

## MINUTES

### Downtown Decatur Neighbors General Meeting

November 13, 2019

Meeting was called to Order at 7:00 PM by Betty Blondeau and Kathie Gannon.

Treasurer, Tom Frangos, gave the Year End Report noting a contribution of \$50. Balance is \$539.

Public Safety Report, Pete Pfeiffer, asked for volunteers to Sign-Up tonight OR contact him. They will have their reorganization meeting in January.

Green Space, Betty Blondeau reported on conversations with school system representatives and they are favorable to using part of the Trinity/Commerce green space area as a Park. More conversation is needed.

No Reports from Planning and Seniors.

Secretary asked for a Motion of Approval and Vote on the May and September Minutes as posted on the website. Both were Approved.

Betty Blondeau introduced our guest business, PhoKing on West Ponce. They have 3 other locations and Decatur is their newest. He presented attendees with coupons and an invitation to come by for dinner.

Our newly elected City Commissioners and School Board members introduced themselves to DDN and gave us a brief view of their Visions for 2020.

Tony Powers – City Commission (incumbent) – spoke about the importance of the 2030 Strategic Plan and how Legacy Park is a “game changer” for Decatur. Tony grew up here so considers his activities as paying his civic rent. He is looking forward to Decatur’s 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Tasha White – School Board (incumbent) – Her focus will continue to be on equity. A very important decision to be reviewed and decided upon is the senior tax exemption. To give input and keep up with the discussion there will be surveys, public comment at meetings – the Board meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tue at 6:30 PM. She encouraged downtown residents to also reach out to them by email and phone.

Jana Johnson –Davis – School Board – After retiring from 8 years teaching at Renfroe, Jana thought she would write a young adult novel but friends encouraged her to run so she did. She worked on the Diversity Committee so that will continue to be a priority in her decision –making with the recruitment and retention of diverse school personnel an important part of it.

James Herndon - School Board – With a short stint as a teacher, James was very impressed with the structure of Decatur Schools. He believes that a school is better when parents are involved so that is what he has done. His goal is to leave things better than he found them and to have transparency. He encourages our contact.

George Dusenbury – City Commission – As President and founder of Downtown Decatur Neighbors he wanted to be a voice for downtown neighbors and their perspective. He has been on the other side working as staff for government and now he is on yet another side and realizes he has a lot to learn. Wants us to be involved in the 2030 Vision so we can express ideas about transportation and development, parks and green space. Affordable housing will be coming up soon. He will ask questions in order to learn.

Lesa Mayer – City Commission – Lesa was called out of town and will visit a future DDN meeting.

NEXT MEETING: January 8, 2020, Annual Elections

Submitted by: Kathie Gannon, Secretary