

Downtown Decatur Neighbors General Meeting

January 8, 2020

George Duesenbury, presiding over his final meeting, called meeting to Order at 7:00 PM. A Special Thank You was expressed for his years of leadership to the Association.

Visitors: Decatur Farmers Market announced their winter hours, 3:00 – 6:00 on Wednesday at the YMCA. In April the Summer Market opens with a Sat. location in Oakhurst. Lesa Mayer, new City Commissioner from Oakhurst was unable to visit our last meeting so wanted to say HI and remind members that she is interested in our Downtown perspective. Our business sponsor Pho King brought food to sample and coupons for their West Ponce location. Commissioner Kelly Walsh also on hand.

MINUTES: The November Minutes were Approved as posted on the website.

ELECTIONS: The Secretary opened the floor for nominations to each Board position No nominations from the floor. Motion was made to accept the Slate as presented and the following were Approved by voice vote.

President - Pete Pfeiffer; Past-President – Vacant (Note: George Dusenbury, Past Pres. Is now an elected official and no longer available for a Board position.)

Secretary – Kathie Gannon; Treasurer – Tom Frangos;

Public Safety Chair – Nancy Hall; Planning Chair – Vacant;

Green Space Chair – Co-Chairs Betty Blondeau and Lisa Schreiber;

Communications – Buddy Harrell; Senior Chair – Lila Miller.

PROGRAM: Linda Harris, Assistant City Manager for Communication and Economic Development on the 10-Year Strategic Plan, Vision 2030. Linda is a Decatur native, went to Decatur High School and has been with the City for 32 years. The schools and the City have become less diverse over the years. Communication with its citizens has not always been a City attribute so the *Focus* was started, a website was added when the Olympics came to town and she has since started *Decatur 101*.

A handout on the Visioning process was shared. It will be mailed to all households and they are trying to get to new residents to participate. The resulting Plan will influence the City's Budget priorities. They will recruit an Engagement Squad, website at www.decaturn2030.com and word of mouth so spread the word – Kick Off is Jan. 23, 7 – 9 PM at the Conference Center. Process will include several facilitated Roundtable discussions with 8 – 10 people.

Q and A Information:

- There are 10 categories for Roundtable discussion including Development and Greenspace.
- Need to register to go into a Roundtable.
- Entire process is 12 months and will also include surveys, presentations, Report backs from Consultants
- There is a Youth component
- While it is a high-level Vision, some Goals will have specific tasks and others will have to be developed over time.
- Questions to send to Linda to find the Answers 1.) How will the Roundtable discussions get funneled into the 12-month process? AND 2) What specifics have been Accomplished from the last Plan and What has not been done?
- Components from this process will be used to update the LCI (Livable Centers Initiative) thru ARC which now uses the entire City as its boundary and the 5 year Comprehensive Plan, a state required plan.

In closing it was noted how much the City has changed in 10 years, growing less diverse, doubling the school system, the growth downtown, a new Commission and new City Manager. They want to make sure it is a fun process and that no “pocket” of interest is missed. City hopes to make it a Fun process so spread the word and participate.

GREENSPACE COMMITTEE announced that they would be meeting next week with a School representative to talk about temporary programing for the greenspace at corner of Commerce and Trinity.

PLANNING – even though No chair at this time, DDN will identify an “Ambassador” from each downtown condo and other downtown reps to see if our interests can get some attention in this 2030 Process. It was noted that Downtown had a Plan in 1980 before all the condo/apartment residents. We have a unique perspective on downtown and are now the largest neighborhood and we want our voices heard.

Next Meeting March 11th

Submitted by: Kathie Gannon, Secretary