Athens Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
December 15, 2022; 5:30 pm
City Council Chambers

Present Daniel Brown, Ash Allanson, Andrea Lewis, Rebecca Dillon, Director Katherine Ann Jordan, and Councilman Alan Swank

Quorum is established

Acting President Brown asked if there were any additions to the agenda.

Director Jordan asked that under old business joint meeting between AMAC and the RAB be added. No other additions to the agenda

Andrea Lewis made a motion to approve the agenda; seconded by Ash Allanson, approved by voice vote.

Daniel asked that the group to approve minutes from prior meetings. Andrea interjected that she would follow up with Law Director Eliason on prior months that did not have any current sitting members present for advice on approval of those.

Rebecca Dillon made a motion to approve the May minutes; seconded by Ash Allanson,

Andrea Lewis made a motion to approve June of 2022 minutes: seconded by Rebecca Dillon

Rebecca Dillion made a motion to approve the September minutes; seconded by Daniel Brown

Andrea Lewis made a motion to approve the October 2022 minutes; Rebecca Dillon seconded the motion

Ash Allanson made a motion to approve the November 2022 minutes; Rebecca Dillon seconded the motion

Prior month Minutes noted above approved by voice vote- Andrea will reach out to Lisa Elliason for advice on getting the minutes from Mar, April, August approved based on information provided by councilman Swank at a previous meeting indicated members must be present I order to put a motion or second to approve minutes

New Business – None to report

Old business:
New member discussion. Andrea updated the members on the interest of individuals who have submitted applications or expressed interest in being part of the Rec Advisory board. Members who expressed interested: Anne L'Heureux, Megan Russell, John Leite, Stuart Goldsberry, Annie

Valeant. She gave a snippet from their applications to refresh the Board of the background of the applicants that were sent to them via email the prior month.

Greg Lavelle's term expires in January 2023, and he made request that he would like to serve an additional term, his interest has been forwarded to the mayor.

The Board discussed the nominees. After the discussion

Ash would like to see Anne L'Heureux be considered for her connection to the ACSD and made a motion to recommend Anne for the board to be forwarded to the mayor; seconded by Daniel Brown.

Daniel made a motion to recommend Megan Russell be considered for the board and seconded by Ash Allanson.

The board will keep the other candidates on the list to recommend as positions open so that we can keep the positions full, and will continually build the pool of nominees

Recommendations approved by voice vote and will be forwarded to the mayor.

Councilman Swank reiterated the process that council would need time to approve the recommendations approved.

Nomination for perm chair- Greg forwarded an email to nominate Andrea to be the board chair. Andrea said that she would welcome the nomination but would not be offended if other members would also be interested. Rebecca asked if Daniel would be interested in being the chair of the committee. He stated that he would be interested and would have the grasp of what we "can do" and is interested and would be willing in that capacity. Based on his seniority does not make him feel like he is entitled to the position. 3 roles need to be filled. The current members agreed to table the decision until we have the full slate of board with a goal of electing permanent officers when all the board vacancies are filled. Alan noted for the record that the next term will expire in 2024 so the board will have a year to work on filling that position.

APR staff report:
Director Jordan wants to prioritize a master plan and how that aligns with how the community has changed. Currently operating on an expired master plan. She has a vision that the Board would establish adhoc committee by February meeting with a goal to have members working in March. The current master plan is close to a decade old, some items are still working priorities, but it would be nice to work towards reprioritization of goals. Director Jordan stated she would investigate how many members can serve on the ad-hoc committee. Alan interjected that with a full-slate of board members 3 members (plus a number of community members) can be on the ad-hoc committee without breaking any open meeting rules.

What's going on

- Pool opening hiring in January
- Updating the splash pad with a poured in place splash pad there is an issue the surface, so it is being prepped. Needs to be poured well before the pools are ready to be with water in April.
- New community room at ACC- the former arts and craft room has been converted to a community room with a foosball table chairs etc. for a place to hang out. Which has resulted in use of a previously underused space and is available at no charge
- Planning for spring break camp
- 1/3 of way through the winter challenge – 2023 miles by end of January. Director Jordan reminded folks that is free to participate, and individuals can get free stuff just for joining
- Weather is impacting the install of the "new to us" park at West state street park, so it is slightly delayed

Community events

- Krampus parade
- Music and movies in the parks series planning is starting and
- Arts Parks and Rec did participate in the AUBA and Athens Chamber uptown tree lighting, and Uptown for the Holidays activities.

Bids

- Community center bid was awarded- new roof is scheduled for replacement
- West state street restroom facilities bids were above 10% allowable for acceptance so both were rejected BDT is revising the specs to include changing table for adults and the project will go out to bid again.

Director Jordan went over the bid process for the benefit of the members of the board and added some conversations she had with other rec departments and how much of the excessive or inflated bids were in relation to the volatile fluctuation in material costs which impacting the bidding environments and the receipt of competitive bids.

- Tennis and pickle ball court specs are being revised so that it can be sent out. Revising the specs and estimates of costs to send it out to bid again. The city is adding the caveat that they will buy the asphalt so that there is not unnecessary inflation included in the estimate of costs. The mayor is supportive of finding additional funds and appropriations to work towards completion of the project. Director Jordan asked for feedback from the board on a strategy to submit two different bid options concurrently.
    - Alternate option using the current tennis courts for new pickle ball courts and resurface and repair them. Both locations would need to be upgraded as it pertains to drainage and other items, but this alternat option would utilize an existing space. Asphalt would be added to extend the surface and be used. The board asked if this would be prohibitive. Director Jordan

responded that there would be nothing prohibitive, the advantage would the benefit of making use of an existing space to have a space that is already lit and has basic surface prep. Water issues were the largest problem with the tennis court being in this location. Maintenance in terms of removing water off the surface is a concern. Maintenance is less of an issue on the other proposed site; however, the current asphalt would need to be leveled and resurfaced, and there would still be plenty of room for the basketball and free skate.

- Camping at camp rotan, planning is moving forward, a graduate student is working on project to establish use of that space in a sustainable way and how we would do the at the site. Signage and interpretation of the space, to improve it and bring it back to a place of education and the camping policies are being planned as well as what it would look like. Daniel interjected that the platform has a lose board and there may be boards on the porch of the lodge that would be a good fit for the platform as a small repair. Director Jordan acknowledged this but did mention it has not been decided if the platforms would remail.

- Custodial interviews occurred and they are ready to move forward with a job offer.

Daniel Brown announced that the next meeting will be January 19th 5:30pm

No additional announcements

Rebecca Dillon made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Daniel Brown.
Meeting adjourned at 6:52

Submitted by Andrea Lewis, Acting Secretary