

Forest City Outdoor Town Action Team
MINUTES
Thursday, October 5th, 2023

CALL TO ORDER: Co-Chairperson Deb McNamara called the Forest City Outdoor Town Action Team meeting to order at 6:02pm.

ATTENDEES: Deb McNamara, Susie Atcavage, Erin Debish, Juliann Doyle, Amy Bean, Nick Cost, Chris DeGonzague, Robert Lesjack, Bernie Scalzo, Duffy Samuel, Lauren Canfield.

ABSENT: Katie Zefran

MINUTES: Erin Debish made a motion to approve 9.7.23 Minutes; seconded by Susie Atcavage. All in favor 4-0. No opposition. Motion passed.

A. REVIEW OF THE ACTION PLAN AND THE 8 GOALS (Erin Debish)

Erin Debish noted each Action Item on the FCOTAT Implementation Grid. *See attached grid below. Chris DeGonzague mentioned that the east side of the Main Street Sidewalk Program will begin in the spring of 2024 and maybe the FCOTAT should start the process of a streetscape project noted in the Grid. Deb McNamara said that PennDot has a street tree and streetscape program and we should start there.

B. CENTER STREET PARK (Susie Atcavage)

FCOTAT has not received word on the grant for the Center Street Park Project. The Commonwealth finance committee meeting was postponed and currently does not have a new date so the DCED grant will not be announced for some time.

C. ERIE STREET TO MAIN STREET SIDEWALK PROJECT (Deb McNamara)

Phase 1 has been approved. The contract will be sent in the spring of 2024.

D. FOREST CITY SCULPTURE TRAIL (Susie Atcavage/Deb McNamara)

FCOTAT received the Endless Mountains Heritage Region mini grant for the 1st Sculpture of the Sculpture Trail. The GFCBA and the Rail Trail Council matched this grant. The sculpture is still awaiting a spotlight before installation. Duffy Samuel assured the Team that the spotlight will be installed the following week. The FCOTAT will apply for the Susquehanna County Room Tax grant through the new county tourism group for the next sculpture. Grant is due by November 15th.

E. FACEBOOK PAGE PROJECT (Erin Debish)

FCOTAT asked the Borough Council if the Social Media Initiative could be considered in their 2024 budget. President of Council, Robert Lesjack noted that the

annual budget meeting is on October 16th and FCOTAT should write a letter of consideration.

F. FACADE PROGRAM (Erin Debish)

FCOTAT received an email from Gus Fahey reporting on the progress of the Facade program. Gus reported that work is ongoing, or nearly completed, at four more Main Street businesses: 500 (Interfaith), 528 (Frugal Living), 630 (McAndrew Law), and 1310 (Simpler Times). Phil Hodges also reported that he planned to start some work on 421/423 Main Street.

G. JUNIOR BOARD

The Junior Board Project was approved by Borough Council at their meeting held on Monday, October 2nd. Now communication must be made to the Forest City Regional School Board.

H. MURAL PROGRAM (Erin Debish)

Erin Debish reported on Gus Fahey's email for the Mural Program update. His update is as follows: We received a \$6,000 grant from Honesdale National Bank for the proposed History Mural on 528 Main. Chris DeGonzague asked for consideration for an update on the mural on the side of the liquor store facing Zazzera's parking lot.

I. BIKE REPAIR STATION (Deb McNamara)

The bike repair station is complete. The Team is waiting on a plaque to have an unveiling ceremony for the Erie Street Trailhead improvements.

J. OCC Survey Results (Erin Debish)

There was no Our Community Center representation at the meeting and no survey results.

PUBLIC COMMENT OR QUESTIONS:

Robert Lesjack suggested that the Action Team have a monthly column in the FC News. He stated that it is very important for the community to know what the Team is up to. The Team agreed and will add a "marketing plan" to new business.

Robert also noted that the town events are moving in a different direction and the hope is to have ALL entities involved with the town events.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The next FCOTAT meeting will be held on Thursday, November 2nd, 2023 at 6pm at The Forest City Borough Building 2nd floor Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT:

Erin Debish made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Juliann Doyle seconding. All in favor 4-0. Zero opposed. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:03pm.

Action Plan Implementation Grid as noted in section A.

GOAL	RECOMMENDATION	LEAD	PARTNERS	SHORT TERM (1-3 years)	LONG TERM (3+ years)	COST RANGE \$ = low cost \$\$ = medium cost \$\$\$ = high cost	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
Improve Main St	Improve building façades	Borough	GFCBA Greater FC Area Historical Society	x		\$\$ to \$\$\$	ARPA -Boro or County DCED Keystone Communities
Improve Main St	Create Murals on Main St	Valley In Motion Boro (Paul)	Sage and Salt Studios (Jacob) Boro Greater FC Area Historical Society GFCBA	x		\$\$	Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation PA Council on the Arts Creative Catalyst Grant PA Council on the Arts Creative Communities Grant LHVA Valley in Motion
Build Business & Community	Recruit investors/developers for new retail, unique shops,	GFCBA GFCI	Boro & Mayor Progress Authority	x	x	\$ to \$\$\$	Technical assistance from Progress Authority

Development	restaurants and lodging						CFA Building PA loan
Connect Outdoor Assets	Create safe bike/ped routes	RTC	Boro PADOT The Zefrans		x	\$ to \$\$\$	Susquehanna Co. Marcellus Legacy Fund CFA Greenways/Trails/Rec (GTRP) CFA Multimodal Transp. Fund PADOT Transp Alternatives Program People for Bikes LHVA ARPA WalkWorks
Improve Main St	Enhance Streetscape including bike racks, planters, street trees	Boro	GFCBA Mountain View Garden Club PA State Master Gardeners		x	\$\$ to \$\$\$	Susquehanna Co. Marcellus Legacy Fund CFA Multimodal Transp Funds ARPA
Undertake Marketing	Market FC as Trail Town/Outdoor Town	GFCBA Endless Mtns VB	Endless Mtn VB Discover NEPA EMHR Other chambers Greater FC Area	x		\$ to \$\$	Endless Mtns. Visitors Bureau Room Tax Grant DCED Marketing to Attract Tourists

			Historical Society Other historical societies RTC NEP Sno Trails Businesses School District Boro				
Enhance Erie St/FC Trailheads	Create Murals and gateway at Trailhead	RTC	Boro Valley In Motion School District Pleasant Mount Welding Lackawanna Career Tech Center (school)	x		\$ to \$\$	Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation PA Council on the Arts Creative Catalyst Grant PA Council on the Arts Creative Communities Grant LHVA Valley in Motion
Connect Outdoor Assets	Create better connections to allow snowmobilers off-road access to downtown restaurants & Turkey Hill	NEP Sno Trails	Private landowners (Simpler Times and others) RTC	X		\$ to \$\$	DCNR C2P2 Motorized Trail Grant

			Boro (via Dog Park)				
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