

Forest City Outdoor Town Action Team
Minutes
8.3.2023

In attendance: Katie Zefran, Deb McNamara, Suzanne Atcavage, Julianne Doyle, Amy Bean, Nick Cost, Jake Rosen, Jo Gear, Christopher Ginton, Paul Daugevelo, Duffy Samuel, Brian Fitzsimmons, Christian Chludzinski, Gus Fahey

Minute Approval 7.6.23: Motion made by Duffy Samuel, seconded by Julie Doyle; All approved motion carried.

Continued Business and Projects: As we had several public attendees at this meeting, where appropriate, each committee member spoke briefly to summarize their specific projects and their relevance to the mission/goals of the FCOTAT to help educate all attendees.

- **Center Street Project;** Susie Atcavage spoke regarding this project. Still awaiting word on the grant application to DCED for this grant, anticipated in September. Gus Fahey asked why we haven't applied to DCNR for grant funding. Susie explained that we foresee this project happening in "phases" and that when we had communicated with Christine Dettore in the spring, she had recommended we pursue DCED first. The intent is to approach DCNR at some point. Susie, in her role as GFCBA President, also notified the group that the GFCBA remains supportive of the Center Street project, but will be moving the focus of their fundraising efforts toward other projects.
- **Erie Street to Main Street Sidewalks** - Deb McNamara - Bobbi Jo Turner facilitated/assisted with the grant submission, which was due 7.31.23. We anticipate word on the grant sometime in September. We are hoping for 70K in funding this grant cycle and 70K the next. It would address one side of sidewalks with this initial funding.
- **Forest City Sculpture Trail** - Susie Atcavage - EMHR grant - Sculpture is finished, awaiting lighting and security cameras. Deb then presented the photo of the finished sculpture which was sent around the room. Deb is asking if \$300 of the funding from the grant may be designated toward the lighting for the sculpture. RTC is donating \$600.
- **Facebook Page** (Erin Debish - not in attendance but sent summary); A picture of the logo was shown. Cable's General Store and Katie Zefran donated the funding for the logo creation. A soft launch of the FB page is underway; The "handle" is "forestcitypaoutdoortown". Still in a determining phase of who/can manage the page. A suggestion of having students from FCRSD manage has been made. Gus Fahey commented that we need to have content to stay relevant.
- **Facade Program** (FC Borough/Covid Relief funds); Gus Fahey and Katie Zefran reported that submissions of completed projects are slow to come in but are happening - approximately 8 completed projects to date. Katie Zefran mentioned that she would like to bring to the table at the next BC meeting to begin consideration for a budget for a continued facade program. The criteria needs to be narrowed down and better specified. Currently a 100 point scale is being used (25 points per section) but it is believed that the criteria may be too vague.
- **Mural Program:** (Gus Fahey); Next mural is proposed to be a historical mural on Frugal Living; The plan is to have panels painted somewhere else and then placed; There will be collaboration with the FC Historical Society. In total, 3 grants were applied for; KOST Tire has asked for a panel - Gus has offered/suggested a "sponsorship" to get a panel. Nick Cost mentioned adding lighting to the building. Deb McNamara suggested looking at what the building was back in the 1800's.
- **Junior Board;** (Katie Zefran); No new progress. One mentioned vision for the Junior Board is to name one position as a "social media coordinator".
- **Bike Repair Station** (Richard Suraci, KOST Tire Rep - not present); Deb McNamara reported that the repair station is complete but is missing a few pieces. There will be a

press release next week in the FC News. Hoping to promote a draw from Erie Street to Main Street. Deb also mentioned that Jon Harcharek took down all of the directional signage, repainted and put it back up.

- **“Our Community Center”** (Jake Rosen) - Jake Rosen and several others attended the meeting to present, discuss and answer questions surrounding the “Our Community Center”. Jake provided a summary regarding the idea, purpose and intent of the center. Pointed questions regarding the formation of 501c3 status, a comprehensive survey to the community at large (or lack of) and communication with local businesses were discussed. It was suggested that the *Our Community Center* organizational committee/board pursue a more comprehensive survey of the community and businesses. Christian Chludzinski confirmed having the prior survey file, which had been conducted by having some of their 40 or so members reach out to their own contacts to complete the survey - the flawed nature of this method was suggested by the FCOTAT. Christian would be the contact from whom to obtain the survey and coordinate a new public survey effort. Suzanne Atcavage, on behalf of the GFCBA, confirmed that the survey could be placed on the GFCBA website, but could not be forwarded via email to the membership. Placement in local businesses was also discussed in order to be accessible to the public. Paul Daugevelo inquired about the OCC’s ability to join the GFCBA. Suzanne Atcavage confirmed that this is permissible with a paid membership. It was agreed that if the survey was presented publicly, discussion regarding the OCC could be revisited in October.

New Business/Projects

- Julianne Doyle reported that she assisted with a grant to apply for an AED for Kennedy Park. She worked jointly with Kevin Lesjack and Brian Fitzsimmons and it was submitted under the Forest City Little League.

Announcements

- Next FCOTAT meeting will be held Thursday, September 7, 2023 at the Forest City Borough Building, 2nd Floor Council Chambers at 6 pm.
- Katie Zefran to attend the next Borough Council Meeting on Monday, August 7th, 2023
- Next FCOTAT meeting is after the September Borough Council Meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Atcavage, FCOTAT Committee Member