

**Athens Downtown Development Authority
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, May 13, 2026
2:00 p.m.
ADDA Office, 250 W. Broad Street**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jeff Bishop, David Bradley, Drew Dekle, Kelly Girtz, Mike Hamby, and Jason Leonard

OTHERS PRESENT: Blake Aued, Amanda Buchheit, Linda Ford, Diana Jackson, Blake Ogden, and Rachel Swartz

1. **Approval of Minutes** - Jeff Bishop approved the minutes from the April 2026 meeting and Drew Dekle seconded. Motion passed
2. **Public Input** - none
3. **Directors' Report**

Planning and Outreach

- A. **College Square Update** – Diana Jackson stated that there has been a lot of work done over the last month. Some of that work included storm drainage, retaining walls, electrical boxes, sewer main, and lining the sewer laterals. The footers were installed for the shade sails. Jackson said that the soil that was brought in for the trees didn't meet the requirements, but they are currently working on getting the proper soil in the next 48 hours. Sheridan will be changing the phases to move faster on the paving. While installing the pavers in front of business entrances there will be an usher available to halt the work and make sure people can enter and exit the businesses. Sheridan also asked if they could work double crews on Saturdays to keep moving ahead.
- B. **CEP Funding Requests** – Linda Ford presented the CEP recommendations to the board. The Mayor and Commission will vote on the total allocated amount of the CEP program on June 9. The board decided to table any more CEP discussions until the next meeting.

Business Services

- C. **2025 Community Impact Report** – Linda Ford shared the ADDA's Main Street Community Impact Report with the board. She noted that Downtown created 284 jobs last year along with substantial public and private investments.

- D. **Downtown Banners** - New light pole banners were installed, and the design is by Athens artist Victoria Duggar. She has had several exhibits of her work at the Lyndon House, New York, and Savannah.
 - E. **Downtown Holiday Lights** – Linda Ford presented the board with several options for Holiday Lights from Christmas Elves. David Bradley motioned to use Concept 1 and Drew Dekle seconded. Motion passed.
 - F. **Location Analytics Software-** Linda Ford told the board that the Placer.ai contract has been executed. Staff will have a training session next week.
 - G. **Park Mobile Parking App** – All the zones have been created, and the signage has been approved. Staff have met with the implementation team, and everything is on track to be live by August 1, 2026
- 4. **Financial Report** – Parking revenue is up \$409K year-to-date. Jeff Bishop stated he would like to see 100% of parking revenue stay Downtown.
 - 5. **Executive Session** - none
 - 6. **Suggested future agenda topics and announcements** - The board retreat will be Wednesday, June 3, 2026, from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm at the Costa Building. There will be a light breakfast at 8:30 am. The retreat will take the place of the June board meeting.
 - 7. **Adjourn** – Jeff Bishop motioned to adjourn the meeting and Mike Hamby seconded. Motion passed.

Jason Leonard, Board Chair

Linda Ford, Director of Business Services

David Lynn, Director of Planning and Outreach

