

Athens Recreation Advisory Board
August 15, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Athens City Council Chambers

- I. **Call to Order:** Established Quorum, Megan Russell
 - In attendance: Megan Russell (Chair), Annie Valeant (Co-Chair), Anne L'Heureux, Stuart Goldsberry (Secretary), Katherine Anne Jordan (Rec. Director), John Leite, Emily Guzman, Heather
 - Not Present - Alan Swank (Council Rep.)
- II. **Additions to the Agenda:** All Good/Approved
- III. **Approval of Minutes:** Anne – Motion, Annie – Second
- IV. **New Business:** 2 of 3 new members
 - **Emily Guzman** – Dept. of Exercise Physiologist
 - Inclusion, action, safety
 - 11 year old, dog, cat, married
 - John Leite
 - Comm. to asst. of health UV
 - Moved back to Athens in 2020
 - Interned her in 2010.
 - Rec. management in college
 - **Annie Valeant** – Scripts College
 - **Anne L-Heureux**
 - Around here forever
 - Rec/Phys Ed Degree
 - Whooped by Katie Smith – HS Basketball
 - **Katherine Ann** – Director of Parks/Rec.
 - **25-year Anniversary Brainstorm**
 - Megan – want/need to celebrate community center.
 - KA – fundraising/planning
 - Naming rites
 - Buildings
 - Rooms
 - Community Center and Grounds (push for 2025)
 - Bricks in a path - \$100 with your name
 - Fundraiser over 2 yrs. – for Community Center (25 years in 2026) and Arts West (20 years in 2026)
 - Budget needs a lot of revenue to be able to do this and community center fund (271), permanent levy fund (community center operation), rec fund (270) – everything outside, community center – very expensive – does not have permanent set amount from income tax – 2% more over past 2 years.

- **Major budget crises for rec in fall of 2023**
 - Asked to cut a person and did not but did cut operations budget.
 - Had a good year.
 - \$250-500K in fundraising would be the dream for fundraising
 - Friends of Arts Park & Rec. to raise funds and have a way to make/raise tax deductible.
 - Have it created but it is not active as they have not created a board and treasurer.
 - John – questions about naming rites for the whole building.
 - Annie – endowment for future fundraising efforts.
 - 5k/running race.
 - Celebrate history – logo - branding.
 - Parklet as the big fund raiser.
 - Work to developing an endowment that can help sustain going forward.
 - Shawna Sweitzer – Started Friends of _____
 - Annie asked Katherine Ann to take to team to see where may wish to focus.
 - AMAC – Athens Municipal Arts Commission – Separate from Arts West and Arts Programs

V. Continuing Business: nothing at this time.

VI. APR Staff Report Updates:

- Outdoor fitness court open
- 38x38 concrete pad
- New addition to Richland Ave. playground
 - Concrete path in future.
 - Movie night.
 - Concert in the park.
 - Protective netting at driving range.
- Skate Park repairs in September
- Hunting in the city

VII. Adjournment:

- Motion to Adjourn: Stuart Goldsberry
- Second: Annie Valeant

VIII. Next Meeting: September 26, 2024 5:30 PM at City Building