

Manchester Downtown Development
January 30, 2019
Unapproved Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present: Ray Berg, Denise Collins, Susan Fielder, Jason Heinrich, Leslie Kiesel, Aaron LaRock, and Sue LaRocque were in attendance. Julie Marvin-Manders and Pat Vaillencourt were not available.

Public Participation: Seth Kinker from the Sun Times, Jennifer Wojtowicz of the Chamber of Commerce, Mary Bortmas, and Quenton Bortmas were present. Attendees were invited to contribute to discussion as the agenda items were discussed.

Approval of December 2018 minutes

Berg moved, and Collins supported a motion to approve minutes as amended. A vote indicated all in favor.

Approval of Agenda

Agenda items were briefly discussed. Discussion topics: KaB00M Grant opportunities and an initial splash park update were added to the agenda. Kiesel moved, and Heinrich second the motion to approve the agenda as amended.

AGENDA

Presentation by Quenton Bortmas on proposal for River Raisin Park shelter/sitting area and canoe/kayak storage racks

Quenton presented a concept drawing of a potential canoe/kayak/seating area structure for the proposed Riverfront Park improvements. The 12 ft by 15 ft structure would resemble the Chi-Broil pavilion design. Drive-up, kayak loading/unloading access would face (south) the back of Over the Edge. Five kayak vertical storage “bins” would face (east) the river. Under-seat, lockable access for personal items would also be available. The original concept would accommodate 5 kayaks/canoes and provide seating for 20 or more.

DDA members asked questions and made suggestions which included: opening the north and east side-views with four-foot walls and adding canoe racks. Concern of eliminating two parking places to accommodate the drive-up delivery/pick-up access was expressed. DDA members thanked Quenton for his presentation and encourage him to present a modified design to the Parks Commission at their February meeting. Quenton offered his email address for those with additional questions.

DDA next steps include February discussions with the Village manager, contractors, and engineers. Other DDA questions would address the elevation of a potential cement slab base and estimated construction costs.

Update on CTAP Presentation and 2019 CTAP program: Destination Ann Arbor will make a presentation at the regularly scheduled DDA meeting on February 20th at 7:00pm. The 2019 document for request proposals has not yet arrived. It is expected that 2019 CTAP projects can cover more than one-year implementation. Application guidelines focus on Infrastructure projects that promote tourism. Manchester's past CTAP projects have been recognized as a model for other communities through Washtenaw County.

River Raisin Park update: Berg announced that the vendor contract was awarded and scheduled. The budget and the construction schedule have been announced. Initial river-edge improvements are expected to be completed before the spawning season in April.

Third Thursdays planning update for 2019: Heinrich and LaRocque have been meeting to identify potential projects. Another meeting is scheduled for February 7th. Community enthusiasm and participation is increasing. This year's events will occur during four months from 5 – 9pm instead of six months from 4 – 8pm. The committee is planning bigger and better events, which will require more volunteers. The committee will be able to pay performers this year. Application for LCQ grants will add a potential \$3500 to the \$2000 current available funds. Revenue from vendors' dues is expected to add \$300 this year. The committee is planning to rent a large tent for seating. Heinrich described "story slam events" in the "Ally" similar to the Moth Story Tellers on NPR. Berg inquired about repairing mural paint and sealing. More details will be forthcoming.

Role of DDA in Business Recruitment: Berg introduced discussion regarding the DDA's role in business recruitment. Utilizing the results from the Robert Gibbs and Tony Vanderworp studies, we have an opportunity and priority to recruit grocery store replacement. Following discussion, it was decided that Berg would research on-line applications to recruit Krogers, Whole Foods, Busch's or Jerry's Market to Manchester. A new-build facility is expected, subject to application requirements. A sub-committee to lead our efforts includes Berg, Collins, LaRock, and Wojtowicz. Vacant store fronts remain a deterrent to business recruitment. A proposed village ordinance is still under Village Council consideration. Berg will discuss the ordinance progress with the Village Manager.

Defining project goals and brainstorming time at meetings: Discussion will continue at the February meeting.

KaBOOM Grant: Wallace sent information regarding a potential KaBOOM Grant that would fund family-related recreation facilities. An application for a play structure along the Shared Use Trail in Chi Broil Park would benefit from multiple group involvement. Berg also described potential plans to extend the Shared Use Trail through the Leonard Preserve, exiting to M52 through a right-of-way passage near Carr Park. Following discussion, the KaBOOM grant might fund a splash park or mini golf course at Carr Park. The Initial application is due by February 15 at an early bird idea forum. Kiesel will gather additional splash park information from Wallace.

Splash Park Inquiry: Fielder reported initial research of Canton Community support for splash parks was limited. As discussed by other members, lack of enthusiasm might have been impacted by other public swimming pools available.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm

The next meeting is scheduled for February 20th at 7:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Fielder, secretary