

**MANSFIELD DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIP
BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING**

Thursday, June 18, 2019

**Mansfield Town Hall
Town Council Chambers**

4:30 PM

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Steve Bacon, Anne D'Alleva, Frank Gifford, Prabhas KC, Derrik Kennedy, Bonnie Kumiega, John McGuire, Toni Moran, Shamim Patwa, Diana Pelletier, Jessie Richard, Paul Shapiro, Sean Vasington, and Cara Workman

Staff: Cynthia van Zelm

Guests: Claudia Dinep and Kristin Schwab with Dinep + Schwab

1. Call to Order

Vice President Toni Moran called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

2. Approval of Mansfield Downtown Partnership and the Economic Development Commission Joint Meeting Minutes of April 25, 2019, and Minutes of May 2, 2019 Meeting

Jessie Richard made a motion to approve the minutes of April 25, 2019. Paul Shapiro seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Diana Pelletier made a motion to approve the minutes of May 2, 2019. Shamim Patwa seconded the motion. The motion was approved with the abstentions.

3. Presentation by Dinep + Schwab on conceptual Public Spaces Design Plan for Downtown Storrs

Partnership Executive Director Cynthia van Zelm introduced Claudia Dinep and Kristin Schwab with the landscape architecture firm of Dinep + Schwab.

She said Dinep + Schwab had been hired through a competitive process to partially implement the Partnership's 2016 Storrs Center Public Spaces Study. The goal is to enliven some of the public courtyards in Downtown Storrs that are privately owned. A stakeholder team made up of Town, Partnership, and Oaks on the Square members have been meeting with Ms. Dinep and Ms. Schwab to develop a conceptual design.

Ms. Dinep presented the plan to the Board. The proposed design for the courtyard on Dog Lane would be bistro lights to create more of an ambiance. The proposal for the courtyards on Wilbur Cross Way are for trees, granite seating including stoops, more modern colorful seating, planters, art wall where people can take pictures ("Instagram" wall), a painted cross walk, and a small stage.

Ms. Schwab said the plan has been shared with the appropriate Town departments and one sign permit is needed for the bistro lights. A public hearing by the Planning and Zoning Commission is scheduled for July 15. The Town Director of Planning and Development will need to sign off on the site plan as well.

She noted that Partnership and Town staff are working on some Town in-kind services with respect to the lighting and the installation of the seating. This will help keep the costs down.

Ms. Schwab said most of the proposed elements can be incorporated with the current budget but not all of them. She and Ms. Dinep are working to finalize a budget for contracted work.

The goal is to have the initial plan implemented by the time of the Festival on September 21.

Partnership Board members asked questions of Ms. Dinep and Ms. Schwab. There were questions about the potential cost of the stage, how much it would be utilized, and how much time it would take for Partnership staff to program the space. Board members also suggested that the bistro lights be carried over to the Wilbur Cross Way courtyards as well. Board members agreed that not everything proposed needs to be built at once.

The consensus from the Board was to defer the stage, and add lighting to the Wilbur Cross Way courtyards.

Ms. Richard moved to endorse the Public Spaces Design Plan with the suggested revisions and authorize the Partnership steering team to continue to work with Dinep + Schwab on a final Plan. Ms. Pelletier seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

4. Opportunity for Public to Comment

There was no public comment.

5. Adjourn

John McGuire made a motion to adjourn. Bonnie Kumiega seconded the motion. The motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 5:38 pm.

Minutes taken by Cynthia van Zelm.