



**City of Danbury
155 Deer Hill Avenue
Danbury, CT 06810**

Danbury Main Street Partnership

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June, 2013 – 4pm

Conference Room 2C

Next regularly scheduled meeting: August 1, 2013

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Members Present: Mayor Mark Boughton, Ingrid Alvarez-DiMarzo, Mike Kallas, Steve Bull, Paul Reis, Warren Levy, Andrea Gartner, James Maloney, Jack Deering,

Members Absent: Shawn Palmer and Marie O'Neil

Staff/Guests Present: Dennis Elpern - Planning and Zoning Director, Bruce Tuomala - Economic Development Director, Rich Antous - UNIT, Tom Devine – Chairman, City Center, Manny Carreras

The meeting was called to order by Mike Kallas at 4:12 pm.

Approval of minutes from May 2nd, 2013 meeting. Motioned to accept by Warren Levy with amendments provided by Dennis Elpern. Potential changes to motels and not hotels and adding in mental health treatment, social services agencies, and nursing homes. Motion Seconded by Andrea Gartner accepting the amended latest version of the May 2, 2013 minutes.

James Maloney abstained from vote due to not attending May 2, 2013 meeting because of a scheduling conflict.

Minutes Approved.

Old Business:

Bruce Tuomala - Economic Development Director introduced Daniel Casagrande, Corporation Counsel to address any questions pertaining to the proposed zoning change changes approved by the Partnership at the previous meeting. Mr. Casagrande then described his role which is to advise on what legal problems and/or challenges the Partnership could face.

Daniel Casagrande and Dennis Elpern, Planning and Zoning Director informed that the review of proposed amendments has not been completed.

James Maloney supports the goal of having as clean/neat and orderly a downtown as possible. He said the use of zoning regulations may not be the most appropriate way of achieving that goal. There are other means to achieve the same end without legal issues.

Warren Levy recommended that City Council will sort out what and which avenue to follow to achieve the goals.

Daniel Casagrande discussed review of the legality and constitutionality of the issues. He explained there is a process and once it gets to zoning they will ask for legal opinion.

Jack Deering recommended that before we went any further to allow counsel to review the terminology and table the discussion until Attorney Casagrande is able to get back to us.

Dennis Elpern suggested that no action be taken until Corporation Counsel gets back to the group. Warren Levy made the motion and James Maloney seconded the motion.

New Business:

A) Mayor's Update

- Planning of the Mad Hackers Social Media Conference is underway for Saturday, June 8th. The weather and ticket sales are decent. If 300-400 people attend it will be successful.
- The Danbury Sports Dome on Shelter Rock isn't open as of yet, so the conference will stay on the Green. The band will play at the bandstand.
- Price Rite had a great opening and is doing well.
- Memorial Day Parade-the City looked really good. Hanging flower baskets were up.
- The Mayor's Cup golf tournament is June 26.

B) Mike Kallas raised the issue of satellite dishes on Main Street. The question was whether the number of satellite dishes could be controlled under zoning? Mike feels that limiting the satellite dishes past the DRZ should be included as that is also Downtown.

- Warren Levy and recommended that the issue be brought up under the City Council and ordinances because it doesn't relate to the economic viability of Downtown. Dennis Elpern agreed.
- Rich Antous from the Unit added that good community relations and rapport with residents would probably produce better results.

C) Bruce Tuomala provided a presentation on renovating Kennedy Park. He met with the City Engineer, Andrea Gartner and Tom Devine to discuss preliminary designs for the park.

- The vision is that park should be designed primarily for aesthetics, not for use for the Farmer's Market or day laborers.
- The refurbished park would have accessible sidewalks, access to electricity, bushes (although there is a lot of traffic and the proposed Holly could be a litter catcher.)
- Mayor Boughton stated he would like to start work by the end of October 2013. He wants ideas and plans coordinated. He recommended outsourcing the maintenance work to the group that maintains Elmwood Park.
- Stephen Bull asked if the City had a budget for this. The Mayor said yes.

Motion to Adjourn – Mike Kallas, Seconded – Mayor Mark Boughton. Unanimous Acceptance.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm