

**DOWNTOWN DECATUR NEIGHBORS**  
GENERAL MEETING  
MARCH 13, 2024

Before the business meeting we held a half hour Meet and Greet with snacks from Pastries A GoGo. Members were encouraged to meet new Neighbors. There were a lot of lively interactions. We will do this at every meeting. Come early and make new friends.

President Kathie Gannon called the General Meeting to order at 7pm. There were 35 people at the Decatur Recreation Center.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Jo, in the absence of Ingrid. DDN's current SouthState Checking account has a balance of \$1,199.30. Fundraising donations have started coming in. The report was approved by Members.

Secretary, Jo asked for and received approval of January's General Meeting Minutes.

Commissioner George Dusenberry presented Bob Light, retiring owner of Pastries A GoGo, a proclamation making March 13th - Bob Light Day. The proclamation honored Bob's 28 years of serving Decatur breakfast and lunch. We will miss Bob and are happy the new owners will continue his legacy.

**Committee reports:**

Nancy - Public Safety-

The City has received a Federal grant to focus on street safety. The group Safe Streets for All is involved. SeeClickFix.com is where you can report any unsafe conditions. Five street intersections are being equipped with audible walk/don't walk indicators for the blind. Calm Decatur is another street safety group assisting in road safety. Commissioner Dusenbury restated that the City needs our eyes and ears to report safety issues. Contact him.

Stephen - Parks and Green Spaces-

Conversations continue to designate the Trinity/Commerce Greenspace as an official Decatur Park. Decatur's Board of Education will work with groups like the Early Learning Center, when they would like to use it.

Mary- Planning Committee-

- 1) The City has purchased the undeveloped property 600 Commerce Dr at E Ponce. They are working with stakeholders, neighbors and professionals to determine the best use.
- 2) Mary, Kathie, and Friends of Decatur Cemetery are drafting a letter to the City with concerns about future development and the impact on the south side of the Cemetery.
- 3) The City Parking Ordinance and how it limits the needs of the house residents in the Old Depot Neighborhood. The residents need those spaces for personal use. Residents are

meeting with the City to determine how to resolve the issue. Kathie called on the Members attending to consider joining a zoning committee to assist in this and other concerns.

Kerry-Communications-

Work continues on updating the DDN website and newsletter. Facebook is seeing a big jump up in people visiting and leaving comments.

Lila-Seniors-

- 1) We are hoping to get involved in executing the City's Age Friendly Action Plan. Lila and Jo are communicating with the Lifelong Community Advisory Board.
- 2) Lila introduced 4 guests she brought from Phillips Tower. The women were welcomed by everyone.
- 3) Ex Mayor Elizabeth Wilson could not make the meeting to speak about Black Women in Decatur's History. She was Mayor from 1993-98. In her place, Lila introduced Beacon Hills resident, businessman Omer Billy Rogers. He shared stories from Beacon Hill's past and its importance in the old Decatur community. He reminded us that the original way to pronounce Decatur is "De KA' tour".

DDN's fundraising campaign has begun. The Board urged everyone to assist in raising funds for our upcoming year of sponsoring downtown events, adding snacks to our meetings, and our modest operating expenses.

Comments:

Paula Collins and Sioux Henley Campbell passed along information about the Downtown Walking Tours being offered by the Decatur History Center. They are well worth taking. Decatur has a Walking Tour brochure with several intown routes.

The next General Meeting is scheduled for May 8th in the Park at Trinity/Commerce. Sponsored by La Chiquiada (Catherine Zuber) and Cereal Lab (Cynthia Hernandez). There will be Lawn games, Birds of Georgia info, and Dekalb CEO candidates. 6:30 for meet and greet, 7 meeting.

July's General Meeting will be a field trip to a nearby downtown for lunch and a tour.

Thank you to Sioux Henley Campbell for her assistance with our Fundraising campaign.

President Gannon honored Women's History month by giving each of the women who attended the meeting a yellow carnation.

Lively conversations began again as the meeting was adjourned at 8:00.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by  
Jo Giraudo, Secretary

