

Athens Arts Parks and Recreation
Recreation Advisory Board
October 19, 2023
5:30 pm
City Council Chambers

Meeting was called to order at 5:34 pm

In Attendance: Daniel Brown, Stuart Goldsberry, Annie Valeant, Megan Russell, and Katherine Ann Jordan

Daniel stated minutes from June will be in November.

Approval of Agenda: Motion - Annie Valeant, Second – Stuart Goldsberry

Approval of July Minutes: Motion - Megan Russell, Second – Stuart Goldsberry

New Business:

- Community Member Insights
 - Playground related information (Megan)
 - Receiving a lot of feedback, especially about wanting benches with backs on them at the Richland Ave playground.
 - There have also been discussions about possible gated areas and designated shaded areas.

Continuing Business:

- Putt People First – Relocation Discussion
 - No updates
 - Question was asked if a cash gift were to be given for this land, does it have to be used for putt-putt; Katherine Ann clarified that she sent the language to the group prior to the meeting about this topic.
 - Megan mentioned that including something about putt-putt might be good to include in survey (specifically like would you prefer the city receive a cash or land payment from the university for this land)
- Richland Ave Park – New Inclusive Playground
 - Katherine Ann met with the landscape vendor to discuss feedback from survey.
 - She took the vendor to the Richland Ave playground to look at site.
 - Looking at getting a bucket seat that would be inclusive but hasn't signed anything with the vendor.
 - Looking at putting turf over existing surface at Richland Ave playground in 2025. This has become a common practice when needing to improve current playground surfaces.

- Katherine Ann indicated that her goal is to submit T Mobile grant application soon and would know by mid-June if they received the grant. If yes, they would move forward with Penchura with an install date tentatively for next Fall (2024).
- Megan asked if people could sponsor the benches in the park.
- Discussion was made about people reserving (or in some cases not reserving) park spaces for birthday parties, family gatherings or even races, and the toll that takes on parks personnel. Sometimes parks and recreation are made aware and sometimes they are not and have to troubleshoot. Katherine Ann confirmed her team is working to ensure people are educated about the proper sign-up policies.
- Augmentative or Alternative Communication (AAC)
 - No updates
 - Megan brought up the idea that Columbus Zoo allows you to download augmented reality on your phone by scanning a QR code; the zoo also offers a button on its website where you can download the augmented reality before you go to the zoo.
- Master Plan Ad-Hoc Committee Update
 - Need to schedule a meeting.
 - Katherine Ann has started to work with the university on forming a committee to help with the research.
- By-Laws Draft update
 - Discussion was had; changes were made to Article V; suggestion to add 5.3 quorum to “if no quorum, the meeting will take place with or without a quorum.”
 - Megan moved to approve the By-laws under the condition 5.3 language would change. Approved.

APR Staff Report:

- Katherine Ann provided a thorough update for the board.
- October 15, 2025, marks 25-year anniversary of Athens Community Center. Katherine Ann and her team would like to develop a list of events/ideas to celebrate the 25 years.
- Received a \$30K grant from National Fitness Campaign; equipment will be installed near Fire Department on Stimson Ave.
- Raised over \$4K through Skate Jam.
- Community Center playground repairs continue to happen.
- Halloween Block Party scheduled to happen Saturday, October 28th from 1-4pm on Court St.
- Inside programming at Community Center picking up. Tennis courts and pickleball courts look good. Waiting on fencing estimates for pickle ball courts.
- Parks and Recreation may end up doing work to renovate restrooms at West State St ballfields. It's been difficult to find bidders who are within budget.

Announcements and Other New Business: N/A

Motion to Adjourn: Motion – Annie Valeant, Second – Daniel Brown