

**Athens Downtown Development Authority  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Thursday, March 17, 2022  
2:00pm-4:00pm  
Gameday Building Conference Room**

**REGULAR MEETING**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Linda Ford, David Lynn, Jason Leonard, Mike Hamby, Kelly Girtz, BJ Hardy, and David Bradley

OTHERS PRESENT: Greg Sowell, Rachel Swartz, and Sam Levy

1. **Approval of Minutes** – Kelly Girtz motioned to approve the minutes from the previous meeting BJ Hardy seconded. Motion approved.
2. **Public Input** – none
3. **Community Reports**
  - **CVB** – none
  - **Chamber** – The ADDA Board welcomed Chamber Representative and Chamber President, David Bradley. Chamber membership is as high as it has been in a long time. The Chamber will be starting up the Inter-City Leadership visits again.
  - **DABA** – none

4. **Directors' Report**

**Planning and Outreach**

- A. **Costa Building Park Update** – David Lynn updated the board on the timeline of the proposed park at Lumpkin/Washington Street adjacent to the Costa Building. WLA Planning Group developed a design. The SPLOST Team asked the ADDA to postpone the park while the Costa Building was under construction. Sheridan Construction will complete both the park and the Costa building. Sheridan Construction will provide a budget by May 2022. The park completion is estimated to be early spring of 2023.
- B. **Bus Kiosk Concept** – There is an abandoned bus kiosk located adjacent to the City Hall Campus. In 2019 the Major and Commission asked the ADDA Directors to move forward with planning the concept and design of a restaurant incubator space for a minority-owned business. Ed Lane with Smith Planning Group submitted a proposal for \$22,500. Attorney Greg Sowell noted that ACCUG would transfer the property to the ADDA, so that the ADDA could make decision and preconditions regarding the use of the space. Mike Hamby motioned to authorize

the directors to execute a contract with Smith Planning Group for the planning, design, and engineering for the abandoned bus kiosk on Washington Street. BJ Hardy seconded. Motion passed.

- C. **Community Enhancement Program (CEP)** – The Community Enhancement Program uses funds from the Hotel/Motel Tax to help fund events downtown. Sixteen applications were submitted. The mayor’s proposed budget, which includes this funding, will be released in April.
- D. **Ambassador Program Update** – David Lynn updated the board on the potential Downtown Ambassador program. The Athens Convention and Visitors Bureau is interested in being a part of a hospitality-focused program. The CVB is working on a proposal and will present to the board at a later date.

### **Business Services**

- E. **Public Art Update** – The ADDA had partnered with several organizations such as the Lyndon House Arts Center, Athens Area Arts Council, Athens Cultural Affairs Commission, and a few downtown businesses, to prioritize public art in downtown. These projects include the Athens Banner Project, a donated sculpture for the park at the Costa Building, seven murals in the alley that runs from Clayton St. to Washington St., Project Ginkgo with Artist Krysia Ara, the Athens Music Walk of Fame, and the African-American Heritage Room and Pathway.
  - F. **Homelessness Update** – As a response to homelessness, ADDA intern Sam Levy has been working on data from the HMIS system supplied by HCD. Sam has also been looking at the cities of Gainesville (FL), Ann Arbor (MI), Birmingham (AL), and State College (PA), and their response to homelessness.
- 6. **Financial Report** – Linda Ford presented the February parking summary to the board.
  - 7. **Suggested Topics for following month’s meeting** – Water misters and a way to alert downtown businesses about groups under 300
  - 8. **Adjourn** – Mike Hamby motioned to adjourn, and BJ Hardy seconded. Meeting adjourned at 3:10 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for April 14 at 2:00pm. Location TBD.

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Jason Leonard, Board Chair

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Linda Ford, Director of Business Services

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David Lynn, Director of Planning and Outreach