

FCOTAT Meeting Minutes

4.4.24

In attendance: Deb McNamara, Suzanne Atcavage, Julianne Doyle, Chris DeGonzague;
Absent: Katie Zefran, Erin Debish

Meeting called to order at 6:02 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was

recited. Deb McNamara led the meeting. Items reviewed as follows:

Continued Business And Projects:

- a. **Center Street Park** (DCED Grant/LSA grant/T-Mobile grant/DCNR grant) - As reported previously the DCED grant has been awarded to us. We are waiting on an announcement for the LSA Grant. We did not apply for the T-Mobile grant - it has been tabled until the next round. DCNR grant is not applicable at this time (not applied/not in process). Katie Zefran completed an application for the CEAP Grant (Community and Economic Assistance Program) through DCED and we have been awarded 117K. There is no match for the Borough. Katie is finishing the paperwork.
- b. **Erie Street To Main Street Sidewalks** (CDBG/PennDOT Multimodal) - Deb did receive communication from Bobi Jo Turner, which stated: "Everything has been approved, but We are just waiting for the final grant contract from DCED that allows us to start spending money. We are also working on the required Environmental Review which requires some posting of public notices, and it usually takes about 45 days to get through the process- this is also required before funds are released. I will get in touch with Gary at KBA to get the ball rolling for bid specs. We hope to be able to go to bid in June. This first phase will entail paving Erie from the trail head up to Railroad St, with a striped pedestrian/bike lane, due to the narrow curve in the road that does not allow for sidewalks. We just sent our requests to all municipalities for project ideas for the 2024 CDBG. Borough should consider requesting the next phase of the project- sidewalks from Railroad to Main Street if still desired." Deb followed up with this to reiterate that we need to
 - i. Get onto the agenda for the next BC Meeting to be given permission to apply for phase 2, which would address Railroad Street to Main Street
 - ii. No Match required to the Borough
 - iii. We do not need to complete the application (it will be done for us) nor administrate.
- c. **Erie Street Traffic pattern** - Chris DeGonzague reported that the Borough is investigating a possible traffic pattern change on Erie Street, limiting it to only trail traffic.
- d. **Forest City Sculpture Trail** (EMHR Mini-grant) - We were awarded this grant last year which supported the completion of the first sculpture at the FC Trailhead. We would like to apply for it this year, for the second sculpture, to be placed at the Erie Street Trailhead. The grant requires 1:1 match, some of which can be "in-kind". Planning a historical theme - perhaps something representing coal mining. Would like to approach FC Area Historical Society to collaborate and for the theme and assistance with grant

match funding. After sculpture 2 is complete, sculptures will continue into the Forest City downtown. Need borough approval to apply for this grant - with the understanding that it is a 50% match.

e. **Facade Program** - No new report. Chris DeGonzague believes there have been 16 facade projects completed. He also recalls that there are some funds remaining but he is unsure of the amount. Chris to contact Sharon Vannan to clarify funding. f. **Mural Program**

- No new report. No representation this evening.

g. **Junior Board** - No new report. No representation this evening.

h. **Bike Racks** - Ideas to move forward with bike racks was discussed. Their placement is somewhat dependent on having enough space to “set them back” far enough. Zazzerra’s, Frugal Living and Elegante’s are willing to place racks at their locations. The suggestion of the Post Office as a placement location was made. Possibly Simpler Times or DG’s for more “down the road” bike racks.

i. **Creative Communities Grant** - no new report. No representation this evening.

New Business/Projects: Susie Atcavage brought up a concern regarding Center Street Park. She has been told that Parks and Recreation are not acknowledging Center Street Park as a park that they will be responsible for, which is contradictory to what has been reported by members of Borough Council. She also summarized that the role of the Action Team is not to manage properties or maintain them - the role of the FCOTAT is to identify projects within the FC Community that fall within the scope of one of the eight action items identified within the Action Plan. Once the project is identified, the FCOTAT works to identify the resources that can complete a project. Long term management is not within the committee’s scope. So, upon completion of the Center Street project, the Borough will need to have designated a different committee or entity to oversee Center Street Park. Chris DeGonzague acknowledged this concern.

Next FCOTAT Meeting: Thursday, May 2, 2024, 6 pm at the FC Borough Building 2nd Floor Council Chambers.

Next Borough Council Meeting - Monday May 6, 2024 - no specific FCOTAT member identified to attend the meeting at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Atcavage
FCOTAT Committee Member