



AGENDA
ATHENS RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2026 AT 5:30 PM

Streaming is available at www.ci.athens.oh.us/video

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Establish Quorum**
- 3. Approval of Agenda**
- 4. Disposition of Minutes:**
 - July 16, 2026 Meeting Minutes
- 5. New Business**
- 6. Continuing Business**
 - Filling RAB Vacancies
- 7. APR Staff Report**
- 8. Announcements & Other Business:**
- 9. Adjournment**

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Athens City Rec Advisory Board – July Meeting Summary - July 16, 2026

Date: Thursday, July 16, 2026, Meeting Format: In-person recorded on mobile

Board met with quorum to clear old minutes, plan Lifeguard Appreciation, review playground designs, discuss long-term city planning engagement, and receive project/program updates.

Quorum, Minutes, and Board Composition:

- Present for meeting: Megan Russell, Emily Guseman, Kate Moscouver, Katherine Ann Jordan and Stuart Goldsberry
- Quorum confirmed with 4 of 7 members present.
- Multiple sets of past "Swiss cheese" minutes (including from a prior non-quorum meeting) formally reviewed and approved for publication to city website.
- Clarified that even non-quorum sessions now have minutes stating no official meeting occurred.
- Noted importance of approved minutes for documentation (e.g., playground decisions) if challenged.
- Two board seats currently vacant; three applicants: Delia Palmisano, Megan Day (corrected from Beatty), and photographer Ahmed Hamed Aly.
- Board agreed all 3 are suitable; Ahmed appears more arts-oriented and a strong candidate for the Arts Commission if not selected here.
- Decision: send all 3 names to Mayor Patterson with Delia/Megan as top two (no internal ranking) and Ahmed as third, noting arts interest; council expected to act at Aug 3 meeting.

Lifeguard Appreciation Day (July 31) and Events:

- Lifeguard Appreciation Day on last Friday in July (July 31); ~50 lifeguards plus pool attendants total, ~13 on shift at a time.
- Prior year board/individual efforts: ice cream sundae bar, energy drinks (popular Alani brand), etc.
- Discussed pros/cons of pizza (only reaches on-duty staff) vs. non-perishables/ice cream that can last several days.

- Plan: board members likely to contribute small amounts (\$5–\$10 each) toward a shared appreciation gesture and to encourage frequent pool users to bring cards/thanks that day.
- Other events: Summer concert next Friday 6–8 pm (behind center; rain site Arts West); National Night Out Aug 4, 4–7 pm, free at pool with law enforcement.

City Strategic Plan – October Meeting:

- Megan shared that the City planner requested time at the October board meeting to gather 5–20 year input on arts, parks, and recreation for the city’s strategic plan. Megan will confirm with the City Planner about the October meeting and check with Scott about availability.
- October meeting flagged as critical; need quorum and ideally new members seated.
- Discussed holding that meeting in council chambers or otherwise recording it for transparency, referencing recent public interest over playground decisions.
- Need to coordinate with Scott on room availability and video/live-stream options.

Executive Roles and Governance:

- Vice-chair role currently vacant after Annie’s departure.
- Chair (Megan) signaled likely need to step back from chairing during upcoming school year (possible new job), though intends to remain on board.
- Emily expressed willingness to serve as vice-chair but not chair, given additional external commitments.
- Stuart continuing as secretary.
- Board may revisit exec assignments once two new members are appointed.

Preschool Playground Replacement – Designs and Budget:

- Preschool playground replacement moving forward under a council-approved budget cap of \$125,000.
- Vendors explored:
 - Compan (wood/"Compen"/"compound"): attractive but priced out of range; example pieces: double tower with slide \$41k, cottage \$56k; freight \$8k–\$9k; installation and surfacing extra.
 - Another vendor submitted a \$171k proposal (rejected as over budget).

- Two primary contenders now: Snyder Recreation vs. Landscape Structures.
- Snyder proposal preferred: multiple smaller elements, more imaginative and freestanding pieces, better for accessibility and distributed play (easier for a 22-student class to spread out), and currently lower cost than Landscape Structures.
- Landscape Structures: one large structure, similar style to existing; fewer options and less flexible play.
- Chair emphasized value of maintaining fenced and gated layout, critical for supervising young children.
- Discussion of surfacing: underscored need for anti-static turf, referencing Strouds playground issues; necessary for users with implanted medical devices and for children frequently barefoot.

Trails, Goats, Pavilion, and Water Access Projects:

- NatureWorks grant application submitted for Kwandae/Dowler area trails to be built next year.
- Goats On The Go pilot planned for south-side area this fall to clear dense overgrowth (primarily autumn olive) along a plotted trail corridor.
 - Pricing range: ~\$1,300–\$1,600 per acre, depending on density, steepness, and conditions.
 - Goal: improve sightlines and safety along future trails.
- Pavilion project: BDT selected from two architectural firms based on clearer proposal.
 - State has committed reimbursement funds; council vote Aug 3 needed to activate funding line and issue PO for design work.
 - If schedule holds, first construction phase could go to bid this winter.
- River access/put-in project at the red Alco building on West Union (former Athens Lumber office) back in motion.
 - Current informal put-in via footpath/portage from West State Street Park.
 - City received \$200,000 in state capital funds, must be spent within 2 years.

- Part of a broader water trail designation strategy and long-term plan to address hazards at Weiss Mill Dam (7–8 year horizon).

Programs, Communications, Parks, and Pool Operations:

- Department launched an hour-long podcast; upcoming August episode focused on pickleball.
- Monday Morning Mingle held July 6 (sponsored by Happy Snacking); next scheduled Aug 3 with planned treats from Village Bakery.
- Three weeks of summer camp remaining; swim lessons concluding; dance classes resuming at Arts West; both preschool classes currently full.
- Simpson Avenue biocells: after re-grading and adding ~8 inches of specialized sandy soil and native stormwater plants, educational signage will be installed to explain their function as EPA-approved stormwater filtration/bioretenion systems, not simple planters.
- Pool:
 - Operations generally smooth; recent closures due to mechanical issues rather than contamination.
 - Marked reduction in fecal incidents compared to prior years, suggesting previous repeat offender is no longer active.
 - Noted community-driven treading-water club in the dive well led by a regular lap swimmer.
- Facility: staff work day planned to reorganize offices and storage upstairs, including moving general storage out of a hot IT closet to reduce risk and improve access.

Katherine Action Items:

- Promote Lifeguard Appreciation Day and encourage frequent pool users to participate.
- Confirm with City Planner Megan the agenda, expectations, and pre-work for October strategic planning meeting.
- Check with Scott on availability of council chambers or recording setup for October meeting.
- Request updated Snyder Recreation playground proposal incorporating:

- Up to ~\$15,000 in additional features within \$125,000 cap.
 - Second shade structure.
 - Fence-mounted sensory panels and musical elements.
- Proceed with procurement/installation of new fence and improved gate for preschool playground.
- Finalize arrangements and scope for Goats On The Go fall deployment (~1 acre, focused on trail sightlines).
- Advance BDT pavilion design contract following council authorization of reimbursement fund on Aug 3.
- Begin planning steps to utilize \$200,000 capital allocation for the Alco/West Union put-in within 2-year window.
- Arrange fabrication and installation of Simpson Avenue biocell educational signs.
- Organize staff work day logistics to reconfigure office, storage, and IT spaces.

Chair Action Items:

- Draft and send email to Mayor Patterson (cc: Katherine and Monica) submitting three board applicants:
 - Delia Palmisano.
 - Megan Day.
 - Ahmed Hamed Aly (noting arts commission interest and ranking as third choice).
- Remind board members of critical October meeting date and the need for a quorum.
- Begin succession planning for chair role for upcoming school year and discuss options with current and incoming members.

Stuart Action Items:

- Continue serving as board secretary, using the Jump transcription tool to capture and refine future meeting minutes.
- Ensure newly approved backlog of minutes is formatted and transmitted for posting to the city website.

Board Members Action Items:

- Contribute agreed personal amounts (e.g., \$5–\$10) toward Lifeguard Appreciation Day items, coordinated through Megan.
- Share information about Lifeguard Appreciation Day with friends and frequent pool users.
- Brainstorm 5–20 year ideas for parks, arts, and recreation to bring to the October strategic planning session.
- Consider willingness to serve in vice-chair or chair roles as governance transitions are discussed.
- Note next meeting date: Thursday, August 20, 5:30 pm, in downstairs conference room unless otherwise directed.