

**Athens Downtown Development Authority
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, November 12, 2025
2:00 p.m.
ADDA Office, 250 W. Broad Street**

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Blake Aued, Linda Ford, Dan Coenen, David Lynn, Greg Sowell, Rachel Swartz, and Allison Wright

1. **Approval of Minutes** – Kelly Girtz motioned to approve both the regular meeting minutes and the annual meeting minutes from October 8, 2025. Jeff Bishop seconded. Motion passed.
2. **Public Input** - none

3. Directors' Report

Planning and Outreach

- A. **Harold Rittenberry Sculpture Donation** – David Lynn introduced Dan Coenen, who is partnering with the Athens Area Community Foundation to lead an effort to secure funding for the purchase and installation of Harold Rittenberry's signature sculpture, "The Byzantine Knight/The Knight." Coenen stated that after purchase, the piece can be installed in a prominent place in the community. The art will be welcomed in the new College Square redesign, and the directors have asked Smith Planning Group to plan for its installation. The ADDA will also be accepting a second Rittenberry sculpture in the Costa Park. Coenen has requested that the ADDA Board of Directors pass a motion to receive the work and pledge its location within College Square. David Bradley motioned to accept the donation of Harold Rittenberry's sculpture "The Byzantine Knight/The Knight" with the following resolution:

The Athens Downtown Development Authority agrees, in keeping with its role in overseeing the design of the College Square Plaza, to accept Harold Rittenberry, Jr.'s sculpture "The Byzantine Knight/The Knight" for permanent display in the Plaza beginning when it is opened, upon the gift of the sculpture being offered by Mr. Rittenberry or the Athens Area Community Foundation, subject to any necessary approvals by Athens/Clarke County or its designee.

Jeff Bishop seconded. Motion passed.

Jeff Bishop motioned to accept the donation of a second Rittenberry sculpture to be placed in the Costa Park. Kelly Girtz seconded. Motion passed.

B. College Square Update – David Lynn updated the board on the progress of the College Square redesign project. A Request for Pre-Qualifications (RFPQ) was released, and the contractors were evaluated by the selection committee, consisting of representatives from ADDA, SPG Planners + Engineers, the TSPLOST Project Administrator, and the ACC Capital Projects Director. The top four firms were chosen: A&C Development, Inc., Baston-Cook Company, Lusk Commercial Contractors, and Sheridan Construction. On the basis of a set criteria and interviews with the contractor teams, the selection committee recommends Sheridan Construction as the general contractor for the College Square project. Jeff Bishop motioned to approve Sheridan Construction as the construction agent for the College Square Project and David Bradley seconded. Motion passed.

Business Services

C. Downtown Tree Survey – At the October 2025 ADDA board meeting, the board asked the directors to explore conducting a downtown tree survey to assess the health of existing trees and identify areas where additional trees can be planted. Josh Koons, from Koons Environmental Design, recommended that we reach out to Chris Hughes with Brookwood Tree consulting. Linda Ford shared the proposal with the board. The first line item is for the tree inventory and health assessment of the traditional four-block Downtown for a total of \$5,500. The second line item is for the remainder of the downtown district for \$8,500. Jeff Bishop mentioned that this may be an opportunity to develop a sponsorship program with a small plaque placed at the sponsored tree. Jeff Bishop made a motion to accept the entire proposal and Kelly Girtz seconded. Motion passed.

D. Additional Parking Holidays Approved - The ADDA requested the Mayor and Commission to add Juneteenth and Indigenous Peoples' Day to the list of holidays where parking is not enforced. At their November 4th meeting, the Mayor and Commission unanimously approved the request.

Jeff Bishop suggested an idea that once all of Downtown parking becomes digital, then we could have some parking days where the parking costs less to encourage people to come Downtown to shop on days that are typically less busy.

E. Costa Park Update – Construction on the park beside the Costa Building has started again and is projected to finish mid-December 2025.

F. **Holiday Lights** – The Christmas Elves, LLC, are still on track to start the light installation on November 20, 2025. Ian McFarlane was hired to take professional pictures to be used for advertising and the ADDA website.

4. **Executive Session** – Kelly Girtz made a motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of legal, personnel, or real estate matters. David Bradley seconded. Motion passed.

David Bradley motioned to adjourn the executive session and Kelly Girtz seconded. Motion passed.

5. **Financial Report** – The parking revenue is up \$217,211 through October of last year.

6. **Suggested future agenda topics and announcements** - none

7. **Adjourn** - Jeff Bishop motioned to adjourn the meeting and Kelly Girtz seconded. Meeting adjourned at 3:01 PM.

Jason Leonard, Board Chair

Linda Ford, Director of Business Services

David Lynn, Director of Planning and Outreach