

Manchester Downtown Development

June 19, 2019

Approved Minutes

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

Members present: Ray Berg, Denise Collins, Susan Fielder, Leslie Kiesel, Julie Marvin-Manders, and Pat Vaillencourt were in attendance. Aaron LaRock and Sue LaRocque were unavailable.

Public Participation: Mary Jo Crossno, representing the Manchester Area Garden Inspiration Club, was in attendance.

Approval of May 15, 2019 minutes

Marvin-Manders moved, and Kiesel second the motion to approve minutes as amended. All in favor.

Approval of Agenda

Agenda items were reviewed. A Grocery Store update and Garden Club topics were added. Kiesel moved and Collins second the motion to approve the agenda as amended. All in favor.

1. **CTAP Updates** – Berg reported on the 2019-2020 grant: The Tour De Barns brochure update is in progress and will include unusual barns. The canoe storage unit and other projects are on hold during Riverfront Park construction.

The Historical Society used the 2018 – 2019 grant money to complete the museum revitalization and purchase display cabinets. The Ally-Way mural has been repainted.

Vaillencourt reported that as the river recedes, a Boy Scout project will install the ¼ mile markers. The Canoe/Kayak brochure will reflect the Riverfront Park pictures and amenities when the park is completed. She also reported on recent communications regarding the promotional video, which will professionally display our small-town atmosphere, focusing on local events including the fair parade, fireworks, Riverfront Park, Shared Use Trail, etc.

Berg also reported that 2017-1018 grant will be completed when the ¼ mile markers are installed after Shared Use Trail is completed.

Vaillencourt attended the Washtenaw County 2030 Plan meeting and will serve on the steering committee. Meeting attendees focused on our

community services and needs. They plan to produce a county-wide calendar of events.

2. **Cityhood Update** - Vaillencourt reported that the Citizens Advisory Committee met last night. They are preparing a draft report based on detailed research, covering every aspect of cityhood status. They emphasized that cityhood will not affect Village or Township fire protection. Public information/input meetings will be scheduled. The committee plans to make a recommendation to Village Council on July 1st.
3. **Vacant Building Ordinance** – Vaillencourt reported Village Council members met for a special workshop to review Adrian and Muskegon’s Vacant Building Ordinances. They also reviewed existing Manchester ordinances, regarding safety/blight concerns. DDA members agreed to host a proposed informational public meeting in January to further evaluate options.
4. **Shared Use Trail Update** – Condo residents expressed appreciation for their access to the Shared Use Trail, but also expressed concern that their privacy will be inhibited. Although the trail was approved by the former Condo Board members, Berg will meet with the new board and propose “end of trail signs” to discourage unrelated access. Berg reports the committee has revenue to cover the cost and installation.
5. **Touch A Truck Project** – Kiesel reported 500 stickers for Touch a Truck participants cost \$196. Children attending the fair, can explore 13 different trucks, ambulance, etc. Kiesel reported unused stickers from the Fair will be used at 3rd Thursdays events.
6. **3RD Thursday Update** - Event planners had placed informational signs on public property, contrary to the Village’s Sign Ordinance. The signs were removed. Event planners are reminded that signs like those on the Gazebo require council approval.
7. **Citizens’ Institute on Rural Design.** Vaillencourt distributed information regarding CIRD’s grant funding for community design workshops with place-making professionals. They evaluate challenges and suggest ideas to help communities become more attractive. The grant application is due by July 22nd. DDA members decided to postpone application until next year. Given everyone’s busy schedule, the July due date wouldn’t be sufficient to prepare an adequate application.
8. **Garden Club** – Fielder shared topics discussed at a recent Manchester Area Garden Inspiration Club (MAGIC) meeting. Local gardeners are volunteering to pull weeds in the downtown business district. Vaillencourt approved their offer. On behalf of the garden club, Mary Jo Crossno asked about trimming the downtown trees. Because of liability concerns, no decision was made,

but gardeners are invited to attend Village Council meeting with their concerns. Mary Jo also asked about Herb planters for the Ally Way. Vaillencourt stated the Ally Way is private property and the Garden Club members should contact property owners for their permission and financial support. Fielder stated the gardeners have attended, and plan to attend additional Parks Committee meetings, to work with them regarding future improvements to the gardens in the Village Parks. Fielder also made a motion to award the Manchester Historical Society with the DDA Beautification Award for their funding of the new Edwardian-Styled Garden along Main Street. The motion was second and passed. Fielder will draft an announcement for the Manchester Mirror, to be approved by the Historical Society. She will sign the \$40 invoice and request it be sent to the Village Office for payment.

9. **Grocery Store** - Berg prepared a ten-page proposal package including demographic data, etc. Kroger is still considering our proposal. Berg stated Aldi is aggressively marketing expansion services in food deserts, but prefer a location at a signal intersection. Berg will submit another application to Meijers next week. More information to follow.

10. **Next meeting** – Our next regularly scheduled meeting is July 17. Vaillencourt opened discussion considering a lack of pressing issues and potential vacation absences, would DDA members consider canceling the meeting? Following discussion, Collins moved to cancel the meeting, second by Mavin-Manders, all in favor, motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45. The next meeting is scheduled for August, 21st at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Fielder, recording secretary