



AGENDA
ATHENS RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2024 AT 5:30 PM

Streaming is available at www.ci.athens.oh.us/video

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Establish Quorum**
- 3. Approval of Agenda**
- 4. Disposition of Minutes**
 - November, 2023
- 5. New Business**
 - Vote to fill officer positions for 2024: Chair / Vice-Chair / Secretary
 - Community member insights
 - Actions for board member recruitment to fill vacancies
 - Adaptive recreational opportunities - collaboration with OU PT
 - Letter from Jenna Keiffer - opportunity to voice our goals and actions for 2024
- 6. Continuing Business**
- 7. APR Staff Report**
- 8. Announcements & Other Business**
 - Next Meeting: February 15, 2024
- 9. Adjournment**

The City of Athens supports the Americans with Disabilities Act. Requests for reasonable accommodation may be made with the ADA Coordinator in the City Building or by calling 592-3367.

Athens Recreation Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
June 15, 2023, 5:30 pm
Athens City Council Chambers

- I. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 5:33pm by Daniel Brown, Chair.
 - **In attendance:** Daniel Brown, Ash Allynson, Anne L'Heurux, Annie Valeant, Alan Swank, Katherine Ann Jordan.
 - A **Quorum** was **established**
- II. **Additions to the Agenda:** Due to the unavailability of timely access to the minutes from April and June, their approval will wait until the next meeting on July 20, 2023. Secondly, under old business and the by-laws ad-hoc committee there will be a discussion regarding the by-laws draft.
- III. **Approval of Minutes:** Will be pushed until the next meeting, in July.
- IV. **New Business:**
 - a. Community member insights: Daniel decided to install this into the new business. Daniel thinks that this has the potential to really add something to our meetings as well as creating more interactions with the community. Daniel has two insights:
 - i. A Community member on the far east side liked the bluebird houses that used to be at the old dog park and were disappointed to see them taken down. They hope that replacements will be erected when the solar array and surrounding pollinator area are completed. Daniel mentioned that along the bikeway on the OU Golf Course there are birdhouses paired together which often house Eastern Bluebirds in one and Tree Swallows in the other, simultaneously.
 - ii. Also Elderberry that used to be in the grubbed area (between Hocking River and Community Center/Kroger was grubbed and they hope it comes back.
 - Anne has insights about the skate park:
 - iii. Community members have asked for more seating options. Often adults come with children and would like to watch and have a place to sit while doing so. There are also requests for more practice pipes. They are called grind pipes and they are used for practice.
 - Katherine Anne suggested this could be a good time for praises.
 - iv. Annie has praise for the movie night
 - v. Daniel has heard praise for the pool membership portal process.

- vi. Daniel also took this time to explain how garlic mustard are ready to release their mass amount of seeds.

V. Continuing Business

- a. By-Laws Draft update:
 - i. Daniel states that we will continue to work on the draft and be further along in the process for the July meeting.
 - ii. Alan suggested that when ready, both copies should be given to the Law Director.
 - iii. Ash brought up the terms of office section language as we have had considerable turnover recently. Alan explained how members filling a vacancy of an unexpired term will finish that three year term before beginning the next.
 - iv. Alan: we should ask Debbie Walker for the term dates for board members.
- b. Master Plan ad Hoc committee:
 - i. This discussion will continue with more to come next month.
- c. Adaptive sports and recreation catalog.
 - i. Ash indicates that Joe Crowley (OU) could be a resource
 - ii. Anne: volleyball is a good option that can easily have changes in order to be an adaptive recreation opportunity.
 - iii. Alan: most people are very happy with what we offer, but there is still a considerable gap.
- d. APR Updates: Efforts underway to help preserve and bring back Sells Park - KAJ
 - i. Jones Fish treating algae and duck weed
 - ii. Cover up excess trails with debris to help with erosion and allow the return to normal and
 - iii. Eventually the organic material from the pond will be available for the community to use
 - iv. Would like to extend the parking area eventually.
- e. The new tennis courts were paved
 - i. An additional inch and a quarter of asphalt are needed
 - ii. Total Tennis will then put the paint on once ready
 - iii. Cannot put fencing up until surface painting happens
- f. Temporary lines on the new pickleball courts.
 - i. Nets are heavy weighted, so holes are not needed in the courts
- g. Concert in the Parks
 - i. One is going on tonight, again on July 20, and the third on August 17th.
- h. Movies in the Park sponsored by the Copperheads is great! Next showings are July 28th, August 18th.
- i. The Girls Scout group worked to restore the rain garden behind the community center.
- j. KAJ Finished up the APR Staff updates

- k. Daniel asked if anyone had anything they would like to add..
- l. The next meeting is scheduled for July 20, 2023 at 5:30pm in the City Council Chambers

Motion to adjourn Anne; seconded by Annie

- Meeting adjourned at 6:40pm

Recreation Advisory Board
July 20, 2023
5:30pm
City Council Chambers

- I. **Call to Order/Establish Quorum-** Meeting was called to order at 5:32 pm by Daniel Brown In attendance Ash Allynson, Daniel Brown, Megan Russell, Andrea Lewis, and Director Jordan, quorum is established.
- II. **Approval of Agenda** - Daniel asked for any additions to the agenda Ash Allynson made a motion to approve the agenda; motion seconded by Megan Russell.
- III. **Approval of Minutes-** Since there was not a quorum at the June Meeting, Daniel asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the April, 20, 2023 meeting. Motion to approve was made by Ash Allynson; seconded by Daniel Brown. Daniel stated he would complete the minutes from the June 15, 2023 meeting prior to the August 17th meeting for a vote.
- IV. **New Business**
 1. Community member Insights- this is a new section added into the agenda so that community feedback can be shared.
 - Summertime feedback, kudos, and suggestions
 - Megan shared that she has been getting so much positive feedback –people love the new surface of the splashpad and the FREE hours, and really positive feedback on the new concessions- both on the menu and the plastic free. (Kinder more understanding staff than in the past)
 - Is it possible to get clocks visible from the top pool and the splash pad
 - Is there a better way to coordinate between the cashier and the guards for families that were there for lap/swim or to watch lessons so they
 - Is there a solution to notify folks of last-minute closures of the pool outside of social media? It is a bit challenging for folks who do not use social media, Is there a way we can coordinate this through the radio station or Nixle?
 - Why is the leisure pool so cold? This is a question that comes up often- can we do a video or PSA campaign about “how the pool works” to educate people so they understand the “why” behind it to minimize complaints.
 - Columbus Road Bicycle Lane conditions- DB mentioned that the bike lane has a lot of debris in it, so there is some frustration there specifically in front of the fire station, can it be swept? Director Jordan will mention it to the street department
 - (add see click fix and nixle and city app info into the minutes)
 - Sells Park pond – questions & comments- Daniel received an email about Sells Park Pond and some posts they saw on FB and reached out and has not heard back. This was a very environmentally friendly way to do it

2. Putt People First - Relocation Discussion-the purchase agreement has gone through council to agree that whenever the “community authority” is ready that it will be given to the ridges for development- either a=in cash or trade for land. Terms are agreed and is under review at the state- so food for thought what makes the most sense cash or land? Daniel asked what the potential acreage is? Or where the trade land would come from. DJ mentioned that having it near the community center makes sense in terms of managing it, and proximity to the community center. Unsure if there is a continual use of funds for HAVAR. Can we get feedback to see if there is a want/need to continue to have a putt out facility available to use. MVR Is there an opportunity to think beyond that in that it becomes a job creation opportunity for a potential student in recreation to manage it.
3. Richland Avenue Park – New Inclusive Playground- (See attachment) the surface is not included in the diagram pricing- all designs are around \$200K these all exist on turf, which helps reduce static for individuals with cochlear implants and interference. And this is a way that inclusive playgrounds are moving. DJ highlighted some of the special features of each of the designs that Is there a way to consider fencing- none of the current parks are fully fenced in – think.

V. Continuing Business

- By-laws Ad Hoc Committee –
 - Draft Review & Update- Daniel is going to work to clean up the language of the bylaws and work with patty to update the website who is fulfilling a partial terms- suggest that the bylaws reflect terms begin and end “on the date of the January meeting”. To avoid putting in a date that may not line up with the scheduled meeting date.
Andrea agreed to look through the minutes to determine who is fulfilling a partial term to make sure the term expiration dates are staggered correctly.
- Master Plan Ad Hoc Committee –
 - Master Plan Questionnaire- Megan mentioned that after attending the west side association meeting, the group is looking forward to participate on want west side related content
- Adaptive Sports & Recreation catalog –
- Augmentative or Alternative Communication (AAC) –
 - Core communication boards - Megan has been working with the Athens Public Library to work on putting them inside/outside of their facilities. And She will meet with Director Jordan separately to discuss some design possibilities and to serve as a resource to connect the department to the AAC company to help get this implemented

VI. APR Staff Report –Director Jordan provided departmental updates (list below)

Projects updates

New Tennis courts: paved and waiting on Total Tennis to apply painted surface late summer/fall

- After surface paint is complete, fencing will be installed, then benches.
- Will work on sidewalk to tennis courts as well.

New Pickleball courts: they are in play!

- Total tennis will apply painted surface late summer/fall
- After surface paint is complete, fencing will be installed, then benches.

Richland Ave Playground: waiting on 3 designs for an inclusive 2-5yr old playground that will replace the existing one (around \$200k). Once we get the 3 designs we will put it out to community to vote!

National Fitness Campaign: have met with organization and they are trying to get outdoor fitness spaces into communities. They reached out to us and can provide up to \$30,000 in grant funding to support the initiative.

- Input from RAB? Location? Total project cost around \$175k and it can include public art on the wall! Could have AMAC help put the call out for proposals and jury the selection

Skate Park Repairs: tentative to begin late August

Sells Park Muck removal: working on plan to coordinate community removal of muck at Sells Park

Department Happenings

Community Events/Engagement:

- Concert in the parks series – third Thursdays (July 20th and August 17th)
- Movies in the park –July 28th & August 18th
- National Night Out @ pool August 1st
 - Opportunity to build positive relationships between the community and local law enforcement

Pool:

- Swim lesson session 3 happening
- Special programming for Silver Sneakers happening
- Mechanical issues – pool is in it's 6th season and things are wearing out

Programming:

Youth - T-ball ; soccer registration open

Childcare - Summer camp underway; pre-k registration open

Fitness - Summer Fitness classes

Recreation Collaborations - Adult soccer

Arts – Rentals, Musical Lending Library, Planning for fall programming, search for program specialist

Parks:

- New to us playground hopefully for WSSP coming TBD
- Playground parts ordered for Community Center playgrounds and Richland Ave
- Working on extending parking around the Westside community gardens and Crosley field area
- Sells Park Pond - Annual pond management/maintenance plan

Projects:

On-going, scheduled, and completed project updates:

- **West State Street Park** - Soccer fields – some more dirt work, drainage work, and seeding is occurring
- **Riparian project**- Invasive control ongoing

Upcoming Projects:

- **New West State Street restroom facilities**- Working on a solution
- **ALCO canoe put in** Awaiting update
- **Camp Rotan** Need to Rebuild stairs at camp rotan
- **Sells Park** Need to work on plan for extending ADA concrete path and adding a dock/observation deck in pond

VII. Announcements & Other Business - Director Jordan will not be at the next meeting, She will be attending “Directors School” in Chicago. This is a 2 year program that meets 1 week each year.

- Next Meeting August 17, 2023

VIII. Adjournment – Andrea Lewis made a motion to adjourn 6:58; Daniel Brown seconded motion; meeting adjourned.

Minutes Submitted by: Andrea Lewis, Secretary
Aug, 15, 2023