

**Athens Downtown Development Authority
Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, August 11, 2022
2:00pm-4:00pm
Gameday Building Conference Room**

REGULAR MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT: Linda Ford, David Lynn, Jason Leonard, Drew Dekle, and Kelly Girtz

OTHERS PRESENT: Greg Sowell, Rachel Swartz, Whit Richardson, Jay Bowling, Cydney Riera, Michelle Nguyen, Hope Inglehart, Caitlin Short, and Susan Monteverde

1. **Approval of Minutes** –A quorum was not present. Approval of June 2022 minutes will be tabled for the next meeting.
2. **Award Presentation** –The Board presented Whit Richardson with a rendering of Taziki's by local artist, Jaime Culkin, in appreciation for three years of service as a member of the ADDA board.
3. **Public Input** – none
4. **Community Reports**
 - **CVB** – Jay reported that there has been an uptick in conference bookings that are back to 2019 numbers. Cydney Riera introduced a discount program called "Show Your Badge" that is available for conference participants.
 - **Chamber** – none
 - **DABA** – none
5. **Directors' Report**

Planning and Outreach

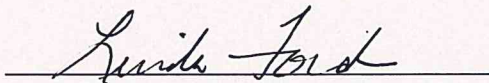
- A. **Ambassador Program Update** – Michelle Nguyen from Historic Athens gave a presentation to the board regarding the Downtown Ambassadors Program and what the program could look like in Downtown Athens. This program would focus on hospitality and customer service. This program would be modeled heavily after an existing successful program in Santa Cruz, California. Ambassadors would operate during peak daytime hours and engage the public and reinforce that Downtown Athens is safe, friendly, and easy to navigate. Funding would come from a partnership with Historic Athens and the ADDA. Mayor Girtz asked that the Historic Athens Staff keep the board updated at the program gets more refined.

Business Services

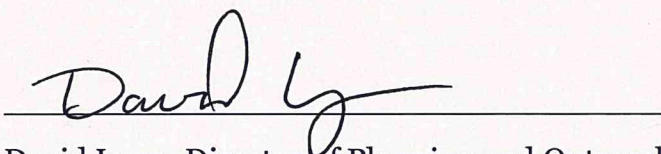
- B. Parking Management Agreement with Athens-Clarke County** – The Parking Management Agreement with Athens-Clarke County is going to be up for renewal at the end of the next fiscal year. Linda Ford asked the Board to start thinking about anything that they would like to see changed or added to the agreement. The management fee received by the ADDA is used for many programs downtown like Beautification, Grants, Downtown Park, and the future Ambassador's program.
- C. Possible Downtown Properties Grant** – Linda Ford presented the board with the possibility of a grant to assist property owners, especially minority owned property owners with building repairs or improvements that are not covered by the Façade Grant or the Reach Grant.
- D. Costa Building RFP** – The Costa Building is being remolded with no identified use currently in place for the building. The county has plans to issue an RFP to solicit ideas. The ADDA could put a plan together to propose that the ADDA would operate and manage the Costa Building. The current ADDA office could be sold, and funds would go towards the remodel of the Costa Building. The board expressed interest in pursuing this idea.
6. **Financial Report** – Parking is down about \$300K down from last year but slowly returning to pre-covid income.
7. **Suggested Topics for following month's meeting** – more on the Ambassador Program with details on funding and insurance.
8. **Adjourn** – Jason Leonard adjourned the meeting.



Jason Leonard, Board Chair



Linda Ford, Director of Business Services



David Lynn, Director of Planning and Outreach