

Manchester Downtown Development Authority
Unapproved Meeting Minutes
March 24, 2010

Present: Karl Racenis, Ray Berg, Alan Dyer, Susan Fielder, Jody Flowers, Russell Rhoton, Beth Tomaszewski, and Pat Vaillencourt

Call to order: 7:10

Pledge of Allegiance: 7:11

Racenis introduced new board member, Beth Tomaszewski. Beth is representing Comerica Bank and brings enthusiasm and previous Downtown Development experience to the board. We're happy to welcome her and look forward to her input.

Approval of Agenda: Berg moved, Flowers 2nd, motion carried

Approval of Minutes: following minor changes, Flowers moved, Berg 2nd, motion carried

Public Participation-Open & Closed

Old Business:

1. Review of Downtown Enhancement Project

Letters supporting the right-of-way requests were sent to the Michigan Department of Transportation by Southwest Consortium of Governments, the Village, the Chamber of Commerce and the DDA.

A meeting with state representatives is being planned for late April. We don't expect a decision regarding a potential separation of the Federal and State portions of the Enhancement Project before July. As far as we know, the project is slated to begin in 2011.

New Business:

1. Mill Pond walking/biking bridge investigation – Berg

Berg presented an impressive report regarding walking/biking bridge across the River Raisin at the former railroad site that crosses M52 near ChiBroil Park. He reported on his investigation of Clinton walking bridge; discussions with Clinton Village Manager, Kevin Cornish; contacting the Continental Bridge Company of Alexandria, MN; and preliminary specifications for height elevations etc. A span of 260 feet long, 10 feet wide is recommended. Berg's estimate cost is about \$700K. He discussed the possibility of creating a community walking trail from Hibbard Street, west to Washington Street, and on to Union Street, via village-owned property, totaling over 1 mile and connecting Chi-Broil Park and the Leonard Preserve. Because the walking/biking bridge would represent only a portion of the total "walking trail", other civic and community groups would be encouraged to help develop the land-based trails. Berg has already investigated grant funding potentials and feels the Washtenaw County Parks and Chelsea Wellness Foundation grants are viable options to pursue. Discussion continued regarding the walking/biking bridge's potential for

enhancing property values and revenue for down-town business owners. It was decided that any improvement project lacks guarantee of desired financial stimulus, but we would be wise to pursue available grants. Vaillencourt moved, Fielder supported, that Berg continue his investigation, report at the next meeting, and call upon other board members when needed.

2. Chelsea Wellness Foundation Survey – Racenis

Racenis reported that he, Berg and Vaillencourt have attended informational meetings and will submit the required survey by late April. The parameters appear to match the attributes of a walking and biking trail within the village.

3. Future DDA Objectives and Projects

Racenis suggests the board consider options/projects, in leu of Blue Prints-type projects, that would help us focus on identifying and promoting our current and potential customer/target markets. Berg suggested we evaluate our current 5 year plan and focus on less expensive/volunteer-orientated projects, given the realization the revenue from TIF money probably not be available for the next 5 years, given the current economic constraints with the State of Michigan.

Reports: none at this time

Next meeting will be April 28, 2010 at 7pm in the Village Room

Adjournment: Flowers moved to adjourn, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Fielder, Treasurer