

DOWNTOWN DECATUR NEIGHBORS
GENERAL MEETING
JANUARY 10, 2024

President Katie Gannon called the meeting to order at 7:00. It was held at the Decatur Recreation Center and attended by 35 residents. Commissioner George Dusenbury was in attendance to answer our questions and concerns.

Minutes from the last General Meeting in November were approved, as written by Secretary Jo Giraud.

We said Thank You and Goodbye to Jane Yeomans for her service as Treasurer. Kathie gave her flowers. DDN's cash balance is \$750.51.

President Gannon invited Commissioner Dusenbury to give us an update:

The City had its Annual Retreat last week. City priorities for 2024 were set:

- 1) Address Transportation and Public Safety.
- 2) Enhance the Downtown Experience. Update the Unified Development Ordinance.
- 3) Continue to work with the Unhoused Population.
- 4) Establish a robust Parks and Recreation Department.
- 5) Increase Communications between City Staff and Residents.
- 6) Continue expanding Affordable Housing

President Gannon thanked residents for the strong community involvement with the creation of the Town Center Plan 2.0. DDN recognizes there are Downtown resident concerns that were not addressed in the plan. We will continue to move these projects along.

It will take you to help by joining one of our Committees:

- 1) **Public Safety**, Chaired by Nancy Hall. Partners with other Citywide Groups to focus on our sidewalks, lighting, intersections, crosswalks. MEETS 3RD TUESDAYS @ 7pm
- 2) **Parks and Green Space**, Chaired by Stephen Busch. The creation of the passive park at Trinity & Commerce is the current focus.
- 3) **Senior Downtown Residents**, Chaired by Lila Miller. Focus on concerns of residents over 55.
- 4) **Downtown Planning**, Chaired by Mary Karwosky. Assisting in implementing the Town Center Plan 2.0 and updating the Unified Development Ordinance. To include visiting other Georgia Cities to see how they are handling the same issues.
- 5) **Communications**, Chaired by Kerry O'Gorman. Website, Mail Chimp, facebook graphics.

If you would like to join a committee, please email
DowntownDecaturNeighbors@gmail.com

Past President Pete Pfeiffer gave the DDN Board Nominating Committee report. He asked for any nominations for 2024 Board Members from the floor. Seeing no nominations, he presented the Committee's recommendations for Board Members. Jane Yoemans moved to approve the slate. A voice vote was taken of all present and the Board was approved by the membership.

President: Kathie Gannon
Past President: Pete Pfeiffer
Treasurer: Ingrid Reinard
Secretary: Jo Giraudo
Communications: Kerry O'Gorman
Chair of Public Safety: Nancy Hall
Chair of Parks/Greenspaces: Stephen Busch
Chair of Senior Concerns: Lila Miller
Chair of Planning: Mary Karvosky

President Gannon gave her annual report. Our new year will focus more on adding fun to our business meetings. We will announce Meet & Greets, Field Trips, Games in the Park, and more social activities. DDN will focus on fundraising this year. Officers plan to attend Downtown residential community meetings to ask for a donation from their HOAs.

President Gannon opened the meeting for a Q+A session with Commissioner Dusenbury. Member Susan requested we reestablish and enforce the Decatur Noise Ordinance within the City limits. She has sent photos to the Commission showing trash and recycling pick up being done before the approved start time. Commissioner Dusenbury reminded us that our HOAs can call and request later pickup times.

Member Shirley asked if we should write a Citywide resident letter to Trader Joes and encourage them, again, to open a grocery in Downtown. Commissioner Dusenbury reminded us that Trader Joes has their own metrics on where to open new stores. The City has many irons in the fire and are working with a consultant to get a grocery Downtown.

Member Kelly told us about the ongoing book drive by Oliver House. They are updating their 16 year old library. Donations can be made to Lila Miller.

President Gannon introduced Marci Nessing of BODY20, a new business in Downtown. She spoke and introduced their services. A body workout using EMS fitness technology. They are located in the apartment complex at 163 Clairemont Ave.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by
Jo Giraudo, Secretary

