

## MANCHESTER DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

June 6, 2012 Special Meeting

7:30 PM

Approved Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:40

Members in attendance: Ray Berg, Susan Fielder, Karl Racenis, Russell Rhoton, and Pat Vaillencourt.

**Agenda Approval:** Other items under New and Old Business topics were eliminated. Motion by Rhoton, seconded by Vaillencourt, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

**Public Participation:** No one present

**NEW Business:** Parks Commission Master Plan Response

- DDA Shared Use walking trail was included, but non-motorized bridge connecting both sides of the trail was excluded
- Perceived reasons include: Lack of DDA to develop firm future maintenance plan and competition for grant resources with other projects in Parks Commission's 5 Year Plan
- Other projects under consideration in the Parks 5 Year plan include "Green Way" walk along both sides of the river potentially connecting railroad bed property with Furnace Street Bridge.
- Further discussion included advantage of Chelsea Wellness Fund and potential revenue for Parks Commission's plans to improve facilities at Kirk Park as an example.
- Discussion of pedestrian bridge advantages included
  - potential impact on real estate property values, increased tax base and revenue
  - economic impact for down town business with increase visitors to our community
  - increased healthy life styles of current residents
  - attractiveness of obtaining outside funding from various grant resources who value conversion of rail bed property connecting community amenities such as County and Village parks, Elementary and Middle schools, public library etc.
- Berg made a motion that the DDA send a letter addressed to Jeff Wallace requesting
  - Inclusion of the pedestrian bridge in Park Commission's 5 year plan along with other potential parks enhancements
  - Establishing a committee consisting of DDA, Parks Commission, and other Community Service Groups to jointly apply for grant revenue, connecting multiple community enhancements, and more fully utilizing matching funds.
  - Include the advantages mentioned above
- Following discussion, Fielder seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT** Fielder moved and Vaillencourt seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Susan Fielder, Treasure/Interim Secretary