

Athens Downtown Development Authority
Board of Directors Meeting and Retreat
Thursday, March 14, 2024
ADDA Office – 250 W Broad St. Suite 108

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Greg Sowell, Rachel Swartz, John Morris, John Stamm, Blake Aued and Jesse Pennouilh

1. Approval of Minutes – Mike Hamby motioned to approve the minutes from the February 2024 Board Meeting and Retreat and Drew Dekle seconded. Motion passed.

2. Public Input – none

3. Community Reports

- **CVB** - none
- **Chamber** - none

4. Directors' Report

Planning and Outreach

- A. **Crisis Intervention Team** – David Lynn reported to the board that the directors met with Robby Cochran who is part of the Crisis Intervention Team and Captain Radford regarding their strategies on dealing specifically with people under extreme public mental health distress. The ADDA occasionally receives messages from downtown merchants wondering what our community could do to address these behaviors. Currently police can only arrest for disorderly conduct and that is a \$15 bond to be released. The board discussed other suggestions to discourage these behaviors downtown like arresting for public urination, public intoxication, shoplifting, and camping/loitering downtown. Additionally, the board thinks that putting some regulations on panhandling could control some unwanted behaviors.
- B. **Dinner with Mayor and Commission** – The dinner will be held on March 26 at 6:00 p.m. at The Chapel at 100 Prince Ave.

Business Services

C. Athens Homeless Coalition Board Update – The Coalition has been meeting monthly since January and has elected officers. The Coalition is interviewing for an Executive Director and should have one in place by June 2024.

D. ADDA Preliminary FY25 Budget – Linda Ford reminded the board that the ADDA preliminary budget is typically approved in May. There will be an increase in property tax revenue in FY25 and that additional revenue is usually applied to new initiatives and programming. The final budget is then approved in July or August.

5. IGA to Provide Grant funding for the North Athens Downtown

development Project – Greg Sowell presented to the board an Intergovernmental Agreement draft between Athens-Clarke County, Athens Housing Authority, and the ADDA for review. With the agreement, Athens-Clarke County will grant \$600,000 to the ADDA to then provide the grant funding to the Athens Housing Authority to support the North Downtown Athens Redevelopment Project. Drew Dekle motioned to enter into the agreement with Athens-Clarke County and the Housing Authority and David Bradley seconded. Motion passed.

6. Financial Report– Parking revenue for February 2024 was \$353,580.

7. Suggested agenda topics for following month’s meeting – David Lynn will bring the applications for the Community Enhancement Program (CEP) funds to be voted on by the board next month.

The board discussed changing the meeting time to the second Wednesday of the month due to some scheduling conflicts.

8. Executive Session - None

9. Adjourn– David Bradley motioned to adjourn the meeting and Jeff Bishop seconded. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 2:52pm.

Jason Leonard, Board Chair

Linda Ford, Director of Business Services

David Lynn, Director of Planning and Outreach