

## MINUTES

### Downtown Decatur Neighbors General Meeting

March 13, 2019

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

George expressed appreciation to Lee Williams and the Rec staff for their gracious help with meeting spaces.

**I Minutes** - Motion was made to approve Jan. Minutes and Approved.

**II Treasurers Report** - \$742 Balance. Two expenses are pending and a gracious donation was made.

**III Business Sponsor - Decatur Farmers Market** was recognized. Casey explained the mini markets being held at the Decatur/DeKalb YMCA until April 3<sup>rd</sup>. \$5 gift certificates were given to all attendees. The summer Markets begin on Wednesdays April 10 and Saturdays on April 13.

**IV Program** – Andrea Arnold was welcomed back to DNN, in her new capacity as City Manager. The hot topic is **SCOOTERS**.

The fast appearance, litter and strangeness of the devices did not seem like a good start up business model and their first reaction was annoyance. But upon reflection and looking at their Policy of promoting all forms of transportation they felt they needed to dig deeper and see if there is a win –win for city, citizens and the companies. Two companies met with city officials and only LIME agreed to sign a written agreement with the City while they looked at an Ordinance. Elements of the Agreement – which could go into an Ordinance include:

- Up to 75 scooters at a time and have to make a case that more are needed
- Not on sidewalks – same as bicycles
- Should be 18 years old to operate
- Parking locations cannot block driveways, sidewalks & ingress/egress to buildings.
- They pay an annual fee.
- City Insurance indemnifies City.

NO helmet language included. Next Step is to develop an Ordinance for “motorized” scooters and bicycles. Wednesday 3/27 will be a public information & input meeting. The State has not regulated but created the name and gave local jurisdictions regulatory control. Once an Ordinance is passed the Police and Public Works would enforce.

Q and A additional information: **If problems, text or call Lime at 1-888-LIME-345.**

Once an Ordinance is passed, Decatur will have authority to enforce their law. Lime pays City \$4000 under the Agreement. City will not be tracking accidents. DDN Public Safety committee has been discussing the issue and will send in comments. Their concern is that no one enforces the No bikes on Sidewalks law now, so safety for pedestrians will continue to be their concern even with an Ordinance. Also car safety is a problem as they weave in and out to avoid scooters they could endanger other cars or walkers.

For NOW Call LIME with concerns Or if see dangerous behavior call the police. If neither of these work call Ms. Arnold.

### **V Committee Reports (Meeting Dates should be posted on website and Facebook)**

**Planning – Buddy Harrell** – committee didn't meet in Feb. They want members so please step up, as we will now be looking at how to get more attention for Downtown's neighborhood in the next Citywide planning which starts this year. Committee meets at the Marlay, 4:00 in the month that DDN does NOT meet.

**Public Safety – Nancy Hall reported for Pete Pfeiffer** – They have inventoried needed crosswalk and side walk upgrades. Hope to influence money for some of these in the City Budget. March 19 is a Budget meeting. Committee meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed, of even months at 7:00PM.

**Public Green Spaces – Betty Blondeau and Lisa Schreiber** – We are now working with City to make the space on Trinity and Commerce (across from the apartments under construction) useable. City has some money and we are in discussions with PATH Foundation to donate a Plan. It will be a temporary greenspace as it is owned by the School System which plans to put a school there one day.?

The Beacon Hill area will be putting up new sign toppers.

“Save Decatur Trees” is working with concerned volunteers to strengthen the Decatur Tree Ord. by saving “high value” trees. They have a Facebook page.

**By – Laws Changes as recommended by the Board – Kathie Gannon** – The main changes are 1) to allow for broader participation by including *nearby neighbors with an interest in the quality of life in downtown Decatur*. 2) Officers to allow for a *past- President* rather than the President elect and to change the Codes Committee to reflect their actual work in *Public Safety*. Motion was made to Approve the changes and Approved.

Submitted by Kathie Gannon, Secretary.