

Athens Recreation Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
1/16/25

Athens City Council Chambers

- I. **Call to Order:** Established Quorum, Megan Russell
 - In attendance: Megan Russell (Chair), Annie Valeant (Co-Chair), Anne L’Heureux, Emily Guseman, John Leite, Katherine Anne Jordan (Rec. Director)
 - Not Present: Stuart Goldsberry (Secretary), Alan Swank (Council Rep.)
- II. **Establish Quorum:** Quorum Established
- III. **Additions to the Agenda:** Emily – Motion, John - Approved
- IV. **Approval of Minutes:** Emily – Motion, Ann L - Approved
- V. **New business:**
 - Nothing to address
- VI. **Continuing business:**
 - New member recruitment
 1. Flyer went live after the start of the new year; to date we have received four (4) responses.
 2. Emily asked about eligibility and whether we could have a high school age person on the board; Katherine Ann recommended we run it by City of Athens Deputy Clerk to see if any state law prohibits this; if someone under the age of 18 is unable to serve on the board, we may want to consider starting a youth advisory board. Megan will follow up with Monica (Deputy Clerk). In the meantime, this high school age individual is encouraged to apply to be on the board. Another option is to have youth age meeting our meetings and serve as a non-voting member(s).
 3. The form will close on February 1, 2025. We will discuss applicants at the next meeting on 2/20/24.
 - Ad-Hoc Committee Check-In
 1. Committees haven’t met yet. Katherine Ann will be reaching out to fundraising ad hoc committee to schedule a meeting.
 2. Katherine Ann did receive a proposal from Joshua Tree and she will send it to the group via email so we can get an idea of what it will look like and where bricks will go. Erin from Rec team will serve as the point person on this project.
- VII. **APR Staff Report Updates:** (Report from Katherine Ann)
 - Project Updates

1. Sculpture – they did receive a proposal
 2. Shrubs have been removed from Community Center
 3. Estimated 324 bricks will need to be sold – goal to raise \$20-30K
 4. Look on website for Community Center for proposal information
- West State St Park - Waiting on engineering stamps on restrooms
 - Community Center
 1. Waiting on new lockers
 2. Now that the budget has been released, new basketball hoops, motors, winches and cables in front half of gym will get replaced
 - Arts West - Performance space has new oak floor
 - Skatepark Renovations - moved to 2025 – need to follow up with construction company
 - Sells Park - Working through sculpture installation in pond
 - Community Center Office Renovation – Planning to add closed-in areas in; will need to hire a commercial contractor
 - Highland Park Shelter - Has quotes from last year and need to follow up and get working on it
 - Crosley/WCG Parking Area - Need to reach out to folks who gave quotes and get started on projects
 - Department Happenings
 1. Working on Strategic Plan
 2. Headed to OH Parks and Rec Conference in February
 - Special Events
 1. Fam Jam – 1/25 – sold 40 tickets to date; 100 is capacity
 2. 5K in March
 3. Easter Egg Hunt
 - Programming
 1. Basketball season
 2. Expanded operating hours
 3. Almost done with winter mileage program – 65 people participated
 4. New Year, New You Membership Drive – discount on membership
 5. Backpacking clinic free to community – 25 people showed up and have received positive feedback: looking at starting a series
 6. Drop-in childcare is close to starting and will be offered on MWF evenings
 7. Collecting pictures and stories for 25th anniversary gallery
 8. January 24 – registration for spring break camp; in-person; kindergarten-5th grade; usually take 30 or so kids
 9. Planning summer camp and registration party
 10. Soccer registration will open soon
 11. Open Studio available at Community Center for people when programming is not in session
 - Arts
 1. Lots happening; shows happening in spring

2. Arts for public restrooms need to wait for better weather
 3. First gallery show will be in May
 4. Art in the Park – local artists will also be featured in gallery and then you can take a class with them in the park
 5. Starting a community studio – 2x a month at Arts West; gives a space for people who want to make things to come together
 6. Working to hire Program Coordinator to help with Arts West
 7. Working on grant applications
- Parks
 1. Working on getting blueprint for cabin at Camp Rotan to get official approval to have open to public
 2. Archery program ending soon; need to follow up with session 3 people and session 4 just closed; have received great feedback
 3. AEDs have been purchased that will go in parks
 4. Parking passes for off-campus are on sale for 2025-2026; last year brought in \$23K in revenue; had a few passes left in 2024-2025.
 5. Art in the Park beginning in March
 6. Agility equipment for dog park has arrived and will be installed when able
 7. Communication board at WSSP playground arrives and will be installed when able
 - Discussion had on follow up for Friends of Parks and Rec to set up separate fundraising account; idea of setting price of bricks at \$250/each; confirmed friends of Arts Parks and Recreation is on IRS website and last action was 2021; Katherine Ann to do digging on by-laws; John wants to be on the committee

VIII. **Announcement/Feedback**

- No new announcements

IX. **Next Meeting: 2//20 @ 5:30 (same place)**

X. **Adjournment**

- Emily – Motion to adjourn
- Ann L - Second