



DOWNTOWN MANAGEMENT BOARD

February 10, 2016

A special meeting of the City of Petoskey Downtown Management Board was held in the City Hall Main Lobby, Petoskey, Michigan, on Wednesday, February 10, 2016. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 P.M., and the following were

Present: Lawrence Rochon, Chairperson
Robin Bennett
Doug Buck
David Carlson
William J. Fraser, Mayor
S. Reginald Smith, Vice Chairperson

Absent: Jason Keiswetter, James M. Reid, Jr. and Jennifer Shorter

Also in attendance was the Downtown Director Becky Goodman, City Manager Robert Straebel Director of Parks and Recreation Allen Hansen and City Planner Amy Tweeten.

Hear Greenway Corridor Presentation The City Manager reviewed that after a series of workshops on the Downtown Greenway Corridor last summer, the Parks Commission made several recommended plan changes to City Council. Council then made additional changes and directed staff to have them incorporated into a revised Downtown Greenway Corridor Master Plan.

Allen Hansen, Director of Parks and Recreation, gave a presentation that highlighted the changes that have been made to the plan by the consultants, Beckett and Raeder, at the request of City Council.

Board members discussed that infrastructure for tent poles that would support an event tent should be added to the plan, and that the Downtown office would purchase at a future time; heard concerns that pedestrian traffic would be drawn from the current pedestrian path that fronts the buildings along the park to the new path that follows the rails; concerns about the use of the Elks Lot as a bus drop off and that the loading and unloading could block in cars; suggested that if the upper pathway were not installed and the bus drop off concept eliminated, the opening in the hedge would not be necessary and the new, upper path could be used for bikes only; and that Downtown has a desire to maximize parking where there are opportunities and that the parking lot should be constructed according to the full size option.

Board members further inquired whether the option of the trolley was affordable; that the DMB cannot commit the funds now, but could review for a year and see if a plan was feasible; and suggested that train enthusiasts or the Historical Society may be funding sources and support the Board committing funds for hiring a consultant.

In response to comments, City staff agreed with the infrastructure for tent poles; that the bus drop would not be used very often and that high speed bike traffic was not desirable in Downtown; that the major cost of the barn would not need to be constructed immediately; that the DMB had only been in charge of creating a plan for the trolley for a month and needed more time to flesh out details and determine feasibility, both financially and logistically; that staff had recently been in touch with a historic trolley consultant and had confidence that this company could help with some of the issues that have been uncertainties.

Chairperson Rochon asked for public comments and heard inquiries regarding if any consideration had been given to moving the war memorials to another place for the purpose of opening up more greenspace; what the hours of operation would be for the trolley service; if the concern of the Planning Commission regarding designing around the trolley had merit; and if there were plans to connect with the River Trail.

Mayor Fraser then moved that, seconded by Mr. Smith that the DMB approve the recommendation of the plan to City Council and that the DMB take a year to work on a plan for the trolley to become operational on the existing railroad tracks. Said motion was unanimously approved as submitted.

There being no further business to come before the Downtown Management Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 P.M.