

Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Date: March 18th, 2021

Time: 5:30pm

In attendance: Alan Swank, Greg Lavelle, Kathrine Ann Jordan, Travis Gatling, Terri Moore, Chelsa Morahan, Brandon Thompson, Daniel Brown

Absent: Beth Clodfelter

Approval of Agenda

Amendments:

Add AMAC update

Change Art in Public spaces agenda item to Art in City Spaces

Greg Lavelle motions to approve agenda as amended; seconded by Kathrine Ann Jordan

Agenda approved as amended by all in attendance.

February Minutes Approval

Corrections/Additions

Name correction from Beth Broad to Beth Braun

Travis Gatling motions to approve minutes as amended; seconded by Greg Lavelle

Minutes approved by all in attendance

City Council Update

Beth not in attendance tonight; skipped to next item

AMAC Introduction and Update

Chelsa Morahan gives brief introduction; she is current chair of Athens Municipal Arts Commission

New to this position and would like to work on more collaboration between the advisory board and AMAC

Works for Ohio University in conference and event services

Previous Program Specialist for Arts West

AMAC Updates

City Council voted to extend Athens Poet Laureate, Wendy McVicker, for another year. Questions can be directed to Carol Patterson, previous board chair

Carol has also provided a mock up for the mural she putting on her private retaining wall on Carpenter Street

East State Mural on Maintenance Building by Community Center

Photo shown of mural being planned to be put there; will be separate panels

Timeline – by end of spring semester for the schools

Each school will be responsible to paint their panel

Once completed, city will affix them to that wall

Alan requests putting a number such as 1797 (founding of Athens) on the train; Chelsea stated could put this recommendation in with project lead – Beth Braun

Friends of Arts West

Ad Hoc Committee - discussion about possibility of having a broader 501c3; overall still in discussion

Key to the City

Original key made in 70's; currently unable to locate information on local artist that created the original

Kelly Lawrence, AMAC Commissioner is working with Makerspace to get several 3D printed plastic copies and paint them to look like metal

Local artist will create a couple of real metal keys to hand out at Mayor's discretion

Art Inventory

City buildings, public spaces, and broaden to private property murals, OU locations

Currently starting with art in city buildings

mApp Project – OU, Nancy Stevens

Involves walking tours throughout entire area

AMAC wanting to come up with a mural walk to include both public and private property

Possibility of offering other tours as well; Mount Zion Church black history tour idea

Questions

Terri - With tours, is it self-guided/will there be QR codes?

Chelsa - Self-guided tour, go to website and go through the tours; have not hear of QR options yet, just the website at the moment.

Old Business

Update of Friends of APR

Bylaws drafted and being edited/reviewed

Will be opening a bank account soon and get some money to start coming in

Next week Terri and Shauna will be meeting to get the 501c3 process started and get form completed and hopefully filled soon

Long form vs easy form – parameters for easy form is \$50,000 but long form will allow for more money to be raised; worth it to just file long form now and have that flexibility without having to refile later if more money raised

It is likely that we could start bringing in money up to 18 months prior to 501c3 active status; still confirming

New Business

Arts

Have been working on increasing communication with and between AMAC and APR Advisory

Previous meeting talked about adding an additional liaison, Travis, along with Brandon (whom already serves on Ad Hoc committee)

Objective is to increase communication and collaboration to make sure arts are well represented on board

Travis willing to serve as additional liaison if needed

Suggestion by Alan to form subcommittee or appoint Travis and Brandon as representative

Sells Park Storyboard

16 kiosks story walk through Sells Park – cooperative effort between APR and Athens County Libraries (APR installs/maintains and ACPL switches out the stories)

Alan idea – could we use a local artist or local schools to do this once a year?

Nick Tepe from Athens County Libraries has reached out to APR to do these exact type of storyboards

Important to make sure it is representative of various identities within the community also

There is a potential to add another storywalk in another park in collaboration with the library; potential grand funding

Art in City Spaces

Working on program that aligns with inventory that AMAC is working on

Gallery at arts west; installing gallery at community center; spoken with Mayor about city hall art installation possibilities as well as other city buildings

Chelsa offers AMAC's support if needed

Parks

Pool Fees

Greg and Daniel have spent time reviewing pools in southeast Ohio

Prices varied considerably; some are members only, some don't have membership's daily entry only, etc.

Pool revenue goes towards operations with largest amount going to personnel

How will COVID affect cost, revenue, and what we would need to get close to breakeven with pool fees?

Pool fee structure would not need to go to city council for approval but it would be ran by city administration

Amenities, level of service, concessions, programming, etc. needs to be taken into consideration when determining fee structure

Three main areas need evaluated

1. Do you charge one price for all or do we separate based on resident and non-resident
2. Membership categories
3. Possibility of need for sessions depending on COVID status

Katherine Ann suggestion: fee equity is important; rather than membership could have a frequent flyer pass; ex: if go in 6 times, get 7th free

Trend nationally is to go toward resident/non-resident fee structure

Seasonal Hiring and Maintenance Update

In process of moving through seasonal hiring for summer camp, seasonal maintenance staff, and pool staff

Other agencies have been having trouble getting lifeguards and some have went to contractual services for pool operations which is concerning

Could potentially be a challenge

We currently have four applications for head guard

Terri asks board to push out positions we are hiring for if possible

Maintenance

Soccer fields and ball fields have been aerated

New nets and goals have been put on

New nets for tennis courts and will be patched to best of our ability until we can get new courts

Recreation

Summer camp

51% full within 72 hours of launching registration

Youth Sports

Start Smart Basketball and Instructional are full

Start Smart and youth Soccer – 63 kids registered so far; season will run April 19th – May 20th

Preschool numbers are up

Departmental Reports

Updates on pool facility

Touching up painting

Working with Passion Works on design and installation of passion flowers at the splash pad which has faded

Terri has concerns about fading at the pool; need to make sure what best product is to use for painting on our slides, splash pad, etc. to be safe and reduce fading

Mural for Community Center at entrance/lobby area

Currently in discussion and how could be a phased projected over 5 years – expand to other areas of facility

Working with Passion Works on this also

Bird boxes are going in on community center campus

Program op's manager met with someone from ODNR

Theme week at summer camp called “The Great Outdoors”; thought is to install bird boxes and get birds nesting so come summer the kids can be educated on nesting, etc. for area birds

Spring Fitness – open for registration

61 registered of 110 spots

Programs vary from baby yoga, tai chi, hip hop, ballet, bootcamp, adult yoga

Questions – any different pool programming this summer?

Swim lessons and pool fitness programs have been moved to Erin so George whom is new to the Facility Operations position can focus on the safety and mechanical operations of that facility

Potential for more fitness programs at the pool – yoga classes at the pool have been talked about

Covid restrictions will play a role in what we can offer

Would like to work on a shade structure over the grass area – opportunity for grants and/or partnership (look into Oak View Dermatology)

Movie night at the pool and other event possibilities at the pool

Greg recommends checking with OU Bobcat Swim Team for lifeguards

Misc.

There were trees cut down at Camp Rotan without permission and this incident is now in the hands of APD for investigation

Greg – In May OU is resurfacing their tennis courts if APR would like to get in touch with them since the crew will already be here so they could assist or do the needed patching unless it is being done in house.

Upcoming

Next meeting is April 15th

Kathrine Ann and her students will be sharing their work on racial equity

Greg motions to adjourn meeting; Kathrine Ann seconds

All in favor, meeting adjourned.