

Forest City Outdoor Town Action Team

MINUTES

Thursday, November 2nd, 2023

CALL TO ORDER: Secretary Erin Debish called the Forest City Outdoor Town Action Team meeting to order at 6:07pm.

ATTENDEES: Deb McNamara, Susie Atcavage, Erin Debish, Juliann Doyle, Amy Bean, Duffy Samuel, Lauren Canfield, Gus Fahey.

ABSENT: Katie Zefran

MINUTES: Juliann Doyle made a motion to approve 10.5.23 Minutes; seconded by Susie Atcavage. All in favor 4-0. No opposition. Motion passed.

A. CENTER STREET PARK (Susie Atcavage)

FCOTAT still has not received word on the grant for the Center Street Park Project.

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

Phase 1 has been approved. The contract will be sent in the spring of 2024. Deb mentioned that she had spoken to Nick Cost regarding communication with the residents along Erie Street and they decided to reach out once a timeline has been established regarding the work.

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

The first sculpture on the Sculpture Trail has been installed at the Forest City Trailhead. The room tax grant has been written and received for the next sculpture which will be placed at the Erie Street Trailhead. FCOTAT hopes to work with the Forest City Area Historical Society on this next sculpture.

D. FACADE PROGRAM (Gus Fahey)

Gus Fahey reported that the facade program was well received with 12 projects completed and 3 projects in progress. There are 3 of the original 20 projects not yet started and 2 that will not be completed. Gus noted that he will ask Council at their November meeting if the money left over from the 2023 facade program will be rolled over into another program in 2024. Gus would like to see this program continue.

E. JUNIOR BOARD

Amy Bean confirmed Council approval of the Junior Board. She will reach out to Borough secretary Sharon Vannan regarding a resolution.

F. MURAL PROGRAM (Gus Fahey)

Gus Fahey reported that the next step on the mural on 528 Main (Frugal Living) is to invite artists to apply. They do not yet have full funding for the project; however there is enough funding to get started. The mural will be of historical nature with different

panels depicting historical scenes. The nice thing about this idea is the panels will be inset into the window frames which means they can be created off site and simply installed onto the building.

G. EAST SIDE STREETSCAPE PROJECT (Erin Debish)

Deb McNamara will get information regarding PennDot's program for streetscapes.

H. MARKETING PLAN

Social Media - Amy Bean reported that this item was not yet discussed by Council. She stated that the 2024 budget was cut drastically due to the Borough building needing a new roof.

Column in the Forest City News - Lauren Canfield, FC Librarian offered to write the column on a trial basis.

PUBLIC COMMENT OR QUESTIONS:

Gus Fahey recommended that FCOTAT apply for the Creative Communities Grant. This grant supports murals and sculptures and may include artist made bike racks. The grant is for 4 years with 25K per year. He is suggesting we partner with Carbondale as both communities are Outdoor Towns and have strong historical societies. The match is 1 to 1 which would be \$1250 per community per year. Gus' non-profit company Valley in Motion will write, administer and manage this grant. A letter of support from the FCOTAT would be beneficial. Amy is adding this to the Council agenda for Monday, Nov. 6th.

Deb McNamara asked Amy Bean if she was able to coordinate the Local Shares Account grant for the repairs and improvements at Kennedy Park. Amy said that no bids came in for the repairs for the Park so the grant is on the back burner. Deb suggested that the FCOTAT apply for the LSA grant for the Center Street Park project as that project already has the proper paperwork to apply. This is a ZERO match grant. Amy is adding to the agenda for Council's Monday meeting, Nov. 6th.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Please note there is no December FCOTAT meeting. The next FCOTAT meeting will be held on Thursday, January 4th, 2024 at 6pm at The Forest City Borough Building 2nd floor Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT:

Susie Atcavage made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Juliann Doyle seconding. All in favor 4-0. Zero opposed. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:38ppm.