

Athens Recreation Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2023, 5:30 pm
Athens City Council Chambers

- I. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 5:33 by Daniel Brown, Chair.
 - **In attendance:** Daniel Brown, Ash Allynson, Anne L’Heurux, Stuart Goldsberry, Andrea Lewis, Megan Russell.
 - **Quorum established**
- II. **Additions to the Agenda:** None motion to approve agenda made by Andrea Lewis; seconded by Stuart Goldsberry.
- III. **Approval of Minutes:** Motion to approve as submitted made by Ash Allynson; Seconded by Megan Russell; approved by voice vote.
- IV. **New Business:** Adaptive sports and recreation catalog. Daniel spoke about how this came to his attention with the removal of the bowling program due to the closure of RollerBowl. He is asking for input from the board to come up with a list of existing and potential adaptive sports opportunities in the city of Athens.
 - Megan Russell asked the group if we (the city of Athens) is offering accessibility options for performances or movies, are there available resources for differing needs including closed captioning, ASL, and quiet spaces? (with Director Jordan not in attendance the group did not have more information on this topic to the breadth and availability of accommodations)
 - Ash mentioned to the group that there is a class at Ohio University, Rec 2750 Inclusive Recreation. And wondered if there is an opportunity to work with the class to create a catalog that could be of use to the city? Can we reach out to the faculty to see if it can be worked into the curriculum or class?
 - Members were asked by Daniel to have some ideas and input for the next meeting

AAC communication boards-Megan-presented some examples of Augmented and Alternative Communication (AAC) boards to the group. This is a passive program that is a way to make playgrounds more accessible to those who may have an “invisible” disability. She showed printed posters, as well as her child’s LAMP device; and electronic tablet that helps with communication LAMP= Language Application through Motor Planning, it’s a screen that is used to help individuals who may have speech issues or who may be non-verbal to communicate.

An alternative to the LAMP device for playgrounds could be printed poster or board intended for public spaces – this could be a great way to gesture towards individuals using recreational spaces to be more inclusive. And is relatively affordable option the company provides them under a free license for printing. Megan will send out contact information to talk to folks at the community center and staff for “best practices”

These online references were provided by Megan to be amended in the minutes for individuals interested in learning more:

<https://www.pivotpointspeech.com/>

<https://saltillo.com/blog/post/playground-core-communication-boards-from-prc-saltillo/print>

Megan Russell made a motion to recommend this to the mayor for funding consideration and a priority project; motion seconded by Anne L'Heurux.

Bylaws: Daniel asked if everyone had a chance to review the Bylaws that were sent via email and asked that the members take time to review the bylaws a final time and be prepared to vote on it at the next meeting.

Master Plan Ad Hoc Committee: Initial meeting was held a few weeks ago with Director Jorda, to discuss the role of the ad-hoc committee, and how the group could work to inform the community at-large to publicly make the community aware of what will be going on. Including utilizing public events this summer may be a way to work with city administration and have some Rec advisory board involvement. Director Jordan wanted to make sure that we are including information about the Levy and funds that are being spent right now and a Master Plan, is important to help direct how funds that have already been voted on are being spent. The initial toolkit was sent to the committee to look at so we can review and get good information back from the community at large. With what is possible. Andrea will email the Master plan to the board. Megan added that the biggest priority is letting people know that this IS happening, and not have people find out after the fact.

** Andrea will send the 2014 Master plan to the entire group for review.*

Daniel mentioned the potential conflict for the summer months meetings due to Music in the parks programming and will touch base with Director Jordan to determine if timing needs to be adjusted to accommodate her schedule. **For the May 18th meeting, the Recreation Advisory Board will meet at 5:00 PM at the Athens Community Center** to accommodate members and Director Jordan being able to attend the event

V. **Staff Report:** Daniel went over the items submitted by Director Jordan in her absence. *Director Jordan's report is attached. Items discussed in depth below:*

Additional shade structures have been installed on W State Street Ball Park.

Daniel an individual from the far east side noted in the Riparian area there used to be elderberry and black raspberry, and when it got grubbed all of that was removed. And asked what could possibly regenerate-

Also in the solar array area, in the old dog park area- concerned about the bluebird houses. And individuals were questioning where they went. DB did bring it up to Director Jordan, and this is an opportunity to provide habitat for these species to nest. Could we make a bluebird path (like on the OU golf course) Could this end up being a program? Or service project? (can we encourage that) If the community is interested in increasing songbird participation- How can the community be involved (MR) Can it extend to other Park areas (wood duck or barred owl) what else will it inspire?

Chess Park? Can it be used to make the farmers market more of a destination. Is there the possibility to have bike parking near where the farmers Market is?

Additional updates:

Ash and Director Jordan met with the department to create a program to utilize recreation majors and link them with the rec center to facilitate and participate in youth sport and youth programming, anticipated integration for next academic year (Fall 2023)- to increase involvement depending on the number of students and working with other faculty to get a grant for 2.5K to help attract volunteers in order to create a better experience to create some parent videos on the basic Do's and Don'ts on what to do if you are signing up as a parent volunteer to create a better youth programming environment for the kids and for the volunteers. Talked about it from a tiered structure to give them an introductory experience to move into future programs run around the city

Megan Russell stated she would love to see week-long (micro) clinics to see if a child is interested to avoid the drain of time and input to sign up for a whole season.

And this could be a really good introductory program to get kids interested, and have a stepping stone like program to keep kids involved

This is a good way to give back to the community and a great way to get our campus students involved- to get high motivation and high enjoyment.

Andrea corrected herself that the issue 8 levy documentation in the board email was actually from 2016, and please disregard her comments about voting.

Motion to adjourn Stuart Goldsberry; seconded by Megan Russell
Meeting adjourned at 6:41

