



Mansfield Tomorrow

OUR PLAN ► OUR FUTURE

Advisory Group Meeting
Tuesday, April 9th, 2013
Mansfield Town Hall, Council Chambers

Special Meeting
DRAFT Minutes

Advisory Group Members Present: Roger Adams, Sara Anderson, John Armstrong, Diane Briody, Al Cyr, Matthew Emery, Winky Gordon, Donald Hoyle, Quentin Kessel, Kathleen Krider, John McGuire, Toni Moran, Jim Morrow, Betsey Paterson, Jeff Polhemus, George Rawitscher, Meg Reich, Derek Rudd, Kristen Schwab, Jon Sgro, Susan Zito

Project Staff: Larissa Brown, Goody Clancy; Linda Painter, Mansfield Director of Planning and Development; Jennifer Kaufman, Mansfield Tomorrow Project Manager; and Kelsey Sullivan, Mansfield Tomorrow Intern.

Guests Present: Miriam Kurland

1. The Meeting was Called to Order at 6:30pm
2. Peter of Mt. Auburn Associates (the economic development consultant for Mansfield Tomorrow) is introduced
 - Peter pointed out that some projects, such as the Tech Park, are long-term projects and their effects won't be realized for another 15 or 20 years
 - He believes that the UConn Depot campus is a potential economic resource
 - Peter advised that there are strategies that Mansfield can take to attract certain types of development that could be done in conjunction with UConn
3. Peter asked for questions or comments from the advisory committee
 - Much of the discussion centered around UConn's proposed Tech Park. Members of the committee would like more answers such as what UConn expects from the town for this project, what the time frame is, and what kind of economic gain Mansfield stands to receive from its construction
 - Betsy Paterson commented that the "water issue" will limit development until a consensus is reached.
 - Pointed out that the relationship between the Town and UConn has improved in recent years, with the establishment of the Town Gown and the Mansfield Community-Campus Partnership
 - Also pointed out that through the Downtown Partnership process, town residents have repeatedly expressed opposition to industrialized development

- Peter specified that while industrialized development is not ideal for Mansfield, high-tech development or “light industry” may fit in (such as the Tech Park)
 - Members of the committee would like to see a timeline for UConn’s proposed development (the only thing known for certain is that the Innovation Center will be constructed in 2015), and would also like an information sheet outlining all formal connections between the Town and UConn
 - Members were concerned about the water issue, and would like to step up as leaders on the issue rather than followers. Members would like to be partners with UConn on water decisions.
4. Larissa moved for an adoption of the March 5th meeting minutes based on consensus.
 - The minutes were filed as written.
 5. Larissa encouraged committee members to take on an outreach role in any committees or organizations that they may belong
 - The planners have materials that may be borrowed for presentations
 - A sign-up sheet with a list of outreach opportunities was passed around
 6. Larissa reviewed the results of the March 9th Community Visioning Workshop
 - A summary of the event is available on the Mansfield Tomorrow website
 - About 90 attendees were present, and were of a limited demographic (primarily Caucasian, well-educated, affluent, and residents for 20+ years)
 - Common themes that arose included preservation of agricultural and historical resources
 - Common concerns included preservation of water resources and maintaining functional open space (economically viable farms, storm water management sites, etc.)
 - There may have been some confusion during the digital voting on development goals from the 2008 POCD. Some voters believed they were voting on whether the statements were currently true rather than accepting them as goals for the future.
 7. Larissa led an examination of the Draft Vision for Mansfield Tomorrow, which was passed out to committee members.
 - Committee members are advised to look these over after the meeting and think of any changes that they would like to make.
 - The editing process will take place over email. Larissa will email out a new draft vision to all committee members, who can then submit their suggestions for change. This process will be repeated a second time before the May meeting.
 8. Larissa announced that the date of the May meeting will be changed as it currently clashes with a town hall meeting.
 - A poll will be sent out to committee members to select a new meeting date

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm