

Minutes from DDN Board meeting 09/07/2016

Present: George Dusenbury, Nikki Economou, Pete Peiffer, Lila Miller, Buddy Harrell

Absent: Kathie Gannon, Sara Sullivan

Actions:

- Minutes from the previous Board meeting was approved.

- Treasurer's report: Sara was not there, so George reported on her behalf. There has been no substantial change from the previous report. We will probably be requested to support the park efforts. We ordered 2000 of the Park informational cards. Nikki **distributed** 1000 of them, and there are 1000 remaining.

- Discussion of Board makeup for 2017. Judi is moving to Colorado, so we need to find someone to take over Communications. Everyone else with the possible exception of Sara is good for next year. Since Sara was not there, George will follow up with her. George also discussed we need to find an eventual replacement for himself.

Committee Reports:

Planning and Development:

Buddy discussed next week's presentation to the general membership. It will be by John Maximuk, Director of Design and Angela Threadgill, Director of Planning. The program will be on the process for new development and associated permits and variances.

Prepared Response to City on the 2016 comp plan update: After publication of the preliminary report, P&D committee met and decided to prepare response. Response was due the day Labor Day. A final update is due later this month. Our response to City basically reflected our disappointment over failure to mention a Downtown master plan or commitment for a downtown park.

Nikki brought up transparency initiative. Can that be somehow brought into the upcoming presentation on development process? BH to follow up to see if that can be brought in.

There was discussion of a presentation for the November meeting (which will be the Wednesday after election). Can we get an update from Courtney on pedestrian (crosswalks, sidewalks, transportation) issues? Lila will work on this, and will contact Courtney to explore.

Public Spaces and Green Space:

Nikki – information cards were distributed during the book festival. People Nikki approached seemed to be knowledgeable of the effort and options avail. Also, we had a successful meeting and presentation on park efforts at the recent Saturday meeting at the Library.

Discussed we would still be using the Decatur 501c3 for fund raising.

There is a Committee formed including George and Nikki to assist with Park efforts including outreach, communications, fund raising, and other.

There are 5 potential spaces being looked at for a park

Discussion of reduced tax structure at North Decatur and Church in return for green space and speculation of why we don't seem to see this option considered in Decatur?

Ordinance and Enforcement:

Pete indicated they could not meet as scheduled. They previously had met with Lt. Clark. George asked if we could have a January meeting with Police? Pete discussed pamphlet or information card to be handed out to pedestrians, outlining hazards of distractions from cell phones, bikes, cars, etc. We then discussed having Chief Booker coming and discussing what trends are being seen in the downtown area. Pete is to check into that option for January.

Seniors:

Lila – Discussed what is happening with seniors getting reduced taxes. Discussed process to reduce taxes, and that a vote is to take place in Nov. Lila is to reach out to city if they have a flyer that explains the tax issue and process.

Communications:

Judi – has been busy communicating, 176 people on email list, over 600 likes on Facebook, 239 likes on parks page, redesign of web site with some improvements, will be sending out to by email the topic for this months meeting.

Discussed potential replacements for Judi, somebody good on Facebook; she will be available through mid-Dec, and she can do some work from there if needed.