

DDN General Membership Meeting **MINUTES**
Decatur Recreation Center
July 13, 2022

President Kathie Gannon called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Board Members Nancy Hall, Lila Miller, Stephen Bush, and Mary Karwoski were introduced. Then all members in attendance introduced themselves and where they lived. Towne Square had the most attendees and all the condos were represented.

Jenna Mobley informed group about Decatur Farmers Market on Wed at First Baptist Church from 4-7 and at Oakhurst Scepter Brewing Arts on Saturday's from 9-1. She gave \$5 gift cards to those in attendance and encouraged them to see her at the markets. Contact is Jenna@cfmatl.org.

George Dusenbury, City Commissioner for District 1 which includes downtown Decatur, said that there is a contract pending with a national firm to conduct the Master Plan for Downtown Decatur to start in the fall. The master plan for Parks and Recreation is already in process and should be completed by the end of the fiscal year.

Kathie Gannon informed the group about the tragic accident our webmaster and neighbor Dave Schneberger had while traveling in Italy. It will be several months before he can return home.

Since Dave is the only one with password to website where minutes are posted, Kathie asked for ideas for ways to get minutes distributed and approved. Stephen Bush expressed concern about Dave Schneberger accident. He suggested posting on our Facebook page so that Minutes would be accessible for reading and comments by all. After some discussion Joy Martin moved that the minutes be posted on Facebook and then approved by the board during this interim time. Mary Karwoski seconded. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Communications chair Lisa Schreiber had a conflict and could not attend, Kathie presented the communications report. We are continuing to recruit our very important communications liaisons to connect and build community between our downtown residences. These volunteers were recognized. We still need a volunteer liaison for the ARLO, ALMI, the Loft and townhouses in the Depot district.

Chair of the **Seniors Committee**, Lila Miller reported that the Senior Residences were holding their first meetings since Covid. She attended Philips Tower, now operated by the DHA and shared info about DDN and the public engagement for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. She will attend Clairmont Oaks next week and share our downtown master plan survey.

Stephen Bush, chair of the **Public Places**, also known as our **Parks and Greenspace committee**, shared an idea on developing a downtown urban park with flexible spaces

for arts, reading, friends gathering, games and more. DDN used it for their May meeting space. The addition of trees is also a need at this “temporary” park located on Trinity Place and Commerce. That land is currently owned by Decatur Schools and is now being used as a passive space. A drawing of the walkways and flexible spaces that could be developed to connect green spots around downtown was passed around. The need for communication between the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and the Downtown Master plan was noted.

Nancy Hall explained the **Public Safety Committee’s** advocacy for improved sidewalk condition, crosswalk and lighting issues and other needs. The main project of the committee has been the sidewalk on N Candler between the Kroger and E. Ponce de Leon. John Maximuk of the City Works Department has visited the site and is advocating for a study to be done on this sidewalk. One thing that can be done by individuals is to report all safety needs to the City through the *SeeClickFix* app. We have been assured this data is collected and used even though there may be little feedback about the resolution of the problem.

Audience held discussion about our pedestrian hotspots of concern:

- Intersection of Commerce and Ponce has too many movements and confusing walk signs.
- Bus Stop across from Oliver House (in front of ALMI) was moved before construction and needs to be restored for the elderly residents there. The Safety Committee is currently investigating this issue.
- Crosswalks need repainting to be more visible. Dangerous ones need to be clearly painted.
- Speed limits need to be set and visible on bike paths for bikes and e-bikes and e-scooters. Also need “stop for pedestrian” signs.
- Commerce and Clairmont intersection is torn up and no one is working on it. Crossing and walking this area is very difficult. Understand if work is going on, but it needs to be available when work is not scheduled. It is especially difficult because of construction also on opposite street. There needs to be a defined pedestrian walkway.
- A suggestion was made to make the intersection at W. Ponce and Commerce (the CVS intersection) be changed to a “scramble”, where all cars would stop and allow pedestrians to cross through the intersection.

Mary Karwoski, chair of the **Planning and Development committee** encouraged all to be advocates for Quality of Life improvements in the upcoming Downtown Master Plan. DDN is starting their process by gathering your thoughts on issues by filling out a survey. Tonight is the first group to get the survey to be filled out during the meeting or mailed to the PO Box. Many surveys were turned in at the end of the meeting. The survey will be made available as widely as we can with MailChimp, Facebook, (hopefully the website) and have hard copied available for anyone who can take them to meetings.

The board needs a new board member to serve as treasurer. Liaisons for all downtown residences not currently being served are needed. And help is also needed with our website.

The meeting was adjourned around 8:15 PM.

The Next General Membership Meeting will be on September 14 at 7:00 PM.

Submitted by Nancy Hall