

MINUTES

Recreation Advisory Board/Tree Board/Little League Board Department of Parks and Recreation

The Recreation Advisory Board/Tree City USA Board/Little League Board met in a scheduled meeting on Thursday, October 23rd, 2025, at 12:00 pm.

Upon a call the following members were present:

Linda Long, Johnny Coffman, Ron Starr, Bob Miller, Marry Scudder, and Moises Contreras

Upon a roll call the following members were absent: Larry Rhodes

The following guests and staff members were present:

Matt Siniard, Derek Phillips, Reya Ingraham-Curtiss, Leah Goins, and Anthony Raper.

The following decisions were made and ordered as part of the records of the Recreation Advisory Board/Tree City USA Board/ Little League Board.

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MINUTES

12:03pm- Minutes for meetings held on August 14, 2025, were handed out and reviewed with no changes suggested.

Motion made by Bob Miller, seconded by Moises Contreras to approve the minutes.

Motion Carried.

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NEW BUSINESS

Special Guest – Meredith Wilson – 12:05pm

Meredith Wilson from Friendly City Festivals joined the meeting to discuss the turnout from Pumpkintown 2025. Pumpkintown brought and estimated 35,000 people from all over to the City of Athens. Because of this substantial growth, she brought her concerns of the electrical available in Downtown Athens.

Tournament Fee Schedule Change - 12:25pm

Matt presented the new Tournament Packet to the board. He stated the changes and new packet had already been approved by the City Council due to how the dates fell for the City Council Meeting and the Recreation Advisory Board meeting. Linda Long requested it be recorded that she did not vote on the Tournament Packet changes. He explained the increase in the tournament fees is to stay competitive, help with the total cost of installing artificial turf on all five fields at Athens Regional Park, and encourage larger groups to host tournaments with the City. The tournament fees changed from \$200/day to \$500/day, and the lights increased from \$5/hour to \$15/hour.

Market Park Improvements - 12:45pm

Matt spoke of several different projects to improve Market Park. This includes constructing a pathway to the water wheel, updating the drainage issues in the grass areas, and planting trees to reduce noise pollution from Green Street. There was a continuation in the discussion proposed by Meredith Wilson to address the electrical capacity and find solutions that are capable of handling the demand Market Park faces. The board was in agreement that the next step for Market Park would be the electrical improvements.

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REPORTS

McMinn County Little League 2023-2025 Cost Analysis – Derek Phillips – 1:10pm

Derek presented the 2023-2025 Little League Cost Analysis to the board with several key notes – Coach Pitch umpire rate increased from \$35 to \$40 in 2025, umpire scheduling fee increased from \$5 to \$6 per game in 2024, and official Little League balls have risen from \$49 a dozen \$54. No comments or suggestions were made from the board.

Ron Starr moved for Matt Siniard to take to the City Council the suggestion of purchasing new electrical equipment and to move forward with electrical improvements at Market Park; seconded Johnny Coffman.

PASSED

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Starr, Coffman, Scudder, Long, Contreras, Miller

NAYS: None

Absent: Larry Rhodes

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ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:25pm.