

MINUTES

CITY OF DEKALB

Annie Glidden North Revitalization Plan Task Force

Transportation, Infrastructure and Open Space Subcommittee Meeting

Dekalb City Hall, March 26, 2018 at 3:00 pm

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm

A. Roll Call

Members present were-Joe Gastiger, David Castro, Kurt Thurmaier, Patti Perkins, Derek Hiland
Members Absent-Andrew John Knox

Also present were City staff liaison Aaron Stevens, and CGS Research Associate Mim Evans.
NIU Professor Kendall Thu attended the first portion of the meeting to present research and John Heckman, Transportation and Facilities Director at NIU attended the second half of the meeting for discussion on agenda item 2.

Notes were taken by Mim Evans

B. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved with no changes.

C. Approval of Minutes of the March 19, 2018 meeting

The minutes were approved with no changes.

D. Public Participation

No public participation occurred.

E. Items for Discussion/Action

1. Review and discussion of Annie Glidden North neighborhood related data/information collected during previous projects.

Kendall Thu from NIU presented his research in University Village (see PowerPoint). Kendall stated that the University Village (UV) Tenants Association was formed during the course of his team's work. The two residents they worked with have both since moved out of UV and the organization is dormant. Sylvia Higham is the new UV manager hired by Securiry Properties, the current owner. The management seems to have improved.

The DSATS plan addresses many of the concerns that came to light during his research. The plan does not include service to the county buildings and getting to some employers is still difficult.

There was then discussion of funding for additional services in UV. Security Properties will provide \$500,000 over 15 years for services in UV. There is an RFP out to provide these services and the preferred proposal will be voted on tonight. The proposal includes before and after school care, access to more healthy foods, a neighborhood case manager on site, Kishwaukee College to provide employment and training, Worknet employment services, Northwestern Medicine Kishwaukee Hospital to provide healthcare. There would be a three-year contract with Family Service Agency of DeKalb County to manage the package of services. Metrics are included to see if there is progress. \$100,000 of the \$500,000 would be spent for this three-year period.

Kendall Thu stated that the most successful approach to getting people to participate was events held in the park. It was very difficult to get people to participate, especially to get males.

It is important to have an immediate task for people to do. Hopefully these subcommittees will come up with tasks.

It was commented that we need a way to get people to think of the study area as a part of the whole city. This would help address isolation. Is the problem lack of opportunities or lack of interest on part of tenants?

Kendall thought it was some of each. Residents feel isolated from other UV residents, too.

In sum, the DSATS plan is a positive step with some shortcomings remaining. Social services will be addressed. There will be better access to grocery stores through transit. Social issues are still an issue.

2. Discussion regarding the potential for designated NIU properties to be used as community park space.

John Heckman from NIU addressed the possibility of integrating the green space by the nursing school into the neighborhood. There are no immediate plans for that space. NIU is open to exploring ideas. It is about 6 acres of green space. Whatever is developed will have to get along with the residential neighbors. He doesn't know exactly when parking is in demand for the site. Probably not much after hours and NIU does not enforce permits after hours so parking could be available for park users. He sees no harm in thinking through scenarios of what could be. Who actually funds the work is a question. He would be the point person. There will be a question of who will maintain the area. If the Park District would do that it would make things easier. The University is not in the role of operating a community park.

It was asked if there is a similar arrangement between NIU and the City or Park District for another site. He does not know of one between NIU and the Park District. It was commented that there is a similar arrangement between the Park District and School District.

It was discussed that if it was a student led initiative, that could change the conversation.

Question if it is an open invitation to the community.

It was commented that putting Frisbee golf there may not be attractive to all residents.

3. Final discussion of potential projects to recommend for inclusion in the Revitalization Plan related to transportation, infrastructure, and open space.

Transportation

Joe Gastiger made a motion to encourage consolidation of transportation systems to proceed as expeditiously as possible including: serving major employers and be timed with shift changes (for example starting service at 6 am instead of 7 am. to capture shift start times); and including provisions to expand sidewalks 1)to the county health department along Annie Glidden Rd.; and 2)sidewalks on Twombly Rd to residential developments; and 3) bike path connectivity; provisions for abundant marketing about how flex routes and other services are delivered; and user interfaces and applications to access the information.

The motion was seconded by David Castro.

All in favor-5

Opposed-0

Green Space

Patti Perkins made a motion to improve available green spaces in the neighborhood which may include aesthetically pleasing citywide attractions such as playground equipment, benches, courts, landscape, splash pad, disc golf and community garden. It is recommended that the City, Park District and Northern Illinois University collaborate to develop a professional landscape architecture plan to incorporate designated green spaces including Welsh park and the school of nursing property.

The motion was seconded by Derek Hiland.

All in favor-5

Opposed-0

912 Edgebrook

The subcommittee briefly discussed this item and ultimately determined that it was best to table this until the next full task force meeting for all members to deliberate.

There was a question regarding whether the curbs and curb cuts are in good repair. Aaron can check on this.

Infrastructure

Patti Perkins made a motion that the City explore the possibility of providing public wifi connectivity in the neighborhood.

The motion was seconded by Joe Gastiger.

All in favor-5

Opposed-0

F. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Minutes approved by the AGN Task Force Meeting on: May 7, 2018