

Active Living Board Meeting Minutes

March 7, 2017

Present: Cheryl Burnette, Greg White, Bill Adams, Wendy Childers, Pete Duitsman, Michael Harbin, Shelly Head, Jack Kittle, Clay Scarborough, Kelly Walsh

No public input

February minutes – approved

Update: Athletic Facilities Master Plan

- Meeting attended by Michael, Greg, Pete, Adam, Kelly and David Harbin.
- Greg: David shared with the group how track season gets difficult, they don't know ahead of time where they will be
- Many kids trying out for programs and being turned away because of space limitations.
- Renfro not able to offer track because they don't have access to one.
- Greg: Growth of youth sports; we make it look efficient but very complicated to schedule everything behind the scenes. "Pulling a rabbit out of a hat" – no one realizes how much goes into it. Not a people resource issue, but is a space issue. Lot of interest, no facilities to support the need.
- Pete: if we don't try to get a little ahead of this now will become an even bigger problem; already behind
- Greg: what was done was a *facilities* plan, not a *comprehensive* plan for active living.
- Jack: planning process, Medline – area just north of city between Dekalb industrial and Scott Blvd; 4-5 years ago ARC identified green space along creek and other pocket parks; got hung up in county bureaucracy, never was approved. ARC wants it approved because then they could give money to the county to build out these areas. Decatur and broader community would be wise to engage and help move that forward.
- Greg: more people coming into Decatur from these developments; how to upkeep facilities.
- Michael: different organizations/agencies within Decatur don't know the needs of others; need comprehensive plan, more communication.
- Los & Associates – idea for cost of comprehensive plan; to do \$120K for all; \$60 for facilities plan. Acquiring and protecting green space, do we need more facilities, do we need more staffing; want to become certified department. This would potentially start in summer, about a year to complete. May approach schools for involvement, help with funding
- Bill: studies need accurate population projections
- Greg: if we move forward will need assistance of Active Living Board.

Team Decatur/Streets Alive Event

- Envisioned to be partially a celebration of Team Decatur Grand Prix Series.
- How can we expand and make it more appealing?
- Would need some sponsors
- Cheryl: Decatur Business Association interested in doing a new event; beach party has run its course; looking for people from ALB to be involved. This from Lynn. LLC, Better Together, ALB, DBA – all talking and not duplicating.
- Maybe an event to bring the boards together, such as table top activities; in the fall 2017

Complete Gaps in trail system

- Last year – work was done
- Jack: ongoing maintenance side of facilities, and then the future capital improvements;
- PATH Decatur approved in December by Commission – master plan of PATH foundation. Very exciting – tens of millions price tag w/o funding at this point.
- SHARE Druid Hills – Safe, Healthy, Accessible Routes For Everyone (SHARE); very interested in PATH Decatur, connectivity

Sidewalk assessment/maintenance

- Map of issues was created, will bubble up to Commission; focus on highest priority – safe routes to school, senior citizens.
- 6 years at current budget didn't begin to cover all needs for maintenance
- MAK, Lenox Place – have bigger issues; technical engineering issues
- Overall – we're not spending enough money to be on track to have strong sidewalk
- Code enforcement is another issue – homeowners' responsibility – need to continue to push that.
- Would ALB suggest to commission through budget – more for sidewalk, does this ask come from ALB? Recommendations? Michael: need to make sure we're very familiar with the data; Jack can bring a recommendation forward in the next month or so
- Bill: could bring in public works/Courtney to quantify costs; Courtney in planning, this is working through the system; Michael: basically we'd help support what she is trying to do.
- Greg: interested in maintenance master plan – sidewalk, landscaping, park maintenance, building
- Michael: what about comparable communities – what do they spend compared to Decatur?
- G-DOT only supports on state highways; requirement that they make ADA compliant,

Role of ALB

- Board – role, activist; Clay – let's write up something that people can respond to – condensed version to – here is what we're doing, these are the issues, if you're interested, contact us.
- What are the components we want in there?
 - How do you get in touch?
 - What is the problem?
 - What are we working on?
 - Successes
 - Boards
 - Wendy – will craft something to respond to
- Kelly: Sidewalks – timing to correspond to back to school – lead up to start of school then focus on needs related to safe routes to school – big kick off for campaign; get safe routes committee to engage.
- Volunteers to help w/ sidewalk clean up
 - Greg has 3 dates, 30 kids, has some doing path/trail work, could potentially leverage for
- Clay: clean up streets alive event
- Let's also think about community involvement through existing groups; sports teams, downtown neighbors group
- Saturday before school starts – sidewalk maintenance day, let's all make sure sidewalks are clear; talk to David Junger, talk to Courtney – who are the players at the top level who we need to be working with. They can push out in terms of marketing. Additional resources, truck needs?

Soccer in the Streets

- Goal to giving every kid an opportunity to play soccer; mission to give access, equity;
- National effort – in town neighborhoods, turf field open, on concrete – identify underutilized space, basically creating Greenspace
- City has grant to do infrastructure – Northwest of east lake MARTA, will put down turf, take surfaces – put field on top; may not happen

Nutrition

- National Nutrition month, this week was healthy eating for families, next week Farmer's Market, eating locally (not Shelly), healthy snacks for March madness? Farm to School? Community gardens – when can you start, where are they, how do you access? Cooking for one or two?

Next meeting on April 11th because of spring break; Saturday afternoon for bike rodeo.