

**Athens Downtown Development Authority  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Thursday, February 9, 2023  
2:00pm-4:00pm  
ADDA Office  
250 W Broad St  
Suite 108**

**REGULAR MEETING**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Linda Ford, David Lynn, Jason Leonard, Mike Hamby, Drew Dekle, and David Bradley

OTHERS PRESENT: Allison Wright, Greg Sowell, and Rachel Swartz

1. **Approval of Minutes** – Mike Hamby motioned to approve the minutes from the January 2023 Board Meeting and Drew Dekle seconded. Motion passed.

2. **Public Input** – none

3. **Community Reports**

- **CVB** - none
- **Chamber** – David Bradley reported that the Chamber is working diligently on workforce development and has many events in the pipeline for later this year.
- **DABA** – none

4. **Old Business** – At the February 2020 Board Meeting, Rick Parker introduced the North Downtown Redevelopment Project and the timeline for the first phase of construction. This development is a public/private partnership between the Athens Housing Authority and Columbia Residential. Athens Housing Authority will be borrowing construction funds which includes a \$600,000 conduit loan that will pass through the ADDA and have a compounding interest rate of 1% to be paid when the note matures. Mike Hamby motioned for the ADDA to agree to the above terms of the loan and join with Athens Housing Authority and ACC in this project. David Bradley seconded. Motion approved.

5. **Directors' Reports**

**Planning and Outreach**

- A. **Smith Design Services: Design for College Square** – The directors have met with representatives of Smith Planning Group (SPG) to discuss the possibility of an above-ground refurbishment of College Square that could be accomplished with ADDA resources. David Lynn explained that College Square is included as an approved project within the current TSPLOST projects and funded at \$500,000. SPG would develop a detailed site plan,

renderings, and estimates of probable costs. David Bradley motioned to approve the proposed plan from SPG and authorize the directors to execute a contract with Smith Planning Group for planning and design for the improvement of College Square in an amount not to exceed \$35,000. Drew Dekle seconded. Motion passed.

- B. **“Eat & Drink Downtown”:** **Downtown Gift Card Promotion** – The ADDA is launching a gift card promotion to encourage Athens area residents to patronize downtown bars and restaurants. Those that spend \$100 or more in a downtown bar or restaurant will receive a \$25 Downtown Athens gift certificate to be redeemed at downtown businesses. The program will run from March 1-March 31, 2023, or until funds are depleted for the program.

## **Business Services**

- C. **Downtown Banner Program** – Linda Ford highlighted the banner program for downtown light poles. Currently the banners feature artwork from the Clarke County School District’s Biennial Exhibit at the Lyndon House Arts Center. Our next round will feature the art of AJ Aremu, a master’s student at the UGA Lamar Dodd School of Art. These will go up in March. AJ is creating designs specifically for the banners.
- D. **Janey Mae Cooley Façade Grant Application** – 134, 136 E. Clayton Street – Chris Peterson Properties is requesting matching funds for repair work on the facades at 134 and 136 E. Clayton. The work includes custom wood windows, exterior painting, exterior lighting, and custom metalwork covering. The total project cost is \$20,238 and the grant request is for \$10,000 matching funds. The Façade Grant Committee has approved the request. Drew Dekle motioned to approve the grand application and Mike Hamby seconded. Motion passed.
- E. **Downtown Grant Updates** – Linda Ford updated with board on several of the grants that have been awarded. The ADDA has awarded over \$83K in Façade, Reach, and Entrepreneur grants in the last couple of years.
- F. **College Avenue Parking Deck Repairs** – Linda Ford reported to the board that the large hanging banners that were installed on the west side of the College Avenue Parking Deck are really faded. The alley behind the deck is no longer accessible. Staff is getting a quote on how much it would cost to remove the banners. Also, several years ago maintenance was done on the stairwell in the College Avenue Deck. However, there are still issues with moisture and the sheetrock will need to be removed. Also, there are broken glass block and other areas that need attention. Central Services is working with the ADDA on getting a repair quote.

**6. Financial Report** – Linda Ford reported that parking had a great month and brought in \$325,000 in revenue.

## **7. Suggested Topics for following month’s meeting** –

Mike Hamby would like staff to research large banners or wraps for the College Avenue Deck. He would also like the Board to begin thinking about building a parking deck with 40,000 square feet of office space that could serve the parking needs of the courthouse and public parking. The board would also like to inventory motorcycle parking spaces.

**8. Adjourn** – Mike Hamby made a motion to adjourn the meeting and David Bradley seconded. Meeting adjourned at 2:46pm.

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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