

MINUTES

Downtown Decatur Neighbors General Meeting

July 11, 2018

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm by George Dusenbury, President. Kathie Gannon introduced the many guests this evening from #westponce group.

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

II Treasures Report - DDN has a balance of \$934.

III Committee Reports -

Greenspace - Betty Blondeau - The committee worked diligently for several years on finding a downtown Park site but had no success with the city on any options. Will reevaluate their direction. Will consider helping to strengthen tree Ordinance with guidance of City Arborist. Also alerted us to the Save Decatur Trees campaign.

Planning - Buddy Harrell - Committee members have been heavily involved in the launching of #westponce. In the Fall they will start up again. New members are welcome and needed.

Public Safety - Pete Pfeiffer - The board has agreed to change the name of the old Ordinances Committee to Public Safety to reflect the desires of many members to work on Safety issues. A list of which was generated at a previous meeting and it will form the focus of this "new" committee. It's not too late to join in and help - the committee will meet on the last Wed of the month when there is NO DDN meeting - so Aug and Oct.

IV Program - #westponce group - Kathie Gannon and Dan Reuter gave the background of how this group had its genesis in the DDN Planning Committee looking at how to have input in the future plans for downtown. Decided to start even smaller with the area basically from Commerce Ave. along W Ponce to Trinity. Business owners, property owners and residents were invited to meet and figure out if there was interest in building community and working on joint concerns. Initial members in addition to Kathie and Dan included Bob Light from Pastries A-Go Go, Michael Minga from VIVID, and representatives from Sharian Rugs and the adjacent neighborhood. Kick-Off meetings were held last September and mutual concerns were identified. Businesses were concerned about all of the city Event activity focused on the Square. Residents were concerned about sidewalk and traffic safety (they were later referred to DDN.) Also, what will WestPonce look like in the future with its current land use and zoning.

The group decided that the best thing to start with was to develop a signature event to call attention to West Ponce. The City put together a Movie Night but the merchants did not feel the benefit of that and a WestPonce Music Stroll was born. The first, of hopefully an Annual event will be on Oct. 6 from Noon to 8:00 featuring bands in 8 locations on West Ponce.

Watch for advertisements and come out to buy a T-shirt and support this free event. **Sponsorships are WELCOME** (Contact Kathie Gannon). After the Event the #westponce group will resume monthly meetings at 6:30 PM the 1st Tuesday of the month.

Several Businesses from #westponce had displays at the meeting and introduced themselves:

Dancing Goats- Robert Hayes (formerly w/) – co-chair of the Music Stroll; Pastries A-Go-Go- Bob Light –founding member with 23 yrs. in downtown Decatur – his motivation is to find ways to get small businesses to stay in downtown; Aimee Jewelry and Fine Art – Stacy – artistic jewelry and they also fix and make jewelry and have art shows; Huntington Learning Center – Shelly Howell – they provide tutoring for all ages;

#Westponce Mission Statement:

To work together as a Community to promote the West Ponce area, to support our businesses and improve the quality of life of our residents by planning for NOW and for the FUTURE.

Remember to Visit our Downtown Merchants and put Oct 6 on your calendar for the West Ponce Music Stroll.

Next Meeting Wednesday September 12, 7:00PM Decatur Rec Center on Sycamore.

Submitted by: Kathie Gannon, Secretary