

Forest City Outdoor Town Action Team
MINUTES
Thursday, February 1st, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Katie Zefran called the Forest City Outdoor Town Action Team meeting to order at 6:00pm.

ATTENDEES: Katie Zefran, Deb McNamara, Erin Debish, Chris DeGonzague, Susie Atcavage, Juliann Doyle, Gus Fahey, Jessica Pratt

MINUTES: Susie Atcavage made a motion to approve 1.4.24 Minutes; seconded by Erin Debish. All in favor 5-0. No opposition. Motion passed.

A. CENTER STREET PARK

Forest City Borough received \$212, 462 through DCED for the Center Street Park Project. FCOTAT has decided to ask Paul Bechtel from McLane Associates to lead the Project and administer the grant. Susie Atcavage will reach out to Paul. The Team will meet with Christine Dettore from DCNR to discuss additional grant opportunities for the Park Project. Erin Debish will contact the interested group from the survey once a date has been established for a “special meeting” regarding the Park Project.

B. ERIE STREET TO MAIN STREET SIDEWALK PROJECT

This Project is just waiting on contract. FCOTAT with the help of Borough Council will begin to contact the residents who will be affected by the Project. A google map drawing will be created to show what will happen to Erie Street. The Team suggested a door to door discussion with residents rather than a letter. Chris Degonzague recommended council people Amy Bean and Sarah Woody to take this walk. Chris will also reach out to town solicitor Marissa McAndrew for further advice.

C. FOREST CITY SCULPTURE TRAIL

FCOTAT did not receive room tax grant money for the 2nd sculpture. Susie Atcavage offered to ask the Greater Forest City Business Alliance for the money to proceed with the next sculpture. The Endless Mountains Heritage Region has a mini grant that can be applied for in May. The Team will apply for this grant for the 3rd sculpture.

D. FACADE PROGRAM

Gus Fahey reported that there were 20 original approved projects. 15 completed, 3

remaining (504 Main, 510 Main and 513 Main) 2 are currently being worked on. Gus would like to wrap up the program before Forest City's secretary retires. The Team needs clarification if the Program has money left to proceed into 2024.

E. MURAL PROGRAM

Gus reported that the 2nd mural at Frugal Living is in a discussion phase. Gus mentioned that because the windows are vertical and 2nd and 3rd stories high it becomes difficult to have a very detailed mural. He and building owners Fred and Katie "need to align visions". He also mentioned an AARP Communities grant. This is a no match with applications due March 6th and project completion by December 15th.

F. JUNIOR BOARD

A resolution has been drafted and will be presented at the February Council meeting for approval. Katie Zefran will then approach the district school board on Feb 12th for their approval.

G. EAST SIDE STREETScape PROJECT

Katie Zefran declared that this is not a FCOTAT project.

H. CREATIVE COMMUNITIES GRANT

Gus reported that FCOTAT will hear by Feb 12th if our application is moved to the next round. This grant was submitted by Gus for Forest City and Carbondale. It will require a 5% match from Forest City Borough.

I. BIKE RACKS:

Deb McNamara will ask artist Scott Nichols for a tiered price point for "Forest City" styled bike racks. Then businesses and organizations can decide on their budget and style. Scott Nichols is also willing to work with donated materials.

NEW BUSINESS/PROJECTS:

The T-Mobile grant will be applied for in support of the Center Street Park Project if Borough Council approves.

Katie Zefran will attend the Borough Council meeting on Monday, February 5th. She will ask for approval for the AARP grant letter of support, the T-Mobile grant application and confirm the Junior Board Resolution.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The next FCOTAT meeting will be held on Thursday, March 7th, 2024 at 6pm at The Forest City Borough Building 2nd floor Council Chambers. Please note: the Borough Council meeting in March will be held on the 4th BEFORE the next FCOTAT meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

Deb McNamara made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Susie Atcavage

seconding. All in favor 5-0. Zero opposed. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:58pm.