

Athens Municipal Arts Commission

Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2026

Present: David T., Kate F, Tina W, Kelee R, Andrea B, Beth C, Meghan J., Katherine Anne J.

Regrets: Devin S.

Guests: Gracie Vaughn, intern City Planning Office and Grant Hampton, intern City Planning Office

1. **Minutes:** Kelee noted the meeting is being recorded. David: Request feedback and corrections. Motion to approve the minutes was made and seconded. All voted in favor. Minutes approved.

2. **Legislative updates:**

Beth reported that the street fair permits previously discussed have been approved. A new permit application will be required going forward. The list of upcoming street fairs – at least 14 currently scheduled – is available on the city website; commissioners who want access to that information can find it there or contact David directly via reply-all email.

It was also noted that city parking will be free for 24-hour periods from December 12 through January (exact end date to be confirmed).

3. **AMAC projects:**

AMAC service eligibility: Kelee reported on the ongoing conversations with Mayor Patterson and Athens City Council's Safety & Service Commission on expanding the number of AMAC from 7 to 9, 5 who shall be electors of the city and 4 who shall reside outside city limits but in Athens County. See minutes from past AMAC meetings related to this effort.

- Mayor Steve Patterson agreed to expand eligibility to Athens County residents with the stipulation that a person serving on the commission who lives outside Athens Township will not be eligible to vote on projects happening in Athens City limits. This commissioner can vote on governance issues, etc. as an AMAC member, Kelee pointed out.

- Kelee returns to Safety & Service Committee March 23, 2026 to present the updated proposal. Kelee reports back at AMAC's April 8 meeting.

OU Student Commissioner / MAA Partnership: Discussion centered on the possibility of recruiting an OU student for one of the two new AMAC seats, and separately, whether to establish a formal internship connection with OU's Master of Arts Administration (MAA) program.

- Mateo works at OU's SOAD, can recruit undergraduate SOAD students through the Art Ambassadors service-learning program.

-The seat could possibly be linked to a service-learning credit

-The commission does not meet in July or December, which eases the attendance concern for students.

-The bylaws allow up to three consecutive unexcused absences before removal is considered; in practice, a student could receive a summer pass, as is done on other city commissions.

-The bylaws will not specify that the seat must be held by an OU student, leaving the position open to any interested student applicant. The commission can still recruit toward that goal.

MAA graduate internship:

-David met with Dr. Christi Camper Moore about the MAA program. The program requires a 240-hour internship, preferably paid, making a seat on AMAC for an MAA student difficult since AMAC doesn't have a budget. Discussion of writing a grant to cover the stipend ensued. David will also meet with the mayor to discuss whether the commission can formally establish an unpaid internship position for city volunteer hours, or whether HR requirements present a barrier.

Arts Commission Conference Planning Update

-David presented a framework for planning an Ohio municipal arts commission conference, tentatively timed to coincide with the Street Art Festival in August 2027, which will also mark AMAC's 25th anniversary.

-Key planning questions were raised and discussed:

--Date: August 2027, first weekend (the Street Art Festival's traditional anchor weekend). The timeline is tight but manageable given prior groundwork.

--Other topics like duration, venue, target audience, budget, and presenters were discussed. An ad hoc subcommittee of three commissioners has already been working on conference planning and will bring a fuller proposal to the full commission for feedback.

Athens Arts Coalition / Arts Organization Database

-Kate and Beth presented an update on their subcommittee's work to build a directory of arts organizations across Athens County:

- An outreach letter to arts organizations was drafted and invited them to submit basic information for inclusion in a database.

-Intern Vaughn offered to create a Google Form to create the database

Arts West Update

-Katherine Ann shared updates:

-A new round of ukulele classes begins April 30.

-An upcoming "ukulele choir" will be seated

-Mother's Day programming is being planned with inclusive framing, "Mother Day" to welcome those with complicated family relationships.

-Lost Flamingos will produce 4 performances this spring.

-Tantrum Theatre is returning in April with a production TBD.

-Four free events with the Athens Poet Laureate are planned for the year; dates forthcoming.

-Tina: Attendance at the Disability Awareness Festival was strong, and AMAC was well-received.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made and approved. Meeting ended.