

LEGACY DECATUR BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2026
5:00 P.M.

AUDITORIUM AT LEGACY PARK

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM MARCH 26, 2026.
3. ACTION ITEMS

a. Discuss and allocate of the Board Designated Project budget

In the FY2026 budget, there is \$20,000 allocated for Board Designated Projects. After receiving feedback from the Master Plan Committee, staff recommend the following funding allocations:

- \$6,000 to address the small litter and dog waste with waste bag stations, tools for litter collection, and signage educating the public about the harms caused by microplastic and excess dog waste
- \$5,000 for a memorial honoring those laid to rest in what is now Legacy Park
- \$9,000 building inventory to identify necessary capital improvements for the vacant buildings

Staff recommend that the Board approve allocating \$6,000 to address litter and dog waste around Legacy Park, \$5,000 for a memorial space for the unmarked graves at Legacy Park, and \$9,000 for a building inventory.

4. PROJECT UPDATES

- Spring Programming
- Creative Village
- DeKalb County MOU for the John Lewis Tribute Fund

5. ADJOURN

Minutes

Decatur Legacy Board

Business Meeting – March 26, 2026

The meeting was posted and open to the public. Board members attending:

Board Chair Patti Garrett, Vice Chair Laurie Schwartz, Peggy Merriss, Andrea Arnold, Ed Bowen, Bobbi Kay, Grant Schrantz, Tony Able, Chris Brown, and Mayor Tony Powers. Allen Mast and Paul Mitchell attended virtually. Staff attending: Madeleine Henner and Dymond Fogg.

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Patti Garrett. The Chair asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2026 board meeting. Peggy Merriss stated her absence from the January 22, 2026 meeting. Andrea Arnold made a motion with a second from Mayor Tony Powers. All other board members present voted aye, and the minutes of the January 22, 2026 board meeting were approved as amended to clarify Merriss's absence.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the FY2025 Financials. Legacy Decatur ended the 2025 year in a strong financial position. The Legacy Decatur Finance Committee reviewed and approved the FY2025 Financials on February 26, 2026. Legacy Decatur ended 2025 with an increase of unrestricted net assets amounting to \$68,072. According to the current MOU with the City of Decatur, earned Legacy Park revenue exceeding the expenditures are to be returned to the City and spent at Legacy Park. The total earned Legacy Park income in 2025 was \$311,296 and expenditures amounted to \$306,166, signifying that Legacy Decatur will return \$5,130 to the City of Decatur. Legacy Decatur will make this transaction following any corrections from the FY2025 Audit. The Board inquired about fiscal agent funds including the Dog Park Improvements and John Lewis Tribute Fund. Staff discussed the committee outreach process and MOU status with the John Lewis Tribute Fund. Merriss made a motion to approve the FY2025 Financials with a second from Chris Brown, and all present members voted aye.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the following FY2026-2027 capital improvement priorities:

- Leigh Cottage HVAC
- Nickerson Cottage HVAC
- Administration Building Storage Floor Repair
- Administration Building Window Replacements
- Isom Cottage Renovation
- Administration Building Column Repairs
- Invasive Removal

According to the current MOU with the City of Decatur, the City is responsible for capital improvements at Legacy Park. Legacy Decatur provides input on these budget requests in accordance with the Master Plan goals. Staff work with contractors and City staff to discern priorities for the following year. Legacy Decatur project recommendations are not guaranteed to be included in the final City budget. The Board inquired about partnering with local

organizations for a joint parking option, Isom Cottage's earned revenue potential, and other Legacy Park building renovations. Staff clarified that the list is in order of Legacy Decatur's preference, that the City is handling the Trees Atlanta contract independently, and that the City Commission votes on whether the listed projects are included based on available funding. Grant Schrantz made a motion to approve the FY2026-2027 capital improvement priorities as listed with a second from Mayor Tony Powers, and all present members voted aye.

Staff discussed additional business including project updates on Legacy Community Day, spring programming, and donor-supported projects.

The meeting was adjourned by the Chair.

MEMORANDUM

TO: LEGACY DECATUR BOARD
FROM: MADELEINE HENNER
RE: BOARD DESIGNATED PROJECT FUND ALLOCATIONS
DATE: MAY 28, 2026

At the April 16, 2026 Master Plan Committee meeting, the group discussed possible uses for the budgeted \$20,000 for Board Designated Projects. When thinking about solvable issues, the committee outlined the safety hazard of visitors parking along the narrowed track road, litter, dog waste left on the trails, and replacing the gate by the restroom building with a bollard to improve pedestrian access and impede motorized vehicle access.

Staff explored these options further. No parking signs for the narrowed track road were under \$100 and could be purchased in the signage budget. Staff asked the City if the Streets Team could take on the bollard project by the restrooms, and the City was happy to make this improvement.

While reviewing notes from the Osprey litter removal, staff noted the experts encouraged large litter removal to be done in January or February when the vegetation is low. Staff recommend investing in large debris removal in FY2027 during winter months to maximize results.

Although Legacy Park does not see regular trash dumping, the snack wrappers, water bottles, balloon remnants, and other small pieces of trash have increased with the increase of Park usage. Legacy Decatur could follow the model set by City's Keep Decatur Beautiful with litter collection stations. Staff recommend that these stations are accompanied by signage to educate the public on the environmental benefits of picking up garbage. It is not just a candy wrapper in the grass; it is soon to be microplastics in the water that runs through our streams, disrupt habitats, and are cycled back into the water that we drink. The signage could also inform people about the ways that dog waste leads to bacterial contamination and algae blooms that suffocate aquatic ecosystems. Staff researched costs and recommended a budget of \$6,000 for this project.

Staff also recommend allocating funds for a memorial space around the unmarked graves on the South Lawn. The unmarked graves were found during the construction of the multiuse path. The City redesigned the path to avoid disturbing the area. Now that construction is complete, Legacy Decatur can move forward in honoring those laid to rest. There is still research to be done, and Legacy Decatur will work with the City, Wellroot, and other pertinent parties to inform the design. Staff recommend allocating \$5,000 to purchasing a bench, plantings to demarcate the space, and a memorial sign.

Finally, the Master Plan Committee has requested a building inventory with estimated costs for necessary capital improvements. These funds will allow staff to contract an expert to examine the vacant buildings, their needs to meet code for a certificate of occupancy, and estimated pricing.

This data will inform the Legacy Decatur Board's decisions for project prioritization and make capital improvement grants a possibility. This effort will focus on the following buildings:

- Green Cottage
- Glenn Cottage
- Atlanta Building
- Laundry Building
- Barn to include HVAC and plumbing
- Sheddon Cottage
- Whitehead Building
- Smith Cottage

Staff recommend that the Board approve allocating \$6,000 to address litter and dog waste around Legacy Park, \$5,000 for a memorial space for the unmarked graves at Legacy Park, and \$9,000 for a building inventory.

