

AMAC meeting minutes

March 12, 2025, 5:30-7:00 PM

Location: Arts/West 132 West State Street

Athens, Ohio 45701

In attendance: Kelee Riesbeck, Jeff Risner, Andrew Chiki, David Telega, Kate Fetterolf, Tina Wilson, Katherine Ann Jordan

Guests: Marcelle Gilkerson, Mateo Galvano, George Turner (5:47pm)

Regrets: Devin Sudman

- Called to order by Kelee at 5:30 pm, at Arts/West

Review, discuss, and move to approve or update minutes from the Feb 12, 2025 meeting.

Corrections: 1.) Devin Sudman was not in the "In attendance" list 2.) Kate's full last name is "Fetterolf" 3.) Under Legislative updates, Jeff's last name should be spelled "Risner".

- Motion to approve minutes: Jeff, Second: Kate, Approved: Unanimous

Legislative Updates - Andrew Chiki / Jeff Risner

Sculpture Park progress update

-Three pieces have been installed, and three remain. Of the three that remain, two are all set for next week to be installed. The remaining one will be done by the end of March, installed by the artist himself.

-Kelee asked if we could we get progress reports and updates so as to ensure completion. Andrew responded that the artist is responsible for completion. If it is not done when committed to, the artist won't be invited to the opening.

The Goddess Hebe Update

-The City signed a contract for metal work for the statue's base, installed hopefully in June, in the front entry way of City Hall. Hebe is now there on a wooden box temporarily.

-The statue will be presented and displayed with a period photograph in a 3D immersive manner.

- Plans are being made for a celebration / building rededication with so many restorations having been done recently and continue to be done.

Public Projects

Sculpture Park Opening: Kelee Riesbeck / Tina Wilson

-The Sculpture Park opening date was discussed. International Sculpture Day is April 26, so this was determined to be a great day for the opening. The time of 4 pm was chosen with libations afterwards at Jackie Ohs.

- It was discussed about who to invite, such as the artists, mayor, poet laureate and other dignitaries.

Athens City Mural audit and enhancement: David Telega / Kelee Riesbeck

- The tri-fold is nearing the final draft. The current version needed a few revisions and changes. A question was brought up regarding the QR Code functionality.
- The question of accessibility language was brought up. An portion of an email from the City Law Director, Lisa Eliason, was read stating that an explicit accessibility disclosure was in this case not necessary.
- Printing of the tri-fold was discussed, with an initial printing of 5,000 planned. The pamphlets will be distributed to area hotels, events, travel information areas.

Art Outside the Box project: Tina Wilson / Kate Fetterolf

- Some minor changes to the introduction might be made. Meanwhile efforts are being made to make contact with Nancy Stevens, the contact person for the mAppAthens team. It is not posted on mAppAthens yet. Kelee can reach out to Nancy and cc Kate and Tina if needed.
- An overview of the traffic wraps was given with a review of the tour, which is composed of 45 traffic boxes with photos and descriptions for each one. It was commented that the wraps on the boxes are holding up surprisingly well and that they serve to make art visible in Athens.

Athens Poet Laureate: Tina Wilson

- Right now there isn't too much activity because the meetings for the next poet laureate won't start until Aug or Sept. However, discussion has been made for getting the word out.
- Dec 31, 2025 is the end for the current Poet Laureate. The new one presents to city council and is approved for 2 years with a stipend of \$2,000 per year with certain duties and responsibilities.

Art in City Spaces Project: Kate Fetterolf

- Update – This project has been put on hold until we add our new commissioners.

AMAC Admin

New Commissioners Needed: Kelee requested Scott and Ryan from the City communications team to post the 2 open seats to City social media accounts. Responses will be assessed and and reported on via email.

Arts West / APRD Update: Katherine Ann Jordan

The 25 Anniversary Sculpture

- The ad hoc committee (Kate, Devin, and Rec Board Members) met two weeks ago. The selection process occurred and a sculpture was chosen for the celebration.
- The proposals were presented to Mayor who choose the Athena Owl sculpture by Ellen Gagliano, Director of Design at Athens City Schools.

-Communication was established with the artist who welcomed collaboration.

The Sells Park Pond

- A statue of three ballerinas dancing on the water will be installed at the Sells Park Pond in the near future. This is an example of putting art in the parks.

Announcements and other business

Athens 2040 Comprehensive Plan Five-year Review

- A review of the plan as a guiding doc for the next 20 years was given. It is a document composed at a certain place and time which provides direction for what the city aspires to achieve and become by 2040.
- A discussion ensued regarding the expectations of AMAC regarding the sections in this documents related to the arts and culture. Andrew clarified that the 2040 Comprehensive Plan was/is a compilation of public surveys and that revisions regarding it are not being asked for. AMAC is being asked to review the plan and “check in” with the city planners to see how progress is being made.

New Business

The Armory Updates: Andrew

- The project deadline is looking to be the end of August. The renovated Armory will contain various spaces, such as shared co-work spaces, a multi-use venue, art spaces. The anchor tenant will be the Athens County Foundation.

The Pedestrian / Cycling Task Force

- George Turner from the task force was here to seek advice on how to conduct a public-choice mural design campaign. The mural will be by the crosswalk and curb by Village Bakery. The Task Force is looking to have a public vote on a few mural designs narrowed down by three entities: Engineering and Public Works, The Pedestrian / Cycling Task Force, and AMAC.
- Kate gave an overview of one effective system whereby instead of voting, there was a community input factor, which consisted of not voting, but of ranking with input.

Adjourn

Motion to end meeting: Andrew, Second: Jeff, Approved: Unanimous. Adjourned at 7:01 pm.

Next Meeting: April 9, 2025, 5:30-7:00 PM, Arts/West