

## Minutes

### Downtown Decatur Neighbors

11 November 2015

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm.

I September Minutes - Motion was made to approve as posted on the DDN website, seconded and approved unanimously.

II Guests from Decatur's Active Living Board's Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Anne Abramowitz and Jack Kittle were introduced. They look forward to working with us on the Crosswalk project and other future endeavors.

III Treasurers' Report – George Dusenbury - **NOTE: Please step up to help your downtown organization by serving as the Treasurer.** Thanks to some donations, all bills have been paid and DDN has its first surplus of \$200.

#### IV Committee Reports

- A. Public Spaces - Nikki Economou – Decatur's Environmental Sustainability Board is starting a Natural Systems Committee with several other organizational representatives who embrace the goal of preservation & addition of greenspaces and have expertise in the area. Nikki and George will participate on behalf of DDN and our goal for a downtown park and additional downtown greenspace. Their first activity will be to develop an RFP (Request For Proposals) for a needs assessment of greenspaces and waterways and to address a number of other related issues.
- B. Communications - Judi Bodinger - There was a full house for the Candidate Forum, all candidates attended. DDN received appreciation from several citizens. We have an email list of 100 and are working to grow that number and Facebook is approximately 350. Information on the "Better Together" community meeting will be posted on website.
- C. Codes and Ordinances – Pete Pfeiffer – In addition to advocating for the Crosswalk recommendations, the committee has additional recommendations on generally crossing the street; based on real life experiences. They include: 1.) Need police enforcement when cars do not stop for pedestrians in the crosswalk. When they are sitting in car "watching" as they do periodically in front of Thumbs Up but do not ticket cars for not stopping for pedestrians in the crosswalk it gives the signal that its OK. 2.) If a block has mid block crosswalks THEN police should enforce jaywalking laws. 3.) Police should do periodic "stings" on cars not stopping for peds in crosswalks.
- D. Seniors – Lila Miller – They are extending their outreach to Philips Tower and Clairmont Oaks to invite them to their Transportation meeting about Common Courtesy (the non profit that provides alternative transportation to their chapters).

V Group discussion on the Crosswalk Recommendations Using the Comments handout. (Attached in the Record) – George Dusenbury - Reviewed each recommendation for clarity and additional comment. Noted that we will not address redesign issues and those who are interested should also review the Transportation Redevelopment Plan for intersection improvements. Some of the comments include (others are noted on the Comment sheet in the record). Specific: Add a crosswalk at N. McDonough and Trinity. There was lively discussion on the pros and cons of 3 Way Stops. No consensus at this time and no one had data. General: The idea of making a pedestrian only public space on Ponce de Leon Ave from Commerce to Church St. was brought up again. Add handrails to the steps in the Agnes Scott tunnel; Enforcement; Additional Safe Routes to schools.

Unanimous vote to Approve the crosswalk recommendations with additions, based on a Motion by Joan Carr that was seconded.

Buddy Harrell, Planning Committee Chair, will present the Recommendations to the City Commission on Monday December 7 during the formal petition segment at the end of the meeting. Please attend to show the importance of this issue.

Watch for email campaign information on the Need for Downtown Decatur Plan to be conducted before the Commission's January 17 retreat.

Elections at January annual meeting - we especially NEED a TREASURER.

Next Meeting: Wednesday January 13<sup>th</sup> 7:00 PM Decatur Recreation Center.

Submitted by: Kathie Gannon, Secretary.