

**Manchester Downtown Development  
February 19, 2020  
Unapproved Minutes**

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

**Members present** Denise Collins, Susan Fielder, Leslie Kiesel, Sue LaRocque, Julie Marvin-Manders, and Pat Vaillencourt were in attendance. Ray Berg was not available.

**Approval of January 15, 2020 minutes**

Marvin-Manders moved and LaRocque seconded a motion to approve minutes as amended. All in favor.

**Public Participation**

Attendees were encouraged to sign in and participate in group discussion throughout the meeting.

**Approval of Agenda**

**1) Introductions**

Vaillencourt welcomed visitors and invited DDA Board members and public participants to introduce themselves.

**2) Scope of This Joint Meeting**

Vaillencourt encouraged an informal format. She is expecting this to be the first of future meetings for Chamber of Commerce, DDA, and Village collaboration in sponsoring community-building events. She will facilitate a summary article regarding our brainstorming discussions for publication in the Mirror.

**3) Washtenaw 2030 Plan**

Vaillencourt discussed Destination Ann Arbor's CTAP Grant, which in combination of Village \$2K matching funds, has provided an additional \$10K per year for several community improvement projects. More recent examples include Riverfront Park kayak/canoe storage and future development of the South Riverfront Park behind the DD Ice Cream Parlor. Other CTAP grants have improved tourism throughout Washtenaw County including the Watkins Lake Park. More information can be found at the AnnArbor.org website.

**4) Michigan Restaurant Association – Pure Michigan**

Vaillencourt also congratulated DDA member Denise Collins, for the recent Pure Michigan article highlighting Frank's Restaurant. The article featured a photograph of the Collins family.

### **5) Third Thursday 2020 Events**

LaRocque presented an update on Third Thursday events. The committee plans to continue 2019 successful events, add more children activities, and possibly include a beer tent and car show. They will be partnering with the Men's Club and invite other community volunteers to join this year's efforts. One idea being considered is to host a Fishing Derby. The DNR offers two days per year, when fishing license/permits are not required. The DNR will also help promote the event. Expenses could be financed by an LCQ \$2500 Grant and the Realtors are expected to donate \$2,000. The Alber Mill is offering to make a donation to cover event insurance.

### **6) Vaillencourt posted a list of Community/Chamber Events**

CRC Golf Event, scheduled for 6/13

Caramel Apples, 10/31

Christmas in Village, 12/4 – 5

Commercial Open House, date to be determined, 12 building owners, DDA, and Realtors

Chicken Broil, Third Thursday in July

Fish Fry, Friday's during Lent

Canoe Race, Sybil Kolon, coordinator

Manchester Community Fair

Fireworks, 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend

Robotic Run, first Saturday in August

Christmas in the Village

Leonard Preserve Run

Small Business Saturday

Women's Day 3/21

Manchester Historical Society Haunted Walking Tour

Manchester Underground – 100 people attended murder mystery, and concert

### **List of events being considered - volunteer coordinators are needed.**

Kite Flying Festival

Expanding Halloween events

Movies in the Park

Bike Night

Disc Golf for Carr Park, estimated cost of \$5K investment

Softball Tournaments

Event Pole flags – Veterans Day

### **7) Ann Arbor Board of Realtors**

Vaillencourt reported the AA Board of Realtors have scheduled a family event at Carr Park on the 18<sup>th</sup> of July.

### **8) CTAP Grants**

Vaillencourt announced Village and DDA representatives will be attending Destination Ann Arbor's annual banquet. We will be reporting on our progress on 2019-2020 projects. We will begin preparing the 2021 grant projects.

### **9) Additional Funding for Events and Activities**

Discussion focused on 5 the Healthy Towns, the Chicken Broil, and the LQC grants for future event funding. Vaillencourt and Wallace will be attending a 5 Healthy Towns meeting soon.

### **10) DDA Participation**

Enthusiastic discussion focused around a Pumpkin Fest, Movies in the Park and Disc Golf course at Carr Park. Fielder volunteered to work with Linda Stevens, Village Hair Forum on a Pumpkin Fest. Vaillencourt suggested the Park's Commission will focus on the disc golf project for Carr Park.

### **Moved to adjourn**

The meeting concluded at 9:00pm

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Fielder, secretary