

**CITY OF DEKALB**  
**Annie Glidden North Transportation, Infrastructure,**  
**and Open Space Subcommittee Meeting**  
**February 16, 2018**

The Annie Glidden North (AGN) Transportation, Infrastructure, and Open Space (referred to as subcommittee from this point on), held a meeting on February 16, 2018 in the Executive Conference Room at City Hall.

Management Analyst Aaron Stevens called the meeting to order at 3:02p.m.

A. Roll Call

The following members of the subcommittee were present: David Castro, Joe Gastiger, Derek Hiland, Andrew John Knox, Patti Perkins, and Kurt Thurmaier. No members of the subcommittee were absent.

Staff present were Management Analyst Aaron Stevens, Economic Development Planner Jason Michnick, and Mim Evans, Center for Governmental Studies Research Associate. Notes were taken by Mim Evans.

B. Approval of Agenda - Additions / Deletions

Motion to approve by Kurt Thurmaier, seconded by Joe Gastiger, all in favor motion approved.

C. Public Participation

Lynn Fazekas stated that there is a distinction between regular meetings and special meetings. Fazekas stated that this is a special meeting so members of the subcommittee cannot add items to the agenda during the meeting. Fazekas stated she has witnessed many open meetings act violations with the AGN subcommittees.

D. Old Business

1. Desired outcomes related to housing and commercial development in the Annie Glidden North neighborhood. Introductory Planning Discussion on Community Service's needs, potential resources, and analysis of current data related to the Annie Glidden North area.

Subcommittee member Joe Gastiger started the discussion off on the subject of transportation. Gastiger stated it would make a big difference if people could get to work. Gastiger posed the question - is it possible to implement a ride service that provides transportation for residents commuting to and from work during typical shift change times. Gastiger suggested a partnership

with employers to develop the transportation to and from work service. Gastiger also stated that another thing to be discussed is the access to healthcare, grocery stores, and other services. Gastiger posed the question - would express routes be possible to cut down on time required to travel using public transportation.

Subcommittee member Patti Perkins stated that both Schnucks and Hy-Vee grocery retailers now have home delivery and accept debit cards provided through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Subcommittee member Kurt Thurmaier requested staff to find out about the different home delivery options offered in DeKalb.

The subcommittee began a discussion of current public transportation service lines and schedules offered through the Voluntary Action Center (VAC)/DeKalb Sycamore Area Transportation Study (DSATS) program. Thurmaier stated the subcommittee needs to ascertain schedule information for each transportation service line.

Perkins stated it would be helpful to have a non-student resident of the AGN focus area neighborhood attend subcommittee meetings to provide their perspective. Analyst Stevens stated if the group would choose to have a new member added to the subcommittee, the Mayor would need to formally appoint someone. Economic Development Planner Jason Michnick stated that the subcommittee could also invite guests as an alternative to, or in addition to a formal appointment of a new member. The subcommittee confirmed that they would like to ask the Mayor to appoint a new member to represent non-student residents of the AGN area. Members asked if City staff can ask the Mayor to appoint a new member. Analyst Stevens stated that he will notify the Mayor. Stevens also stated the Mayor would welcome recommendations from the subcommittee for who to appoint as the new member.

The group agreed that the bus line schedules are confusing and questioned if the routes can be reviewed for improvements. Michnick stated that DSATS is currently working on a transportation service consolidation plan to increase efficiency of the services provided between the Northern Illinois University (NIU) Husky bus service and the VAC/DSATS service. The subcommittee agreed that they would like to request a representative from DSATS to attend the next meeting if possible.

Knox requested the transportation route/schedule be projected on the screen and the group reviewed the bus route schedule together. It was stated that the buses go in the same direction and that it would be good if they went in different directions. The group agreed that bus transportation does not start early enough for some people to use the service to commute to work. Michnick stated that VAC does provide on demand services. If the employees can coordinate and form a small group, VAC will provide the service, however there is a fee. Perkins stated the Husky Line is funded by student fees. How is the University committing the Student Association to work with the others? It was stated that Student Association is part of DSATS. The subcommittee collectively asked several questions about transportation service line schedules and routes and ultimately determined that it would be best to invite DSATS to the next meeting to obtain further information.

Should we look at rideshare? Gastiger questioned if a ride share program can be subsidized. The subcommittee questioned if employers could be asked for information related to how employees travel to work. Stevens stated that is something that can potentially be included in a business survey.

The group discussed the need to also review sidewalks, crosswalks, and bike paths. Michnick stated the City is working on a bike path on Fairview. Several questions and suggestions were raised such as where sidewalks are needed along Annie Glidden, Twombly, Fairview, and Dresser roads. It was suggested that the City could coordinate with the County for sidewalk installations along unincorporated sections of these areas. Shade trees were suggested for Annie Glidden Road for pedestrians. Cross walks were said to be a problem when there is not sufficient lighting. One member questioned the possibility of an underpass on Annie Glidden. It was stated that the sidewalks on Annie Glidden road were in good condition. The subcommittee would also like to ask DSATS about sidewalk surveys and evaluation of conditions of sidewalks and bike paths.

Derek Hiland stated that bikers and walking pedestrians should have room along paths for distance between them. The width has to be greater if you create a dedicated bike/walk path. So width depends on location. The subcommittee will ask DSATS about bike paths.

The question was asked if bike racks were needed or if there are any in the AGN area now. Knox stated that he hasn't seen bikes kept outside in his neighborhood or chained up on trees and poles. It was stated that landlords should be asked about providing bike racks, if they currently do, or if they would consider providing them on their properties. If there is a legitimate need for bike racks in certain areas, it was stated that City staff could look at including bike rack requirements in zoning reviews.

The subcommittee discussed what information is pertinent to have for future meetings such as past survey data collected from the AGN area related to transportation. Michnick stated that DSATS had performed a survey but received a very low response rate. Staff will look into this and bring any information found to upcoming meetings. The group discussed questions to prepare for DSATS including: Bus routes, frequency, downtime, costs, on demand, group on demand, where is negotiation headed, goals, what transportation services are provided currently for residents to travel to health and medical services, and the option to take bikes on to busses.

Lighting throughout the AGN area was discussed. ComED light installations were discussed. The question of whether or not task force members should take walking tours of the neighborhoods to identify lighting needs should take place was raised. David Castro stated that improving lighting is a low hanging fruit that can be acted on to bring an immediate result. One member stated that this is something the City should do. Several members stated it was necessary to obtain more information regarding where ComED is replacing/installing lighting before initiating a walking tour. It was stated that it might not be a good first step to add a lot of new lights that may be excessive and become a nuisance. It was said that residents may resent that if the amount of lighting was to be excessive for the neighborhood. The subcommittee needs

verification on how many new lights are being installed versus how many lights are being replaced by the new LED lights donated from ComED.

Michnick briefly provided an overview of the safe streets initiative. Michnick stated that as of currently, if residents do not have off-street parking, they park on the street. The safe streets initiative will require residents to have permits to park on the street. Michnick said that there is a shortage of parking in the AGN area. One member asked if the Campus Cinemas property could be used for neighborhood parking. Michnick stated that the owner of the vacant Campus Cinemas property sold a portion of the property to one of the apartment complexes for parking. The remainder he does not allow parking on. But it could be looked at in the future depending on the outcome of the vacant property.

The 912 Edgebrook property was discussed as a potential parking space if demolished. The subcommittee members expressed the need for additional parking in the AGN area in conjunction with the safe streets initiative. Michnick stated that there is adequate parking on the west side of Annie Glidden but not on the east. He stated that is because the parking standards changed.

A question was raised about what problems come with having neighborhood parking lots? It was stated that parking lots cannot be too far of a walk for people who will need to use them. It was said that parking lots that are away from main roads and areas of high visibility can become magnets for unwanted activities and nuisances to residents in the area. It was stated that nuisances in parking lots may be avoided depending on the police patrol and lighting. The group added questions about potential parking lots to be added in the AGN area. The group also added a question regarding the ComEd lighting plan to their list for finding out more information.

Gathering places as well as appearance and layout of Welsh Park were discussed. One member stated additional lighting on the basketball and soccer courts would help. It was stated that the Police Department has requested that the Park District not add lighting in the park, but instead, close it from dusk to dawn. The addition of trees was suggested. The possibility of partnering with Community Gardens was discussed. A member stated that the subcommittee can still suggest that the basketball court at Welsh Park be left open. Another suggestion was to add a Frisbee golf course to Welsh Park as an inexpensive improvement for residents within the area. Questions about programming in Welsh Park were raised as well. The group asked for the Parks and Recreation Director be invited to an upcoming meeting for discussion of parks within the AGN area. The question on the activity sheet regarding improvements to the creek open space area was postponed to a further meeting that will be dedicated to discussion on parks and open space.

A member asked about making the subcommittee meetings regularly scheduled meetings so that they have the ability to add items to the agenda at the meetings. Stevens stated that making these meetings is not the direction the group should go in because by doing so, they would have to adhere to meeting on a specific date each month. Stevens stated that having the requirement to meeting on regularly scheduled meeting dates would place further constraints on the

subcommittee in addition to the Open Meetings Act (OMA) constraints in place currently. Stevens stated that the subcommittee should really be a workgroup that is able to make progress outside of the meetings by contacting certain agencies, identifying resources, and preparing plans and ideas and that this can be done within the parameters of the OMA. Several members stated that it is unnecessary to switch to regularly scheduled meetings because they will pick which topics to focus on for future meeting agendas.

Stevens stated that all three meetings including this one, need to be completed by early April so that outcomes of the subcommittee meetings can be incorporated into the Revitalization Plan. Stevens will arrange for DSATS to attend the next meeting. Stevens and Perkins will coordinate with the Park District Director to attend the following meeting.

Next meeting dates:

3/2 4-5:30 DSATS

3/19 3-4:30 Park District

3/26 3-4:30 Deliberations

Stevens stated that agenda items need to be submitted by the Friday before the week of the meeting and to let him know of any items to include for adding to the agenda.

#### E. Adjournment

Move to adjourn by Derek Hiland, seconded by Patti Perkins at 4:39 pm.

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Mim Evans, Research Associate, CGS

Minutes approved by the AGN Task Force Meeting on: March 2, 2018