

April 11, 2024

TO: Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe & Decatur City Council Members

FROM: Scot Wrighton, City Manager

RE: Transfer of City-Owned Land to the Staley Museum

Last year the city designated the block around the Staley Museum (junction of West North and North College) as “Staley Square.” The city also officially designated Basin 3 as “Staley Basin,” and took other steps during and after the 2023 Lake Fest to highlight the historic contributions of A.E. Staley to the development and growth of Decatur. As a part of these deliberations, the city also agreed to transfer a parcel of land to the Staley Museum so they can develop it into a parking lot to better serve public access to, and public programs at, the Staley Museum.

Finalizing this transfer has taken more time because the parcel being given to the Staley Museum is part of a larger parcel the city acquired when an old nursing home on the site was demolished. The city first had to make arrangements for a re-plat and re-survey, and a portion of the parcel had to be rezoned. These steps have now been completed. Attached is a map of the re-plat which highlights the parcel to be transferred to the Staley Museum (Lot 2).

The proposed agreement authorizes the transfer of the parcel for no charge, and requires that the Staley Museum make arrangements to construct a new parking lot on it in accordance with city code requirements before the end of 2026. After this real estate transaction is completed, the city will only own Lot 1.

At the time of packet distribution, the plat had not yet been filed with the Recorder’s Office. This last step is anticipated prior to the City Council meeting.