

Athens Downtown Development Authority
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, December 10, 2025
2:00 p.m.
ADDA Office, 250 W. Broad Street

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Linda Ford, Victoria Halilu, David Lynn, and Greg Sowell

1. **Approval of Minutes** - Kelly Girtz motioned to approve the minutes from the November 2025 meeting and Jeff Bishop seconded. Motion passed.
2. **Public Input** - none
3. **Directors' Report**

Planning and Outreach

- A. **College Square Update** - David Lynn updated the board on the progress of the College Square project. Greg Sowell had the loan documents to be signed, effective Wednesday, December 10, 2025. Sheridan construction is set to begin on January 2, 2026. Greg Sowell said that the construction documents are almost finished. Mayor and Commission approved the Preliminary Development Agreement and modified the Parking Management Agreement to collateralize the loan for the duration of the project. ACCGov also backed this project with a \$1.5 million contingency fund from SPLOST in the event that there are cost overruns.
- B. **Costa Park Update** - David Lynn shared that the concrete is being poured for the sidewalk and seating. There will be a section that will remain unpoured to allow for electrical and landscaping. Keyes Williamson, with WLA design firm (original designer of the park) wants to take on some of the maintenance as a service project.

Business Services

- C. **Holiday Calendar 2026** - Kelly Girtz motioned to approve the ADDA Holiday Calendar for 2026 and Drew Dekle seconded. Motion approved.

- D. **ADDA Meeting Schedule 2026** - Jeff Bishop motioned to approve the ADDA meeting schedule for 2026 and Drew Dekle seconded. Motion approved.
- E. **Downtown Holiday Lights** - The Christmas Elves completed the Downtown Holiday Lights installation on College Avenue and Clayton Street (Hull Street to Thomas Street) in time for the Parade of Lights. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. Linda Ford shared a note from Chase Williams, of Christmas Elves, thanking ADDA, Koons Environmental Design, and the Athens-Clarke County teams for partnering with the project.
- F. **Eco Stations Public Art** - Solid Waste has requested our assistance with public art on the eco stations to replace the instructions on the street side. There is approximately \$10,000.00 in SPLOST that can be used for the project. We plan to use Will Eskridge as the artist. The artwork will be printed on wraps.

4. **Executive Session** - none

5. **Financial Report** - Parking financials shows an increase of \$249,000 from last year at this time.

The ADDA is going to host a Downtown Drop-In at the Globe on Thursday, December 18, 2025.

- 6. **Suggested future agenda topics and announcements** - Jeff Bishop suggested programming meters to offer rate discounts during business hours and look at a parking heat map for available areas. Adding public art on the College Deck. Adding a grant for security cameras.
- 7. **Adjourn** - Drew Dekle motioned to adjourn the meeting and Kelly Girtz seconded. Motion passed and meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Jason Leonard, Board Chair

Linda Ford, Director of Business Services

David Lynn, Director of Planning and Outreach