

02/26/2024 Decatur ESB Meeting Minutes

Meeting began at 9:05 AM

Attendance

- **City of Decatur:**
 - Alison Ericson, Urban Naturalist
 - David Nifong, Energy and Sustainability Manager
 - Greg White, Parks & Rec. Department, Director
 - Nancy Brune, Parks & Department, Assistant Director - Operations
 - Kim Whatley, Parks & Department, Facilities Operations Manager
 - Gael Doyle, Parks & Department, Marketing & Communications
- **Board Members (10):** Alex Stewart (chair), Annie Archbold (co-chair), Mike Barcik, Andrew Hardin, Jane Lomas, Cynthia Curry, Payton Sobon, Juno Rogers, Tony Harding, Hunter Unrue
- **Others in Attendance**
 - **Parks & Rec Advisory Board:** Jack Kittle (Chair)
 - **Community Farmers Markets:** Taylor Meade (Educational Chef)
 - **Other Community Members:** John Leake, Neil Frawley

1. Board Management

- a. **Approval of Minutes:** Mike Barcik moved to approve the meeting minutes from the January 22th meeting. Seconded by Annie Approved unanimously.
- b. **New Member intros:** Hunter Unrue and Tony Harding introduced. Christy Bible is a new Board Member who was unable to attend this meeting.
- c. **Staff Updates (David Nifong & Allison Ericson)**
 - i. Block Grant funding distribution will be done through state energy departments.
 - ii. The Composting Pilot is behind schedule. The latest target is to have the RFP posted next Monday. The pilot will be for a 12-month period of 250 households. Lots of public interest. The Board broadly discussed how we can get restaurants involved in the initiative. Annie suggested getting the Decatur Business alliance involved.
 - iii. There's a teen leadership team focused on composting. Discussed the possibility of coordinating all these different groups interested in composting (Teen Leadership Team, DHS SGA, ESB, the city).
 - iv. Allison is working on creating the Greenspace Alliance to organize volunteers around the city to help monitor and maintain our greenspaces.
 - v. Huron & Champlain Green stormwater grant is in progress.
 - vi. Reconnecting Scott Blvd Project grant application was submitted.
 - vii. Allison is working on a grant application for a Legacy park all terrain wheelchair, getting letters of support from Legacy. The idea is to create a hub for environmental sustainability at Legacy Park.
 - viii. Allison Switching project for 5-star grant from dock to dredging of the wetlands area.

- ix. Allison is working on creek management for invasive plant removal and native planting.
- x. Allison is working with an Emory group at hidden cove and invasive removal.
- xi. Budget requests were submitted last Friday. Many of the requests made by the ESB were included. Fast EV charger installation at the fire dept. 2 fellows thru civic park program requested. David requested 3 positions for new roles: Sustainability Officer, Electric Transportation Officer, and Grants Manager position.
- xii. David may be working on the Better Climate challenge. More info to come later.
- xiii. David is still working on IRP intervention. IRP testimony ongoing.
- xiv. Jacobs Design Services have been retained for Decatur Rec. Center solar battery project. Also a police department solar array for \$1 mill (\$500K grant and \$500K from city) was also requested in the new budget.

2. Parks & Rec presentation by Greg White, Nancy Brune, Kim Whatley, and Gael Doyle

3. Board Business

a. RAISE Grant Opportunity Redeveloping Scott to be Complete Street (Alex)

- i. Cara penned a letter for the ESB to endorse and send.
- ii. On Scott, there is a 100-foot right-of-way so this project has plenty of space without interfering with private land.
- iii. Motion to approve Letter made by Mike, seconded by Annie, unanimously approved.

b. City Commission recap (Alex)

- i. City supports our mission
- ii. City discussed landscaping alternatives, recognition from the board (Sustainable Yard of the month), education for residents to provide suggestions to lawns. Bigger program involving other groups.
- iii. Allison mentioned sustainableprinceton.org website for board members to look at for inspiration of educational resources that we could provide to our community.
- iv. David asked if we knew about the Decatur Design Awards and if a member of the Decatur Historic Preservation Commission could be invited to discuss their award program.
- v. The commissioners mentioned a city-wide right-of-way tree audit, but we will discuss at a later time when David knows a better timeline. David applied for a tree-replacement grant last year, but that would only be in the downtown area, commissioners would like to do city wide.

c. Project Updates

i. Noise Ordinance (Mike Barcik)

- 1. Mike met with folks and laid out a plan, and may need to tweak the current noise ordinance. Meeting this Friday at 3pm.

2. Next step - commissioners approve, goes into effect, then enforcement which will need to be addressed. Current ordinance is not enforced. Annie asked if data from Next Door could be used b/c people don't call cops, they complain on Next door.
 3. Andrew mentioned the need to treat this delicately. Gather lots of feedback before implementing.
 4. Cynthia- education is a key piece of bringing this program to fruition.
- ii. **Earth Day Planning (Jane)**
 1. Recap of events and current plans.
 2. 45 tables, 29 invited, 10 yes
 3. Performers - Capoeira, 501st Drum rise, etc.
 4. Rain Day - Payton will ask HS if we have rain, move to HS.
 5. Annie talked about books and logistics plan and possibility for having food vendors.
 - iii. **Focus articles (Annie)**
 1. Annie presented articles she wrote for March (Earth Day) and April (Mosquito prevention) Focus.
 2. Motion made to accept articles in principle, minor edits to follow, seconded by Mike Barcik, approved unanimously.
 - iv. **Sustainable Landscaping (Juno)**
 1. Reported on sustainable landscaping ideas.
 2. SITES (rating system for cities to get certified), works in conjunction LEED.
 - v. **Restaurant Sustainability**
 1. Alex requested Board members to volunteer to look into restaurant sustainability, find standards, etc.
 2. Juno, Payton, and Andrew Hardin to research.
- 4. Public Comment:**
- a. Taylor Meade (Community Garden) volunteered to be on Earth day committee,
 - i. Interested in helping with food vendors for the event
 - ii. Will attend planning meeting on March 7th
 - b. Mr. Leake - Youth is such an important time of one's life and no longer quiet like when he was a kid. Said loud continuous noise issue for youth and can affect their hearing. Mike B invited him to attend the Noise Ordinance meeting later in the week.
- 5. Motion to adjourn made my Jane, seconded by Mike Barcik. Meeting adjourned at 6:10/PM.**