

January 22, 2024 Decatur ESB Meeting Minutes

Meeting began at 4:05 PM.

Attendance

- **City of Decatur:** David Nifong (Energy and Sustainability Manager), Allison Ericson (Urban Naturalist), Cara Scharer (Assistant City Manager for Public Works)
- **Board Members (8):** Alex Stewart (chair), Annie Archbold (co-chair), Mike Barcik, Andrew Hardin, Jane Lomas, Cynthia Curry, Payton Sobon, Juno Rogers
- **Others in Attendance**
 - **Organization:** Neil Frawley (Decatur resident), Joe Calo (owner of Garden Lights Landscaping Co. in North Decatur), John Riggs (Decatur resident)

1. Board Management

- a. **Approval of Minutes:** Mike moved to approve the meeting minutes from the December 15th meeting. Annie seconded. Approved unanimously.
- b. **Secretary election** Jane was elected by unanimous consent.
- c. **Staff Updates (David Nifong)**
 - i. The Public Service Commission is providing alternative solutions to GA Power's Integrated Resource Plan, which will increase customer prices due to what they say is unprecedented load growth. David meeting with them in March.
 - ii. Ga Power came up to inspect chargers at public works and application for police department as well for more electric chargers. 6 level 2 chargers.
 - iii. Decatur has finished LED lighting replacements in 8 out of the city's 10 major buildings.
 - iv. Working through Block Grant funding: \$400k for energy efficiency projects split between residential and municipal.
 - v. Budget requests to be finalized by the end of February.
 - vi. Working with Emory on a youth involvement program with students.
 - vii. Interviewing Wednesday for new board members so that we have a 9.
 - viii. Cara Scharer (assistant city manager of public works) is seeking non-competitive 319H grant funds for green stormwater infrastructure at Huron & Champlain. \$350K for a neighborhood demonstration project. Finalizing on-call engineering contract. Working with Agnes Scott to do pre- and post-monitoring of water quality.
 - ix. Allison Ericson is working on a budget for invasives removal.
 - x. Allison met with All Terrain GA to discuss the feasibility for Legacy Park to have an all-terrain wheelchair. Project is feasible but Legacy is not eligible for grant funding because it's not a state park. Wheelchair is \$15k.
 - xi. Allison also met with the city about the pond and dam at Legacy.
 - xii. Allison met with trees atlanta at the cemetery about the tree management program and invasive plant removal program. McCoy, Ebster, dog park area / Oakhurst, Glen Lake, and others. Working with Emory students on invasive plant removal. This semester's Emory students will be working

- on executing the plan laid out by last semester's students in Hidden Cove Park. This will be part of the Greenspace Alliance program she's creating.
- xiii. Kay Evanovich (Decatur's arborist) named Georgia Arborist Association's Arborist of the Year.
 - xiv. Working with Beecatur on an integrative pest management program.
 - xv. Decatur Focus - articles related to Env and sustainability, about our programs, looking for ideas for a section in the paper.

d. Board Updates

- i. **None**

2. Board Business

a. New member introduction & onboarding

- i. Members were introduced and the onboarding presentation was reviewed.
- ii. Discussed rules to remember. Important one: 3 members or more must be public, agenda published a week in advance.

b. ESB Budget Recommendation Letter review

- i. Community Energy fund - \$150,000 for weatherizing and energy efficiency
- ii. Watershed Improvement Plan (\$300,000)
- iii. Legacy Park Environmental center (\$110,000)
- iv. Public Education & Earth Day (\$10,000)
- v. EV Charging stations (\$120,000) - 6 non-connected chargers

c. Projects review & assignments

- i. Board members to add names to projects you like to work on the Projects Air Table
- ii. Decatur Focus Articles for 2024: Alex wrote the first article of 2024 for the farmers market survey.
- iii. Farmers Market Survey
 1. Discussed current location at church, safety, serving community, etc.
 2. Reviewed survey questions and how we should be asking about both farmer's market (Oakhurst and Baptist Church) Alex to add Oakhurst piece into current survey.
 3. Motion made by Annie to approve the survey with changes to add Oakhurst farmers market. Seconded by Mike, unanimously approved.
 4. Reviewed Alex's article about Decatur is a fresh food desert and its tie-in to farmers markets. David said it need to be 100-250 words to get published in the Focus. Keep the long version behind the QR code with more info. Mike motioned, Anne seconded, approved unanimously.

d. City Work Session Presentation

- i. Tuesday February 20th, meet right before city council meeting, likely 6:30pm.

e. Tentative 2024 meeting schedule

- i. 4th Monday of each month. Alex to send calendar invites for meetings in 2024.

f. February meeting planning & agenda preview

- i. Agenda Setting - Alex has a document for planning agenda items for each meeting. Board members to submit by the end of the prior meeting.

3. Public Comment:

- a. Neil involved with AV tech, would like to help with that, writing , productions
- b. Joe Calo, thanked us and learned a lot.

4. Meeting adjourned at 6:03PM.