

**Athens Downtown Development Authority
Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday June 29, 2023
2:00pm-4:00pm
Gameday Conference Room
250 W Broad St**

REGULAR MEETING

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Greg Sowell, Michelle Nguyen, Wes Ryals, Ed Lane, and Diana Sayed

1. **Approval of Minutes** – Kelly Girtz motioned to approve the minutes from the May 2023 Board Meeting and Drew Dekle seconded. Motion passed.

2. **Public Input** – none

3. **Community Reports**

- **CVB** - none
- **Chamber** – none
- **DABA** – none

4. **Directors' Reports**

Planning and Outreach

- A. Welcome Center Update** – Michelle Nguyen from Historic Athens Welcome Center gave a report on the Downtown Ambassadors Program that ran from May 4 – June 24, 2023, Thursday – Saturday from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. They contacted 300 businesses. Nguyen reported that they had very positive feedback from businesses and visitors. The Ambassadors used a LinkTree platform to advertise sales and promotions of local businesses. Kelly Girtz made a motion for the directors to meet with Michelle Nguyen to discuss a permanent Downtown Ambassador Program and Drew Dekle seconded. Motion passed.
- B. College Square Update** – Ed Lane and Wes Ryals from Smith Planning Group (SPG) presented a design concept for College Square. Kelly Girtz would like SPG to present at a future Mayor and Commission work session.
- C. Community Enhancement Program** – Mayor and Commission increased the CEP funding this year to \$250,000 and David Lynn provided updated distribution suggestions. Mike Hamby motioned to send the new recommendations to the Mayor and Commissions. Drew Dekle seconded. Motion passed.

Business Services

D. Janey Mae Cooley Façade Grants: Athens Bagel Company, 268 N.

Jackson St. and Hue and Carole Henry, 233 E. Broad St - Mike

Hamby motioned to authorize directors to issue a Notice of Administrative Action for approval of grants. If any board member has an objection or would like to discuss it at a meeting, they will respond within 7 business days.

Otherwise, the grant will be approved. Kelly Girtz seconded. Motion passed.

6. Financial Report – Parking revenue ended FY23 over \$3K.

7. Suggested Topics for following month's meeting – Kelly Girtz would like to find large companies to sponsor downtown events. Drew Dekle would like to see permanent downtown police officers.

8. Adjourn – Drew Dekle motioned to adjourn the meeting and Kelly Girtz seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 3:34pm.

Jason Leonard, Board Chair

Linda Ford, Director of Business Services

David Lynn, Director of Planning and Outreach