

## **Manchester Downtown Development**

**August 19, 2020**

### **Unapproved Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**Approval of May 28, 2020 minutes:** Following discussion, LaRocque moved and Marvin-Manders seconded a motion to approve minutes as amended. Motion passed.

**Public Participation:** Vaillencourt hearing none, closed public participation.

**Approval of Agenda:** Following discussion, Kiesel moved; Berg seconded the motion to accept the agenda as presented. Motion passed.

#### **Tour de Barns Brochure/Unusual Barns (budgeted \$2000)**

Berg reported the quad-fold brochure has been updated and is ready to go to printing. Originally printed 4 years ago, it has been one of the more popular brochures. More barns have been added including Ron Kuhl's homestead on Pleasant Lake Road. The map, indicating car/bike routes, now includes 18 barns, restaurants and other local businesses. Sue Maher will complete her work and send the brochure to Allegra Printing. Berg expects the cost of printing 1000 brochures will be \$1200, \$700 - \$800 less than the \$2000 budgeted for the project. The brochures will be available in about one week.

Kathy Lahaie and Linda Stevens, two local business owners, joined the meeting. Vaillencourt invited them to join in discussions.

#### **Lower Riverfront Park Project (budgeted \$8,000)**

LaRocque expressed excitement about the Lower Riverfront Park. Initially, cost estimates were requested from two local contractors. LaRocque distributed copies of McLennan's design and cost estimate that came under budget. DDA members reviewed and discussed design specifics. Suggestions included installation of village-maintained trashed cans and 2-hour parking signs. Kiesel moved and Berg supported the motion to approve the design and cost estimate of \$5650 and to present DDA's recommendation to the Parks Committee which meets on August 24<sup>th</sup> for the final approval before presenting to Village Council. Roll call vote: LaRocque, yes; Berg, yes; Collins, yes; Fielder, yes; Kiesel, yes; Vaillencourt, yes. Motion passed.

## **Shared-Use Trail Improvements (budgeted \$4,465.54)**

Berg distributed informational handouts

- 1) Berg presented details of Kiosk improvements: Three locked, weather protected, cork board, display cases for four 8x10 inch maps and posters, and three 5-slotted, weather protected brochure cases, which will be installed at the double-sided Chi Broil Park Kiosk and one-side Kiosk on Union Street. Both Kiosks will display four donor logos. Directions to the Leonard Preserve will be included in the Union Street Kiosk. The cost is estimated at \$1300, leaving about \$700 balance from the original budget of \$2000. Berg and Barry Allen will install the display cases and brochure racks. Berg estimate the improvement will be completed in September. Fielder moved and Collins supported the motion for Berg to purchase and install the Kiosk display cases and brochure racks at a cost of \$1300. Roll Call vote: Fielder, yes; Collins, yes; Berg, yes; LaRocque, yes; Kiesel, yes; Vaillencourt, yes. Motion passed.

### **2) Shared Use Trail Improvements**

Berg explained CTAP revenue is being redirected due to COVID complications. Washtenaw County's Plans for river-tourism improvements at Sharon Mills Park have been suspended. DDA previously redirected revenue, originally designated for River Front Park canoe storage and map/brochure projects, to Shared Use Trail improvements. Observations indicate increased Shared Use Trail use.

Berg solicited community input from local waking groups. Their priorities included 1) installing benches in four strategic locations, 2) distance markers, 3) repairing areas with loose crushed stone, 4) end-of-trail signage, and 5) nature identification signage.

DDA discussion recognized the benefit of benches but felt the cost of benches and installation would be prohibitive. Following discussion, DDA members prioritized initial projects to include 1) improving safety of crushed stone in areas where needed, 2) installing end of trail signage, and 3) purchasing and installing three plastic bag dispensers for dog walkers. After completion, DDA members will consider reallocating remaining funds for benches, distance markers and/or nature signs.

Vaillencourt announced the DDA budget contains about \$3000. She encouraged additional ideas for future community improvements.

Marvin-Manders moved the meeting be adjourned. LaRocque supported the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:46.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 17, 2020 at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Fielder, secretary