

**Athens Downtown Development Authority
Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, September 21, 2023
2:00pm – 4:00 pm
Gameday Conference Room (second floor)**

ANNUAL MEETING

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Greg Sowell, Rachel Swartz, and Xinge Lei

1. **Election of Officers-** Chair
Vice-Chair
Recording Secretary

Mike Hamby nominated Jason Leonard as Chair and Kelly Girtz seconded. Kelly Girtz nominated Drew Dekle as Vice Chair and Mike Hamby seconded. Motions carried. ADDA Business Coordinator, Rachel Swartz, will be recording secretary.

2. **Adjourn-**Kelly Girtz motioned to adjourn at 2:28pm, seconded by Mike Hamby. Motion carried.

REGULAR MEETING

1. **Approval of Minutes** – Kelly Girtz motioned to approve the minutes from the August 2023 Board Meeting and Drew Dekle seconded. Motion passed.
2. **Public Input** - none
3. **Community Reports** - none
4. **Director Reports**

Planning and Outreach

A. **Updated College Square Design/Work Session** – College Square is a SPLOST project that was approved funding for \$500K. The directors engaged the services of SPG Planners and Engineers to design renderings of College Square. SPG will present the design to the Mayor and Commission on October 10, 2023.

B. **Pay-by-Plate (App) – Pilot Program-** The Mayor and Commission asked the ADDA to pilot a Pay-by-Plate program. This program will use an AMP Park app to take payments. Signs will go up along East Dougherty and Strong Street with instructions.

Business Services

- C. **FY23 Downtown Parking Net Revenue** – Parking revenue for FY22-23 was \$3.619 mil and the ADDA management fee was \$278K.

- D. **Community Event Grants** – The ADDA sets aside funding for community events that do not meet the February 28 deadline for CEP funding. The Community Event grants have been awarded for the following events, all new events to downtown Athens: Hispanic Heritage Month Festival, Chess-a-thon a Battle Royale, and Steam Roller Print Event.

- E. **Festival Zone Update** - Current pilot program limits the Festival Zone to the main four blocks of downtown and only available to special events, with great success. The Hospitality Round Table has requested that the Festival Zone be expanded, ideally by Twilight Criterium 2024.

- 5. **Financial Report** – August 2023 parking revue was \$347,984.

- 6. **Suggested agenda topics for following month’s meeting** – update on the Costa Building, homelessness, and panhandling discussion.

Attorney Greg Sowell noted to the board that the funds were received by Athen-Clarke County to purchase the additional License Plate Readers (LPRs). Additionally, the contract has been signed with BOS Security for the dedicated downtown security officer.

7. **Executive Session** –none

8. **Adjourn** – Mike Hamby motioned to adjourn the meeting and Drew Dekle seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 2:48pm.

Next Meeting – Thursday, October 12, 2023

Jason Leonard, Board Chair

Linda Ford, Director of Business Services

David Lynn, Director of Planning and Outreach