

**Unapproved Minutes
Village of Manchester DDA
Regular Meeting
July 17, 2007**

Members Present: Chris Fegan, Susan Fielder, Jody Flowers, Karl Racenis, Pat Vaillencourt

Members Absent: Stephanie Beuerle, Karen Hinkley, Ron Milkey, Bob Wahr

Others Present: Pat Sanders

Meeting called to order at 7:05 by Racenis

Agenda was reviewed. Motion to approve – Vaillencourt; second – Fegan. All approved.

No May minutes were available. We also need minutes from meeting in Feb.

Public Participation: none

New Business:

1. River Raisin Watershed Council – Pat Sanders. Pat distributed Manchester Environmental Problems Flyer. No easy solution to problems (erosion on west side), will take investigation and careful review. Discussion on dam removal, even partially, could create flooding on private property. Racenis stated dam is 12 ft. high. It has no actual bypass to reroute water. Fielder asked if raising the dam level one ft. (increasing the depth of Mill Pond) if plants would die. Pat Sanders said possibly. She says we need to bring in experts to lay out options and results. Racenis says because of design, raising dam is not an option. Flowers questioned whether we have ever dredged the river. We believe not. Vaillencourt questioned how we get right people to talk to us without financial ties. Watershed council focuses more on rural areas because approximately 75% in that area. Urban area has slightly different problems. Vaillencourt asked if the first step should be to get DEQ involved. Pat Sanders said yes. Fielder suggested we talk to someone (professor) at U – M that may be able to help with a DEQ contact. She will call her contact and try to set up a meeting. Racenis suggested we start with DEQ and tap U – M resources after we have more information. Consensus was to have Pat Sanders try to set up a meeting with her DEQ contact. Would probably be during normal business hours. Will try for July 30th or 31st. Pat Sanders and Pat Vaillencourt have been discussing a community awareness meeting in the spring. Racenis questioned whether this group should address the river. Vaillencourt, Fegan, and Fielder stated we must deal with condition now as it will get much worse quickly. Pat Sanders stated it can be a huge negative or

positive impact. Racenis asked Pat Sanders to find out about dredging of Newburgh Lake.

2. Pat Sanders discussed River Cleanup Grant. Watershed council is trying to put as many projects as possible in plan. Would like our project identified by November. We need to put together a very general plan. River bank erosion is a major concern of Federal Government. Grants are easier to obtain. Racenis questioned whether it is worth applying for the \$1,000 grant with all the strings attached. Consensus we are not ready to commit to another project, so we should not apply. Fegan suggested we have Mike McLennan come to our meeting. Vaillencourt will contact Mike.
3. Election of Officers – Fegan made motion, Flowers second – to keep board the same. Vaillencourt moved to close nominations. All in favor. Racenis stated Ron Milkey has submitted his resignation due to the conflict with the Planning Commission. Vaillencourt will look for a new member.
4. Fielder stated Washtenaw County Arts Alliance received a \$100,000 grant to look at old warehouses to turn into art studios. Mark Palms will represent Manchester and host a tour this Monday at Elements Gallery to include members from Dexter, Ann Arbor, Saline, and Chelsea. A representative from the DDA is invited to attend the walkabout.
5. Racenis met with Jeff this morning to look at higher quality light fixtures and benches. They removed curb and gutters, and brick pavers lining curbs, and increased lighting costs in the enhancement grant. The entire enhancement project is \$774,143 which matches the budget. We have no idea when we will get approved.
6. Budget – The 2007/8 DDA budget was approved by council
7. Other – Fegan questioned if MDOT will work with the school for a deceleration lane at Klager. Referred to Jeff Wallace.
8. Reports: Vaillencourt advised that council will probably make a decision on the Historic Commission. Ordinance states it is desirable to have a DDA as a member. Fielder said she would consider appointment unless someone else wants to.

Vaillencourt explained the Joint Planning Commission through SWWCOG.

Vaillencourt sated Sept. 11 election is coming and we have options, so we should encourage voters.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Fegan (substituting for Beuerle)