

**Athens Downtown Development Authority
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, September 10, 2025
2:00pm
ADDA Office, 250 W. Broad Street**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jeff Bishop, David Bradley, Kelly Girtz, Jason Leonard, and Andrew Ratcliffe

OTHERS PRESENT: Linda Ford, David Lynn, Greg Sowell, Rachel Swartz, and Allison Wright

- 1. Approval of Minutes** – Kelly Girtz motioned to approve the minutes from the August 13, 2025, meeting. Andrew Ratcliffe seconded. Motion passed.
- 2. Public Input** - none
- 3. Directors' Report**

Planning and Outreach

- A. Holiday Lights** – David Lynn told the board that the downpayment was made to Christmas Elves and they have everything they need to start the project.
- B. College Square** – David Lynn updated the board on the College Square Project. Smith Planning Group (SPG) will start interviewing construction firms on October 8, 2025, and will award a contract on November 4, 2025. Construction will begin in December 2025, with a completion date of August 2026. SPG is currently going through plans review and was approached by ACCGov Transit to include a bus shelter at the old Starbucks. The directors oppose this idea due to diminished visibility from Broad Street and adding more congestion to an already very congested space.

Business Services

- C. Repairs on College Deck Stairwell** – Linda Ford reported that ACCGov Central Services will begin repairs on the College Deck back stairwell. They will be replacing the glass blocks. We will also be replacing several doors. They should be finished with the repairs by the end of November.

- D. **Costa Park Update** – ADDA staff took a tour of the Costa Building. Right now, the building is locked, so you need to call ahead if you need to go into the building. Kelly Girtz said they are looking to add a building administrator so the public can have access. The park construction has been halted by ACCGov. They want a new lighting plan and changes in the stormwater design.
- E. **Street Parking Update** – All the meters on Dougherty Street have been replaced by the AMP parking app. Linda Ford said the next expansion will be Hancock St. Staff is going to put instructional signs or stickers on the meters instead of removing them completely.
4. **Financial Reports** – August was the second month of the increase in hourly parking and that increased parking income over \$106,000 from August of last year.
5. **Executive Session** - none
6. **Suggest agenda topics for following month's meeting** - Jason Leonard shared with the board that a former employee, who is now a meteorologist, was visiting Athens and commented that Downtown is the cleanest it has ever been. Kelly Girtz asked if we had heard from any businesses about the functionality of the Eco Stations. Linda Ford said that the biggest complaint right now is that the roll carts are still being utilized and that it is difficult to use the Eco Stations due to the height and the small openings. David Lynn told the board that Community (260 N. Jackson St) is having their 15-yr anniversary.
7. **Adjourn** – Kelly Girtz made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Jeff Bishop seconded. Meeting adjourned at 2:27pm

Jason Leonard, Board Chair

Linda Ford, Director of Business Services

David Lynn, Director of Planning and Outreach