

Nov 12, 2024 | 📅 AAPA meeting

Board Meeting, Monday, October 28, 2024

2:00 pm Tennis Center

Attendees: *Kevin McHugh, Cynthia Fortson, Heather Jarboe, Michele Newton, Cynthia MacDonald, Vickie Edwards. Bradley Martin (absent)*
Advisors: *Joan Baird, Lilly Garrett, Pat Pino, Penny Adams*

Minutes: October minutes were approved.

Action items

- Updates on ACC plans for Pickleball Courts
 - Michele invited Paul Sinon and Les Shindelman to discuss conversations they have had with ACC Leisure Services. Paul and Les are local pickleball players who share an interest in the creation of additional playing spaces. They have met several times with the Director of ACC Leisure Services, Kent Kilpatrick. (kent.kilpatrick@accgov.com · 706-613-3800)
 - Paul shared that he and Les asked Kent about how the community can get more spaces to play outdoor pickleball. They learned that the Tennis Center tennis courts were provided in part by grants from the USTA. Kent informed them that there are no funds available to build dedicated outdoor pickleball courts. However, Kent explained that Leisure Services has funds for creating courts at Sandy Creek on the space where there had been tennis courts years ago as well as funds to refurbish the courts at Satterfield. According to Kent, the plans are to make both of those courts dual tennis/pickleball courts.
 - Les reported that Kent told them bids are supposed to go out in January for 6 dual courts at each location. Les shared neither group, tennis players or pickleball players want dual courts. He recommended that a member from each group should meet with Kent and propose that the courts at Sandy Creek be dedicated pickleball courts and the courts at Satterfield be dedicated tennis courts. The Tennis community would like to hold larger tournaments at the Tennis Center but would need the courts at Satterfield as well in order to do so. They cannot hold official tournaments on dual marked courts. Having pickleball courts on the west side of Athens would be beneficial to the pickleball community. Les encouraged the AAPA to contact the executive director for the Clarke/Oconee Tennis Association and seek agreement to make the above proposal to Kent regarding the creation of dedicated courts. AAPA Advocate Joan Baird contacted Robin Stevens, the Executive Director of the Clarke/Oconee Tennis Assoc. Robin agreed to attend a meeting with Kent with

both Joan Baird and AAPA board member Michele Newton to share their proposal.

- Based upon their experiences meeting with Kent and Les's experience working with the Airport Authority, they believe that the AAPA Board should increase their advocacy efforts with the ACC Leisure Services and with the ACC Commission. They recommended the following:
 - Holding regular meetings with Mr. Kilpatrick to share concerns and get updates on the status of creating pickleball courts in Athens.
 - Attend ACC Commission meetings and bring a group of pickleball players.
 - Request to speak with the commissioners in groups of 2-3 several times per year or more frequently.
 - Provide the ACC Commissioners with pickleball numbers, (i.e. AAPA membership, numbers of players using outdoor courts in Athens, and projected numbers of new players to the sport.)
 - Attend public hearings on the ACC budget.

- The AAPA Board asked Les to serve as an advisor related to our mission of increasing spaces for outdoor play. He agreed to do so.

- Christmas Float
 - Cynthia Fortson shared that our AAPA application to have a float in the Athens Christmas parade was approved. Cynthia and her volunteers will meet on Wednesday, November 13, 2024 to create plans for decorating the float. The board approved a \$300 budget for supplies for the float.

- AAPA Brochure & Postcard
 - Lilly shared samples provided by Tim Rogan. The Board discussed having both a brochure and a postcard or just using one of these. The Board decided to use the AAPA postcard with a QR code for membership application for 2024-25. Lilly will ask Tim to place an order.

- Community Day at Bishop Park- tabled this item until next meeting

- New business/open discussion
 - Lilly recommended setting up a GroupMe for the AAPA board to make communication more efficient. All AAPA board members were added to an "AAPA Board" GroupMe.
 - Kevin reported that invoices will go out to AAPA members for updating membership by the end of November.

- Set next meeting date- December 9, 2024 2pm at SEC Tennis Center