

Athens Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Date: April 22nd, 2021

Time: 5:30pm

In attendance: Alan Swank, Beth Clodfelter, Erin Helms, Travis Gatling, Brandon Thompson, Katherine Ann Jordan, Greg Lavelle

Absent: Shauna Switzer

Approval of Agenda

Approval of March Minutes

- Travis motions; seconded by Brandon
- Approved

Updates from City Council: Beth Clodfelter

- Council working on creating apartments for disabled and those that want to age in place
- Landscape ordinance to allow for more trees planted and pollinator gardens

Deputy Safety Services Director – Andrew Chiki update on east side solar panel project

- RFP awardee to design project was Third Sun Solar
- Currently working on final design – flood-plane, easements, etc.
- Ground mount (front edge 22” back 4’ from ground)
 - o Large array will be put between Library and Hocking River
 - o Will be secured by fence; not available to public
 - o Pollinators will be planted around and will be low maintenance
- East State Dog Park site ground mount array
 - o Portion of dog park will be used
 - o Other things in that vicinity – restrooms, community garden, wedding park (not often used) to take into consideration
- Water Lab will have solar added to roof
- Athens City Pool
 - o Carport height solar array along frontage in the first island of parking lot
 - o Array would be similar to community center but will be more efficient
 - o Designed to offset additional pool energy consumptions during the summer
- Athens Community Center
 - o Community center roof – roof is currently needing replaced so good opportunity to include solar project in re-roofing

- Would be lower cost than adding more carports to side of center
 - 272 levee funding is for maintenance of community center building that will support part of the roof replacement
- Cost
 - Roughly 4 ½ million dollars
 - Benefits
 - City will have option to purchase the equipment after a period of time
 - Average monthly electric bill at waste water treatment plant is around \$30,000 so offset to these energy uses would be dramatic
 - Community Center is also a large energy consumer
- Discussion regarding best placement of solar array at East Side and rearranging current structures already there and possibility of placement of new tennis courts in that area as well.
- Brandon brought up concern about how APR will benefit from these solar arrays and the loss of these large flat spaces that do not flood which are hard to come by

APR Report – Erin Helms

- Personnel: in process of hiring all seasonal positions
 - Open full time custodial position
- Have started taking facility rentals
 - Currently rental numbers are small
 - Capacity restrictions
 - Talks about allowing shelter rentals: May 1st goal to launch
- Park restrooms are open
- Basketball ball hoops at ACC are back up and will be sent out on social media
- Arts
 - This weekend one of arts west’s work study students received a grant and will be hosting an Art in Armory Park event that will involve community members that want to decorate a banner
 - Banner will be stitched together and will be hung in Armory Park when finished for the month of May 18, 2021
 - Fiber install at Arts West still underway
 - Jazz Appreciation Month is this month; Emily has created online trivia, Wendy McVicker posted a Jazz Poem, and Emily will have a free jazz themed crafternoon on the last Friday of the month
 - Crafternoons at Community center – all full currently
 - Afternoon Arts program at Arts West also being received well
 - For the Love of Athens Arts Gallery is now moved over to hallway gallery at the community center

- In June the Circle Circle gallery will move from Arts West to the Community Center
 - Arts west rentals – slow start; capacity limitations may be a factor
 - Parks
 - Sandlot prep is completed
 - Fields marked and prepped, concession stand painted, dugouts powerwashed
 - Support provided for America in Bloom – mulch distributed, hanging baskets hung
 - Storybook trail at southside park
 - Camp rotan – steps and trail repair
 - West State Street Park parking lot – looking at repair
 - All water turned on and bathroom open; drinking fountains still closed
 - Recreation
 - Spring classes are currently 90% full
 - Main offerings are youth
 - Summer camp 97% full currently
 - Changed two themes due to concern over possible exclusions
 - One week is now Celebrate Me and the other is now Polar Explorers
 - Youth Leagues
 - Soccer – 151 kids signed up
 - Start Smart Soccer – 48 kids in 4 classes
 - Start Smart Baseball in summer
 - T-ball and Coach Pitch offered in summer
 - Fitness and wellness
 - Intern from Federal Hocking created walking/step challenge
 - People can log their distance at front desk
 - Goal for month of April is to collectively walk from Athens, Ohio to Naples, Florida.
 - Aquatics
 - Fees and schedules being worked on
 - Hiring still in process and training being scheduled
 - Meeting with Bobcat Swim Club
 - Pool has been power washed
 - Repairs and painting slated for beginning of May
 - Passionworks mural on splashpad – unsure of if will be completed this spring; paint is what is holding us up
 - Swim lessons will launch beginning of May
 - Current capacity limitations?
 - Current understanding is 35% capacity

- Per George 220 would be the 35% capacity
- 2019 season numbers during daily admissions – majority of dates did not exceed that number on an entire day
 - 4th of July is an outlier
- Alan brings up concern about how large that capacity sounds
- Beth: are there questions from parents about vaccines for staff?
 - Erin – not yet
- Brandon: is there a place to read policy for masks, etc.
 - Responsible Restart Ohio on coronavirus.ohio.gov and that is what we follow

Motion to Adjourn. Next meeting May 20th, 2021

- Brandon, seconded by Travis

Meeting Adjourned