

AMAC Meeting Minutes
June 11, 2025, 5:30-7:00 PM
Location: Arts/West

Present: Kelee Reisbeck, Andrew Chiki, Jeff Risner, David Telega, Mateo Galvano, Kate Fetterolf
Not Present: Devin Sudman, Tina Wilson, Katherine Ann Jordan

Meeting called to Order: 5:35 pm

Minutes: Review, discuss, and move to approve or update the minutes from the May 14, 2025 meeting.
- Changes/amendments: Kate Fetterolf's last name was corrected from the misspelling "Ferrerolf".
- Move to approve minutes: Andrew, Second: Kate, Approved: Unanimous

AMAC Admin

Interim AMAC Commissioner Positions: A formal vote for formal seating according to the bylaws processes, will occur at a later date as per those bylaws. For now a choice will be made for interim positions to carry out duties on an interim basis.

- Vote for Interim Chair: Candidate is David Telega

Andrew reviewed the process for establishing interim positions. A call for nominations was opened. David was nominated. Jeff moved to close nominations. Kate seconded. Unanimous approval.

Kelee made to motion to have David Telega serve as Interim Chair: Unanimous approval

- Vote for Interim Secretary: Candidate is Kelee Riesbeck

A call for nominations was opened. Kelee expressed willingness to serve. Jeff moved to close nominations. Kate seconded. Unanimous approval.

Kelee accepted the nomination. David made to motion to have Kelee Riesbeck serve as Interim Secretary: Unanimous approval

Presentation of Bylaws Section about Service Eligibility

Kelee gave an overview of the meetings she held with various city officials. Kelee would like to advocate for opening up membership to a larger citizen base in order to attract more commissioners. Currently, the commission has an open position which has been open for a while. One possible reason for this is the city/township residency requirements which may have a hindering factor in commissioner recruitment.

Discussion of Scope of Geographic Eligibility: Opening AMAC to Athens County residents, as it is with RAB. There was a discussion of opening AMAC service eligibility to residents of Athens County. Is it in the spirit of AMAC to enable accessibility to residents from other cities/villages in Athens County?
Kate: Is there a history of people volunteering who are from the county? Kelee: Since at least 2022, there has been no interest.

Andrew then gave an overview of the geographic areas of Athens and Canaan Townships. Athens city is in Athens Township and Canaan Township. The light at Walmart starts Canaan Township, so this would include all the residents on E. State St. and Canaanville Road.

Commissioner Recruitment: There was a discussion of why there are challenges recruiting people. A recent review of the current turnover then replacement issues was given. Then there was a discussion on the merits of opening commissioner positions to non-artists such as people acquainted with art and then becoming an advocate for it. Past commissioner membership was more artist focused. Non-artists present a diversity of backgrounds in order to provide balance.

There was a discussion to limit the geographic area from the County level, to the Township level. There was general agreement that opening up commissioner membership to the county level would provide many significant challenges.

AMAC Meeting Location Discussion: Jeff: Is it where we are meeting? Why don't we meet at City Council Chamber? Andrew: AMAC and Arts West have a history. When the new Community Center was built, there were to be art facilities and a theater included. When the levee passed, there was value engineering which resulted in 2 basketball courts instead of the planned 3, and to axe the theater. Then AMAC was created to hold people accountable and advocate for the arts. In 2004 the church went up for sale, then Arts West was dedicated in 2005 in response to the Community Center cuts. Those who founded AMAC, also founded and advocated for Arts West. So there is a strong connection between the building and AMAC. AMAC was not as formal as it is now, but currently it is a happy medium between quite lax and very formal city chambers.

Jeff: This is a commission. It should be displayed. Kelee: And televised? Jeff: If wanted.

Jeff: There is nothing wrong with formality. AMAC has matured. There is nothing wrong with a meeting where you are separated from the audience but where the audience can participate. This might increase publicity.

Kelee: Also, it would provide alignment with councils and boards and increase participation.

A discussion of a change of venue will happen when Devin and Tina are present. If AMAC changed venues, it necessarily wouldn't have to be recorded. AMAC as an advisory board without no real powers, not recording wouldn't be an issue.

Legislative updates

- Andrew Chiki, Jeff Risner

Athens City Website Chatbot

Andrew: The city is in the process of implementing a chatbot box for the city website. This is good for AMAC, because finding information was a difficult, multi-click process. The Athens chatbot indexes all the information on the website, as well as reading PDFs which is great. This will help accessibility and finding information on the website. Andrew gave a call for helpers to query the chatbox to help train it.

Sculpture Park Feedback

Jeff: There were many positive comments on the sculpture park. Some of the positive comments and feedback was read. It was noted that there has been some negative comments on internet forums.

Mateo: Will there be more sculptures added? Kelee pointed to last month's minutes there will be collaboration with OU. Andrew: To be a true sculpture park, we need to increase the number of sculptures. Perhaps, it can be budgeted for adding an additional sculpture a year.

Public Projects

- Athens City Mural audit and enhancement: David Telega and Kelee Riesbeck
 - Stage II: “Far and Near East Side Mural Walk” drafted, final edits to come
 - Kelee will revise descriptions and do the walking tour to see how it goes.

- Art Outside the Box project: Tina Wilson, Kate Fetterolf
 - Update on posting to mAppAthens site
 - Kate: Nancy Stevens is not responding. Kelee will contact her as Nancy is her neighbor.

- Athens Poet Laureate: Kelee Riesbeck
 - Kelee will ask for a press release opening up applications. She will also be asking city web developers to place the application differently to increase accessibility.

- Art in City Spaces Project: Kate Fetterolf
 - Update and plan for the future
 - Kate recruited Mateo to start work on this and they will meet soon to plan. Kate asked about the scope of work encompassing just interior art, or both in- and exteriors. Andrew suggested exterior as well with the recent opening of the sculpture park.

Arts West /APRD Update: Katherine Ann Jordan

-Kelee updated. Music in the park isn't going to happen this month, as the sound guy bailed. Kelee then gave an overview of the outdoor music scene.

Announcements and other business

The Athens Community Arts and Music Festival is Saturday, Aug 2 from 10 am to midnight. There will be acts, arts vendors, arts participatory events, several non-profits. It will be a Dora area event.

The Dairy Barn Cash Cow. Kate: The Cash Cow is a fund raising event in the form of a sponsorship. Fundraising is behind the scenes, nothing occurs once the cow is up.

Andrew: And it may be more than one cow. You can sponsor a cow and have the cow decorated a certain way. They want permission to place the cows in public places.

Kelee: What is AMCA's role here? No role here.

Adjourn

- Move to adjourn meeting: Kelee, Second: Jeff, Approved: Unanimous

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