline of the project. Director Jordan told the board that Mayor Patterson has expressed his support to put \$50,000 toward the project from ARPA funds which could bring the total for the project up to \$300,000. Chairman Thompson asked about other communities that have applied for the ODNR grant and expressed concerns that Athens will be competing with other communities for this grant. The board discussed the plans for the solar arrays and the partnerships with the city to make sure everyone meets their goals. Director Jordan shared a layout for the site and where the proposed solar array and tennis/pickle ball courts will be. Director Jordan discussed area improvements and infrastructure needs for the project site. The board reviewed the proposal packets provided by Director Jordan. Councilman Swank expressed concerns about the 4 Pickleball courts not being able to fit on that space because based on his measurements, the courts will not fit. Director Jordan disagrees and that the pickleball courts will fit. The board discussed options on how to move forward with the project. Member Gatling expresses his opinion that he doesn’t want Director Jordan to miss out on this grant opportunity. Councilman Swank informed the board that City Council could suspend the council rules and pass an ordinance to apply for a grant with an emergency due to the deadline issue.
4. **Adjournment** – Chairman Thompson asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was moved by Member Gatling and seconded by Member Brown. The meeting is adjourned at 5:42 PM.