

Forest City Outdoor Town Action Team
MINUTES
Thursday, May 4th, 2023

CALL TO ORDER: In the absence of chairperson Katie Zefran, co-chair Deb McNamara called the Forest City Outdoor Town Action Team meeting to order at 6:05pm.

ATTENDEES: Deb McNamara, Erin Debish, Susie Atcavage, Amy Bean, Christopher Ginton, Richard Suraci (Kost Tire), Paul Daugevelo, Gus Fahey, Juliann Doyle

ABSENT: Katie Zefran

MINUTES: Erin Debish made a motion to approve 4.6.23 Minutes; seconded by Juliann Doyle. All in favor 4-0. No opposition. Motion passed.

A. ADMINISTRATION (Katie Zefran)

Katie will attend Forest City Regional School District's board meeting in May to discuss the Junior FCOTAT Board.

B. ERIE STREET WELCOME ARCH (Deb McNamara)

The arch needs to be more identifiable. Deb McNamara asked a local artist to help come up with ideas to do so.

C. CENTER STREET PARK (Susie Atcavage)

FCOTAT received approval to move forward with the Department of Community and Economic Development Greenways and Trails grant at the Forest City Borough Council meeting held on Monday, May 1st. This grant maximum is 250K which is not enough to complete the project. FCOTAT will need to seek other funding. Forest City Borough will vote on a resolution at a special meeting being held on Thursday, May 11th. The DCED grant will need many letters of support most importantly from Senator Lisa Baker and Representative Jonathan Fritz. The GFCBA, Rail Trail Council and the Forest City Library will also be asked for letters of support. Paul Bechtel from McLane Associates will assist FCOTAT in the writing of the DCED grant.

Erin Debish mentioned the willingness of community members to help with the Park project. In the survey that was conducted regarding the Park Project a dozen or so volunteers signed up to help. Erin asked how to include these excited community members. An email will be sent to all who are interested in the Park Project with the status of the Project and the conceptual plan drawn up by Paul Bechtel of McLane.

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

Bobbi Jo Turner will contact FCOTAT when the grant is ready to go.

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

The FCOTAT reached out to a local business for financial support for this project in the way of grant match and out right funds. FCOTAT has yet to hear a commitment from them. Susie Atcavage, FCOTAT grant team leader has 80% of the Endless Mountains Heritage Region mini grant written for the Sculpture Trail which is due on Monday, May 8th. The GFCBA, Rail Trail Council and the Mountain View Garden Club have written letters of support for this Project and the GFCBA has pledged \$500 in match support for this grant. The FCOTAT is hoping for support from other donors. The finished Sculpture Trail will consist of 6-8 sculptures leading to and from the D&H Trail and Main Street Forest City. The first Sculpture is near completion and will reside at the Forest City Trailhead on the D&H notifying trail users of the free wifi at the Trailhead.

F. FACEBOOK PAGE PROJECT (Juliann Doyle)

Juliann Doyle noted that the FaceBook Steering Team has not met since their original meeting which reported at the April 6th FCOTAT meeting; however the Team is in conversation for their next meeting which looks like next week. Erin Debish mentioned a few items that Machi Systems emailed regarding the progress of the Page. Machi is looking for input on the title of the page and listed a few suggestions: Forest City Outdoor Central, Forest City Adventure Hub, and Forest City Nature News and Vibes. Susie Atcavage suggested keeping the Forest City Outdoor Town Action Team as the title of the page for connectivity to the group. Susie also thought to include commerce into the title as well. Gus Fahey mentioned that in the “about” section of the Page is where the commerce piece can be indicated. Gus also mentioned that pictures of the new facades going on in town would be a great post series for the Page. The FaceBook Page will also have a “group” which is where people can collaborate about their Forest City outdoor adventures. Machi is also looking for a title for the “group”. These are their suggestions: Forest City Outdoor Enthusiasts, Forest City Community and Trail Talk, or Forest City Nature Lovers Network. Paul Daugevelo mentioned that Forest City is a “service” town rather than a retail town and maybe that should be included as well. Erin and Juli will take all the suggestions to the Steering Team at their next meeting.

G. FACADE PROGRAM (Gus Fahey)

Nothing to report

H. JUNIOR BOARD

As mentioned above, Katie Zefran will present this idea to the FCR School Board at their May meeting.

I. MURAL PROGRAM (Gus Fahey)

Fred Cicilioni has agreed to a mural on the North side of the Frugal Living building on Center Street in the way of panels instead of painted masonry.

J. BIKE REPAIR STATION (Richard Suraci)

Richard apologized for a hiccup in progress due to personnel issues at Kost Tire and Auto.

The Team once again discussed the location of the Station and determined a compromise of the Erie Street Trailhead. FCOTAT will need to look at the Trailhead and determine the exact location asap.

PUBLIC COMMENT OR QUESTIONS:

Amy Bean has an upcoming meeting with Senator Dan Meuser's representative, Mike Marabell. She asked for all estimates for all the FCOTAT projects to present to Mike at their meeting.

Erin Debish suggested a meeting location change due to the noise in the restaurant. The Team agreed. Erin will reach out to the Boro Secretary and Boro President for permission to use the Boro Building.

Richard Suraci of Kost Tire offered a program to collect email addresses and create a database of Forest City's merchants and customers. This will enable the FCOTAT and other entities like the GFCBA to collect information based on what the merchants and customers want. The Team liked the idea.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The next FCOTAT meeting will be held on Thursday, June 1st, 2023 at 6pm at The Forest City Borough Building 2nd floor Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT:

Erin Debish made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Susie Atcavage seconding. All in favor 4-0. Zero opposed. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:13pm.