

**Athens Downtown Development Authority
Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, October 12, 2023
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Gameday Conference Room (second floor)**

REGULAR 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, John Morris, and Madison Sanders

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

Planning and Outreach

- A. **Updated College Square-** Smith Planning Group was not allowed to present their design for College Square at the Mayor and Commission’s last meeting. Moving forward on this project will require funding from multiple sources, possibly with the use of grants and potential private funding. Mayor Girtz said there is still an option to go through the process by establishing a User Group.

Business Services

- B. **Homelessness Strategic Plan update** – John Morris from Advantage and Madison Sanders from Family Promise gave a presentation regarding the Homelessness Strategic Plan that was adopted by the Mayor and Commission. There are several key strategies including staffing, improve a coordinated entry policy, street outreach, increase low barrier shelter, engage landlord-focused initiatives, and partnerships for employment.

C. Upcoming Public Art in Downtown

- **Banners** – a sample of the new banners designed by Eli Saragoussi was shown to the board.
- **Art Decko** – Starting the process for the 3rd installment of Art Decko, art displays in the deck. The last ones were removed, and some were purchased to remain downtown.

• **Public Art at Athens Community Council on Aging** – partnering with Athens Community Council on Aging to put some public art at their location.

D. Board Retreat – Linda Ford asked the board to start thinking about dates for the next Board Retreat. This is typically a half day event to set goals for the ADDA.

Financial Report – September parking revenue was \$360,304.00. The decks are full and the two lots are full.

6. Suggested agenda topics for the following month’s meeting - discuss panhandling

7. Executive Session –none

8. Adjourn – Mike Hamby motioned to adjourn the meeting and Drew Dekle seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 3:19 p.m.

Jason Leonard, Board Chair

Linda Ford, Director of Business Services

David Lynn, Director of Planning and Outreach