

MINUTES

Downtown Decatur Neighbors General Meeting

January 10, 2018

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm by George Dusenbury, President.

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

II **Treasures Report** – DDN has a balance of \$588.02.

III **Elections** – The Board proposed a slate of officers, the same people serving with one change nominating Betty Blondeau for Public Spaces Chair. No nominations from the floor. The slate was properly motioned, seconded and approved.

President – George Duensbury

Pres.-Elect – Vacant

Secretary – Kathie Gannon

Treasurer – Tom Frangos

Communications – Jim Diez

Public Spaces – Betty Blondeau

Codes and Ordinances – Pete Pfeiffer

Seniors – Lila Miller

Planning & Development – Buddy Harrell

NOTE: A volunteer is needed for Pres. - Elect

IV **NEW City Commissioner Kelly Walsh** for District 1 shared her experiences to date; sworn in last week and attended her first commission meeting. Her perspective is as a family user of the City. She lives in Great Lakes neighborhood; is in a small business and works downtown; walks her kids to school; and they have experienced crime. Her focus now listening to our concerns and get to know our organization as well as the other neighborhoods she represents. Walkability of the City was a campaign topic and is a good way to learn the city. Greenspace is also important to her and a way to build community. She was on the Active Living Board and their issues coincide. She wants us to work on ideas with her and be creative; she is learning the constraints, which are part of the discussion so she invited Lyn Menne and Commissioner Tony Powers with her tonight to help answer questions.

Tony Powers had to leave early and gave us brief bullet points: **.Transportation Plan** – in progress. **.UMCH** Citywide visioning to start soon and will be a multi-year process. **.Downtown Parks** – look at “Pocket Parks,” Need creative use of space. **.Annexation** – Status quo, if something changes in the session and they have to be defensive, they will let us know.

Kelly wants to hear our priorities. They have 2-day retreat soon to build priorities for the coming year.

Condition of downtown Sidewalks, it's a Safety concern. SPLOST will provide some new money but have to prioritize. Safe Routes to Schools is a priority. The 10 Year Capital Plan has to be reviewed and updated. Crosswalks. Have been improved but not fully and the Seniors in Oliver House are still waiting for theirs. We will again share our Recommendations Report with her and Re-Submit it through the Transportation Plan. It is a way to help downtown be "Senior-centric."

Noise and Light Nuisances. Everything starts at 7AM and its dumpsters clanging, trucks backing up, leaf blowers all at same time. Downtown is vertical, linear, impervious surface so no place for the noise to go. There are impacts to health when living in this constant nuisance.

City Not enforcing Smoking Ban in the Square. It's in the ORD and have been many requests to post the signs. If comfortable, ask people to not smoke (would be easier if could point to the signs). Signs to go up soon.

Crime. Has been a spiked. Will now see if it stays higher or goes down. City has raise salaries and they are looking for Grants to continue improvements.

Need a Plan. It was explained how much we did to introduce the City to our Needs via the Comp Plan Update, which we did based on other commissioners suggestions; many downtown residents took part and formal recommendations submitted so it was very disappointing that they weren't given attention. It was a campaign commitment & will continue to be our priority.

The City will be more conscientious in the "next city master plan" as we are on the radar. She suggests that we develop our "collective vision" and our own work product to start with.

V Committee Reports – NOTE - All committees need volunteers to do the work FOR YOU! Please see meeting times on our website and join us.

A. Planning -Buddy reports that while he and K. Gannon are working on the westponce initiative we are observing the Downtown Development Authority meetings to learn from them what is in the works for downtown. 2nd Friday at 8:00AM.

B. Seniors – Lila reports that they are seeking a representative from every senior facility in downtown area. They meet at Oliver House.

C. Codes & Ordinances – Pete was left out of the initial slate of officers so his vote/re election was held at this time.

D. Public Spaces – Betty will be setting a new time to meet and they are looking at pocket park spaces around the parking areas at the courthouse square.

Submitted by Kathie Gannon, Secretary