

MINUTES

Downtown Decatur Neighbors General Meeting

May 9, 2018

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm by Buddy Harrell and Kathie Gannon filling in for George Dusenbury, President.

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

II Treasures Report – DDN has a balance of \$730.

Our guest was introduced. Poul Olson, Communications and Development Officer for the Task Force for Global Health a downtown neighbor. The Task force is the largest non-profit in the southeast and 2nd largest in the United States (behind United Way). They are in the midst of a \$6m renovation of the former County Clark Harrison building. Their staff has doubled in the last 5 years and they are glad to be able to expand right here in Decatur as they work to raise their profile and participate more in the community. They do their work through partnerships with organizations all over the world. They bring their partners to training and meetings here and now can host them in Decatur with their expanded space. They are known for their work eliminating eye diseases and polio eradication in poor nations and will soon begin a new project to eliminate Leprosy. Courtney Duesenbury (yes they are related) will be heading it up. The information was well received and we look forward their public programming later in the year. Watch DDN website and Facebook for information.

Group Participation Program - Buddy went over the information from the City, presented at our last meeting, regarding pedestrian safety in light of the tragic pedestrian accident on church. Kathie reviewed the information received from meetings with the County and GDOT – both our GDOT Commissioner, Robert Brown and Chief Engineer for our District 7, met with us. Outside of some signal time changes there seems to be very little that can be done in the infrastructure arena. The idea of changing Commerce from a state truck route to a local road was brought up and making the western Kroger driveway a right turn only for exiting were the only doable ideas. That leave enforcement and What we can do Ourselves. So we did an Open Mic to share Ideas – Big and Small – to see if any create enough interest to garner volunteers to try and pursue. We went beyond our time limit and did not make any decisions on what may be doable and Who would help – TO BE CONTINUED. Our “New” Public Safety Committee will be in charge of the follow up so please come to the next meeting and/or give your contact info to Pete Pfeiffer.

List of Ideas:

- Entryway Signs on each end of Ponce and Commerce - "This is NOT a Speedway. Along the same vein-
- Speed Humps or bumps with Signage at the entryway to downtown to note that this is a Pedestrian area.
- Volunteers in Pace Cars driving the speed limit during the worst times. Hope it will help if get the "new" trolley cars, as they should go the speed limit.
- Police "stings" at crosswalks for cars not stopping for peds and for speeding in downtown.
- Awareness Campaign of our responsibility to look out for others in crosswalks. Use little signs that say, "watch out for others."
- It was noted that Hilary Merlin, the daughter of Ruth our pedestrian traffic victim, has started an Awareness Campaign thru GO FUND ME using Magnets that say "I STOP FOR PEDS."
- Portable speed flashing signs to slow down traffic.
- Eliminate as many mid-block driveways as possible. If the driveway cannot be eliminated make them NO LEFT TURN – Right Turn Only wherever possible.
- Inventory driveways to see if some of the two-way driveways could be 1 way in if there is another way out.
- Create a closed to traffic area near the Square; from Church St to Commerce.
- Follow the Budget and resources put into sidewalk repair. Is there a 5 yr. Plan? (Active Living could be a partner.)
- Find the Safety Practices that work for Public parking Garages that empty into the sidewalk to get cars to STOP before entering the sidewalk/ped area.
- Scramble some intersections (It was noted this would take a high technology that we don't have now.)
- Reduce the speed limit AND then Enforce it.

Next Steps: DDN Committee will Review Ideas and see how they can be organized, prioritized and What we can do vs. what the city or others can do.

It was suggested that some may Need Research or that there may be National Models or Best Practices. Be Continued. Please join this important committee work to be a part of the Solution.

Submitted by: Kathie Gannon, Secretary.