

Athens Recreation Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
April 18, 2024

- I. **Call to Order:** Megan Russell, Establish Quorum
 - a. In attendance: Megan Russell (Chair), Annie Valeant (Co-Chair), Anne L’Heureux, Stuart Goldsberry (Secretary), Katherine Anne Jordan (Rec. Director).
- II. **Additions to Agenda:**
 - a. Annie Valeant – Approve
 - b. Stuart Goldsberry– Second
- III. **Approval of Minutes:**
 - a. Anne L’Heureux – Motion
 - b. Annie Valeant – Second
- IV. **New Business:**
 - a. New dog park on west side.
 - i. Issue 1: Bat boxes to help with mosquitoes.
 - ii. Issue 2: Muddy Park – ways to help?
 - iii. Issue 3: Benches have been moved from dog park West State ballfield accessibility.
 - b. People parking in handicapped spaces.
 - c. Facebook post comments about west end fields.
- V. **Continuing Business:**
 - a. Collaborative meeting on May 8th at Community Center Room B.
 - b. Kelly from AMAC will help with agenda.
 - c. May have new board members to add and attend next meeting.
 - i. 2-3 will possibly be added next month.
- VI. **APR Staff Report Updates:**
 - a. Announcements:
 - i. Katherine Anne – reviewing offerings here and surrounding areas to see if there is overlap and should we be making any changes to offerings to be more viable going forward.
 - ii. Are the needs being met for our community?
 - iii. Annie: this would be a great project for a rec student at OU.
- VII. **Next Meeting:**
 - a. Wednesday, May 8th
 - b. Stuart - moved to adjourn.
 - c. Megan – second.

APR Updates for Rec Advisory Board Meeting 4/18/24

APR UPDATES

Things to be thinking about:

- 25-year anniversary of Community Center in 2025
- 20-year anniversary of Arts West in 2026

Project Updates:

Tennis courts: waiting on weather to improve for concrete.

Pickleball courts: waiting to schedule fence.

West State Street Park:

- Working through protective net plan – 80' poles, 70' netting, still waiting to see how things will work.

Riparian project:

- Invasive control ongoing
- Pollinator planting – supposed to last a month but did not have equipment to complete.

Richland Ave Playground:

- Received \$20,000 OPRA Foundation grant to support playground build
- Playground delivery tentative 8/12/24
 - Ordered

National Fitness Campaign:

- Looking at an early June install date
- Located by new fire station

Community Center:

- Face Lift
- Working on replacing lockers in the main fitness area
- Working on our annual fitness replacement – pausing on weight room floor and getting new AV equipment for multipurpose – Annie asked to look at OU for used equipment at discounted price
- Working on replacing multipurpose room AV equipment
- Upstairs offices in community center received new carpet and working on a design to improve office and storage space
 - Project for next year

APR Updates for Rec Advisory Board Meeting 4/18/24

Department Happenings:

Pool:

- FULLY STAFFED – YEAH!
 - Do hire extra in case of fall off and build in buffer
- New idea – toddler friendly time 10a-12p in leisure pool when no lessons or aqua classes? Any thoughts on this? New cost?
- Working through preseason hiccups and unplanned repairs
 - Protect and seal and address paint and concrete in the fall
 - Dealing with a number of integrity issues with the pool and some pump corrosion (water treatment plant was able to repair rather than replace pumps)
 - Working through schedules, trainings, etc.
 - Had volunteers from AHS, led by OU students, assist in pool prep today – very helpful!
- Easter Egg Hunt was well attended and improved from last year; will continue to improve for next year
- Collaboration with National Guard for a community event on April 6th – awesome set up; will work to improve attendance
 - Will be working with them to invite them to community events in the future
 - Black Sheep Boot Camp

Program Specialist for Child Programming and Education:

- New employee start date May 28th
 - Megan suggested to invite the new employee to meet everyone and introduce
 - Nicole has made a switch to pool management
 - Erin is handling childcare and camp related planning until our new, full time staff arrives

Programming:

- Adult fitness programs and volleyball
- Dance and music programs (Community Center and Arts West)
- Youth and adult soccer
- Concerts in the park planning – Adam working on this from June-Sept
- Movies in the park planning – Erin pushed out to vote on movies
- Copperheads collaboration – Nicole is working through more community involvement opportunities with the Copperheads
 - Annie natural playground
- Arts West – wrapping up several weeks of back-to-back performances

Parks:

- *Camp Rotan* – waiting for final installation of kiosk materials, developed by graduate student. She also removed/improved the nature trail and provided evidence-based recommendations for camping there; have secured work agreement with a company to repair storm damage; repairs likely to begin in May; maps...
- *WSSP* – lots of ball field use; Sandlot and OU rentals
 - Stuart question: Sandlot meeting about new building and how to make it work with city money?
 - Park seasonal staff
- Seasonal Hiring:
 - Currently in recruiting and hiring mode for seasonal positions – parks and camps

Ongoing, scheduled, and completed project updates: n/a

Upcoming Projects:

- **New West State Street restroom facilities**
 - Working on a solution
- **ALCO canoe put in**
 - Seeking funding opportunities to support this project
- **Sells Park**
 - Need to work on plan for extending ADA concrete path
 - Add a dock observation deck in pond
 - Continue working on closing social trails