

Press release ... September, 2022 Juliann Doyle, Marketing and Board Member

Outdoor Town Action Team Monthly Meeting Report

The Outdoor Town Action Team as a committee to assist the Borough of Forest City with various community projects met on September 1st. Dr. Katie Zefran has been selected the Chair of the team.

Recap of the September meeting.

- Goal: Improve Main Street - improve building facades – façade program had 23 applicants who may move forward with submitting final paperwork which include quotes and architectural information. This program will run for two grant cycles to include all applicants.
- Goal: Improve Main Street - create murals – the first mural has been completed and the next mural application will start soon.
- Goal: Improve Main Street - enhance streetscape to include bike racks, planters and street trees – planters and flowers were planted at the beginning of the summer. Main Street businesses were asked to water the flowers during the summer.
- Goal: Build Business and Community Development by recruiting investors/developers for new retail, unique shops, restaurants and lodging – nothing new to report.
- Goal: Connect Outdoor Assets - create safe bike/pedestrian routes – Importance of reaching out to Forest City's Main Street business owners to provide information about services offered. The team decided that a presentation by Golden Owl would serve best to accomplish face to face communication and offer a Q&A session. The presentation will be scheduled after the holiday season into 2023. Prior to the presentation an email and letter will be sent along with an invitation to the presentation.
- Goal: Connect Outdoor Assets - create better connections to allow snowmobiles off-road access to downtown restaurants and shops – nothing new to report as this is a undertaking by the Boro and the Snow Trail organization.
- Goal: Undertake Marketing - market FC as a Trail/ Outdoor Town – GFCBA has new brochures out and has applied to a grant for printing of additional brochures to help advertise and bring people to the Forest City area.
- Goal: Enhance Erie Street and Forest City Trailheads - Apply for the Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau Room Tax Grant, to be used for the beginning of the "sculpture trail" from the Forest City Trailhead on the D&H Trail. A sculptor and design has already been agreed upon and the Greater Forest City Business Alliance has offered matching grant funds not to exceed \$2500. \$7000 will be the asking amount for the grant. It was noted PennDOT has not yet released the Multi-modal grant for sidewalks which will be used to connect Erie Street and Main Street. Application for this grant will be evaluated when it opens. Projects: Erie Street Trailhead Welcome Arch no new information. The Center Street Park Project has gained a little momentum. A local resident and has volunteered to be on the team to create the Park. The Marywood University architectural program has not yet responded to a request to check out the project. Also, mentioned reaching out to Johnson College for help with projects as well.

The Outdoor Town Action Team conducts its meetings the first Thursday of each month at Elegante's starting at 6 PM. The next meeting will be Thursday, October 6, 2022. We invite interested members of the community to attend. For further information or questions please contact Juliann Doyle, Board Member at 570-499-4908 or jdoyle@nep.net. All are welcome!