Summary
Environmental Sustainability Board (ESB)

December 20, 2019

Decatur Recreation Center
231 Sycamore Street
Decatur, GA 30030
8:00am-10:00am

Present: Michael Black (Chair), David Malkin, Meisa Salaita, Mary Jane Leach, Brendan Gardes, Susan Montgomery, Steve Blackburn
Absent: Lindsay Averett, Sam Pugh
Staff: David Nifong, Hugh Saxon, David Junger

• Board Management
  • Approval of Minutes
    On a motion by Gardes, second by Leach, and all voting “aye,” the November 15th minutes were approved.
  • Staff updates
    Staff provided updates on its application to the National League of Cities Leadership in Community Resilience Program, a potential Georgia Environmental Finance Authority program, the status of new board appointments, collection figures from the city’s November 2nd Electronics Recycling event, and the process for Board budget requests.

• Committee Updates
  • Education & Outreach
    Update included discussion of plans for Focus articles and inserts for 2020, including composting at select CSD facilities, as well as overall outreach strategies for the upcoming year.
  • Buildings & Energy
    Update included discussion of the committee’s priorities for 2020, which include incorporating climate action into the city’s strategic plan, expanding EV infrastructure, and more consistent energy usage tracking.
- **Natural Systems**  
  *Update included discussion of a potential GA Power watershed restoration grant to pursue next year.*

- **Resource Conservation**  
  *Update included discussion of the December plastics panel held at Decatur Rec. and next steps for the single-use plastic survey. Also discussed was the city’s communication strategy re: recycling guidelines.*

- **Board Business**
  - **2020 Strategic Plan**  
    *The Board began a discussion on its internal priorities for the city’s 2020 Strategic Plan ahead of its Jan. 17th meeting with the consultant team. Conversation centered on incorporating climate change into the plan, as well as heat mapping, waste management and resource recovery, and working more effectively across committees, with other boards, and with city staff.*
  
  - **Tony Giarusso – Georgia Tech**  
    *Tony Giarusso, an expert on tree canopy measurement and assessment strategies, presented on his work with the City of Atlanta and applicability to Decatur and its tree ordinance revisions.*

- **Other/Public Comment**
  - *One resident commented on the need to have public health experts sit on the Board, as well as how to utilize neighborhood associations and online communities to enhance its access to residents.*
  
  - *One resident commented on the need for the city to strengthen its tree ordinance and ensure enforcement of protections within the Legacy Park conservation easement area. Also discussed was the need to improve the board’s education and outreach functions.*

- **Adjourn**