

Board Meeting, Monday, August 11, 2025

2:00 pm Tennis Center

Attendees: *Kevin McHugh, Cynthia Fortson, Heather Jarboe, Michele Newton, Cynthia MacDonald, Bradley Martin*

Advisors: *Joan Baird, Penny Adams, Pat Pino, Pam Benson (absent), Lilly Garrett (absent)*

Minutes: July 14, 2025 minutes were approved.

Action items

Treasurer's Report

- Kevin shared that he paid \$300 for the website hosting renewal. He reported that the association is gaining 10-15 new members each month
- It was noted that the YWCO and the First United Methodist Church are in need of more pickleballs.

Update with Leisure Services

- Cynthia M. referred members to the email she wrote to Alex Bond with ACC Leisure Services. She shared that she had emailed Alex 6 different times over the past 6 weeks, with no response to any emails, so she sent the following email:

Date: Tue, Jul 29, 2025 at 1:52 PM

Subject: AAPA and Leisure Services

To: Alex Bond <Alex.Bond@accgov.com>

Hey Alex,

We are just wondering if there is someone else we, as the Athens Area Pickleball Association board, should be connecting with to discuss pickleball with the Leisure Services? I'm not trying to be rude or disrespectful, but since you seem very busy and haven't responded to emails over the past month and a half, we aren't sure what our best steps are for staying in touch and feeling heard. If someone else is able to respond quicker or has more time to coordinate with us, please let me know, and I'll reach out to them. Thank you!

- Alex responded with an email stating ACC Leisure services likes for groups to be connected with the supervisor of the site where the group functions, but since our group is at several sites, he suggested a few different people to reach out to. He shared that Trevor Ross is the division head and is over the community centers, Satterfield, Southeast Clarke Park (SEC), and Bishop Park. Jesus Ozuna is head of the Athletics cost center and based out of SEC and Satterfield. Julia is involved with projects, so she could be our contact re: lighting and re-surfacing concerns. He also shared that he needs to work on an MOU with our group to formalize our relationship once some other projects they are working on have been completed.

- Happy Hour Recap from July 15, 2025
 - Cynthia M. reported about 40 people attended the Happy Hour hosted by the AAPA.

- New business/open discussion
 - Cynthia F. expressed a concern from several members about the board sponsoring tournaments outside of Athens. Cynthia M. explained that the role of the board is to support Athens Area Pickleball, but it is not the function of the board to provide tournaments. In the Athens area, there are not enough dedicated courts to have a tournament that is cost effective. The board can offer some financial support for others who provide local tournaments that are open to all players.

 - Heather mentioned that a tournament was set up for the YWCO last year, but it was cancelled due to lack of interest. Cynthia shared that many folks have enjoyed playing at the Athens Sports Arena and have asked about having some type of competition there. Michele asked Cynthia if she believes that some members would be willing to play in a round robin type competition if it is held at the Athens Sports Arena. Cynthia acknowledged that some members may prefer a less competitive format than an official tournament. She agreed to speak with the owner and see if he is interested in hosting such an event. The board agreed that they would be interested in offering some financial support for a less competitive format for game play, if others, such as the owner of the Athens Sports Arena, will host the event.

 - Michele reported that she attended the ACC Commissioners' Meeting on August 5, 2025. She shared that it was very educational to see how the meetings are run and to hear community input. Michele encouraged the board to have 1-2 board members attend commission meetings monthly (first Tuesday at 6pm) to learn more and see how we might work with the commissioners on pickleball projects. Members agreed to communicate with each other about attending the meetings. Michele reminded the board that the agendas and recordings of the meetings are posted online.

 - Pat Pino reminded the board that the annual meeting for September is approaching. The board agreed to host this meeting on Sunday, September 28, 2025. Pat will reach out to Pittard Park to reserve the pavilion. Pat will also request quotes for barbecue for the annual meeting from the Butt Hutt and from the Saucehouse.

- Set next meeting date- September 15, 2025, 2pm at SEC Tennis Center.