

**Athens Downtown Development Authority
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, March 12, 2025
2:00pm – 4:00 pm
250 W. Broad St, Suite 108**

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jeff Bishop, Drew Dekle, Kelly Girtz, and Jason Leonard

OTHERS PRESENT: Linda Ford, David Lynn, Greg Sowell, Jeremy Smith,
Rachel Swartz, Allison Wright, and Andy Savoy

1. **Approval of Minutes** – Kelly Girtz motioned to approve the minutes from the February 12, 2025, board meeting and Drew Dekle seconded. Motion passed.
2. **Public Input** – none
3. **Community Reports**
 - **CVB** – none
 - **Chamber** – none
4. **Executive Session** – Drew Dekle made a motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of legal, personnel, or real estate matters. Jeff Bishop seconded. Motion passed.

Drew Dekle motioned to adjourn the executive session and Kelly Girtz seconded. Motion passed.

Once out of executive session, Drew Dekle motioned to remove exhibit B, from the proposed IGA and replace with the one-page summary that was submitted. Then as amended, Drew Dekle motioned to approve the IGA. Jeff Bishop seconded. Motion passed.
5. **Directors' Reports**
 - Planning and Outreach
 - A. **FY26 CEP Applications** – David Lynn shared that the application period ended for FY25/26 CEP funds. Final recommendations will be given once the Mayor and Commission set the program budget.

- B. **TSPLOST Presentation** – The Board directed David Lynn to present the plans for the College Square Extension from the Arches through College Square to Washington Street that would include the City Hall Streetscape. David Lynn reported that the TSPLOST committee seemed to think that Downtown has received a lot of funding already, but if we could convince enough citizen committee members and the Mayor and Commission to put this project in as a placeholder it would enhance the viability of the project.

Business Services

- C. **Parking Rate Update** – Linda Ford reported that the Mayor and Commission approved the parking rate increase in the decks from \$1.00/hr to \$2.00/hr and also the first hour in the deck will be free. The manager's office is going to request a change in the street parking rate to keep the deck parking cheaper than street parking. They are suggesting that street parking increase to \$2.50/hr and asked the board to vote on that.

Kelly Girtz motioned to advise the Mayor and Commission to approve the street parking rate to \$2.50/hr and Jeff Bishop seconded. Motion passed.

Jason Leonard asked the Parking Director, Jeremy Smith about the pay by plate pilot program. Jeremy Smith noted that the program is going pretty well with little problems. It's really efficient and has had very few complaints.

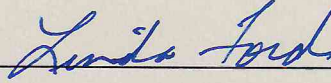
- D. **Suggested Retreat Topics** – the retreat date will be Wednesday, May 14. Linda Ford asked the board submit agenda topics. The topics that have been suggested include trash pickup, eco-stations, overnight and daytime sleepers, and landscaping.
6. **Financial Report** – Linda Ford reported that the parking revenue is up for the month and the year. Our projections may be under for the year due to the deck increase not taking effect until recently.
7. **Suggest agenda topics for following month's meeting** – uniformity of sidewalk cafés and Allison Wright will report back from the Legislative Review Committee meeting regarding noise ordinances.
8. **Adjourn** – Due to Drew Dekle needing to leave early and no longer having a quorum, Jason Leonard adjourned the meeting at 3:17 PM.

Next Meeting – Wednesday, April 9, 2025

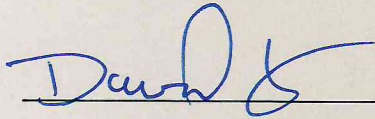
Retreat – Wednesday, May 14, 2025

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Jason Leonard, Board Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Linda Ford', written over a horizontal line.

Linda Ford, Director of Business Services

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Lynn', written over a horizontal line.

David Lynn, Director of Planning and Outreach