

Downtown Mantua Revitalization Town Hall Meeting

Monday, March 22, 2010

7pm Mantua-Shalersville Fire Station

purpose: update public on DMRC activities; frequency of meetings; volunteer opportunities

In Attendance

Board Members

- Edie Benner
- Michelle Barnauskas
- Ellie Stamm
- Jim Rogers
- Lisa Zamecnik
- Rick Frato (nominee)

Advisory Panel Members

- Rod Garrison
- Christine Pitsinger
- Sandy Engelhart
- Caren Stutzmann
- Laura Landreth
- Melanie Miracle

Others

- Linda Ehlert
- Tia Nipper
- Keith Barton
- Carl Zeleznik
- Estelle Brown (Villager)

Absent

Board, Excused

- Becky Newell
- Jim Oster
- Joan Sweet

Advisory Panel

- Donna Hawkins
- Melissa Lyle
- Jason Carlton
- Eric Hummel
- Helen Hazlett

- I. Edie Benner led introductions by asking what participants like about towns other than Mantua.
 - a. Garrettsville – Summerfest, restaurants and shops, bike trail to bring visitors
 - b. Greenville, SC – revitalized, streetscape, pride
 - c. Chagrin Falls – walkable, charm, river, friendly, shops, price, clean windows and streets
 - d. Frankenmuth, MI – quaint, good food, theme
 - e. Lexington, KY – college town, urban/county government, walkable
 - f. Alexandria, VA – planned, walkable, mix of old/new, people, river
 - g. Syracuse, NY – college town
 - h. Santa Fe, NM – hiking, sun, quaint
 - i. Hiram – college
 - j. Breckenridge, CO – activity, skiing, quaint
 - k. Linesville, PA – preserved historical charm, parks, flags, flowers

- II. Edie reviewed DMRC new mission, adopted 11/09 during 501c3 review. Michelle Barnauskas clarified that “blight” is a word required for 501c3 as well as many grants; not a reflection of overall atmosphere or attitude of Mantua.

Downtown Mantua Revitalization Corporation works with the Village of Mantua to lessen the burdens of government by engaging the citizens, civic organizations, business community and property owners to develop and implement a plan to reverse blight and improve accessibility of the historic Village to promote the health and well being of the community.

DMRC Objectives

- *Make the Mantua area a welcoming destination*
- *Encourage residents and visitors to enjoy the Mantua area, including:*
 - *The Headwaters*
 - *Hike & Bike Trail*
 - *Cuyahoga River*
 - *Shops*
 - *Eateries*
 - *Parks*
 - *Service Providers*
 - *Historic Architecture*
 - *Rural Character*
- *Plan, secure financing, and facilitate capital improvements in the downtown Mantua commercial corridor.*

- III. 2010 Major Events for DMRC:

5/15/10 Spring Spruce-up with Chamber
7/10/10 Art Walk on the Hill in Mantua

9/10/10 Potato Festival
10/9/10 Walking Through Mantua’s Past

- IV. Michelle explained DMRC organizational structure, handed-out summary of Board and Advisory Panel responsibilities, and invited guests to identify where/how they want to be involved.
- a. **Officers** (4) part of Board: meet every 2-4 weeks as needed; work on DMRC initiatives outside of meetings; oversee committee activities, finances, DMRC governance
 - b. **Board** (12) meets regularly; most members attend every officers' meeting; expected to participate on committees, work outside meetings; oversee officers
 - c. **Advisory Panel** expected to attend community meetings; may attend Board/officer meetings; keep Board informed; provide feedback; assist with projects as desired
 - d. **Committees**
 - i. **Spring Spruce-up** needs chair, scheduled for **8am-noon on 5/15**
 - ii. **Art on the Hill** chairs Christine Pitsinger, Becky Newell scheduled event for **10am-7pm on 7/10**
 1. Christine reported that event already publicized in various papers, several vendor applications received, 60 artisans in 2009.
 2. Lost Dean Olsen as chair and likely no Pow Wow in 2010.
 3. May need help securing event sponsors.
 4. Sandy Engelhart volunteered to call radio stations for sound system.
 5. Rick Frato volunteered to organize musicians.
 6. Caren Stutzman offered the use of electrical outlets at SE corner of Main & Prospect.
 7. Woodworkers requested indoor display; ask Joe Leanard/Jim Stadlander to do demonstrations.
 8. Jim Rogers noted that Farmers Market held that morning
 9. Event volunteers: Ellie Stamm, Rick Frato, Tia Nipper, Linda Ehlert, Laura and Ron Landreth, Michelle Barnauskas
 - iii. **Potato Festival Booth** chair Jim Oster will recruit booth staff as event nears.
 - iv. **Potato Festival Parade** chair Carl Zeleznik will recruit volunteers
 - v. **Walking Through Mantua's Past** chairs Linda Ehlert, Melanie Miracle scheduled event for **4-8pm on 10/9** and shared ideas
 1. General store – hand-dipped candles, quilts (Ellie Monroe), old clocks, penny candy, maple products, local produce, apples/cider, whittling
 2. Ballroom for dance?
 3. Fashion show – Portage County Historical Society civil war era, \$75 cost, at Hilltop Church?
 4. Lincoln impersonator
 5. 1860s hearse and coffin – Ron Kotkowski's
 6. Farmer's Market same day?
 7. Soda fountain at Jake's and tour of basement
 8. Other buildings open for events/tours
 - vi. **Fundraising** chairs Edie Benner, Jim Oster, Jim Rogers working behind the scenes
 1. Edie reviewed recent meetings and discussions to keep DMRC top-of-mind with: Kent State Local Leaders, Portage County Economic Development Director Bill Ulik, Portage County Commissioner Chuck Keiper (Mantua native), Portage County Economic Development Board, Portage County Regional Planning Commission, Neighborhood Development Services, Portage Parks District, Congressman Steven LaTourette/Dino DiSanto.
 2. Possible grants included state and local funds administered by County Commissioners, most require proof of low-moderate income and/or blight; federal transportation funds awaiting bill passage

- V. Ellie Stamm summarized 2009 DMRC activities and finances
- a. Educated local entrepreneurs at two Business Workshops which nearly broke-even with participant fees covering all but \$14 of supplies cost(workbooks, business resource guides, misc. copies). Workshops been handed-off to chamber since developing businesses is a chamber activity.
 - b. Met to decide how to help Village match \$15,000 ODOD Planning Grant
 - c. Held Strategic Planning Meeting with board and advisory panel members
 - d. Partnered with MSACC for Annual Spring Spruce-Up downtown
 - e. Hosted a Community Meeting like this one to finalize streetscape sketches
 - f. Sponsored 1st Annual Mantua's Art on the Hill where volunteer organizers spent just \$2,100 to produce a first-class event that generated over \$7,000.
 - g. Participated in Potato Festival and Parade
 - h. And spent hours on behind-the-scenes administrative work, including response to IRS re. 501c3 application
 - i. Overall
 - i. more than 1,200 volunteer hours
 - ii. over \$20,000 in donated goods and services
 - iii. income of over \$13,000 (from Art on the Hill \$7,149; Corporate Contributions \$2,600; Individual Donors \$859; Memorials \$2,185; Merchandise \$280)
 - iv. expenses of \$11,354 (insurance, attorney fees, consultant fees)
 - v. **carryover of \$9,140 into 2010**
- VI. Rod Garrison discussed streetscape sketches, with cost estimates, displayed around the room. He commented that the current appearance of street corridors and public spaces does NOT appropriately reflect the quality of life in Mantua; it probably detracts from it. By improving the infrastructure and appearance, Mantua will attract needed investment for financial stability.
- VII. Edie invited guests to upcoming events
- a. Officers Meeting – open to anyone interested in Board/Advisory Panel
 - i. Friday, April 9 7:30 am at Advanced Rehab
 - ii. Contact Edie Benner, ebenner@roadrunner.com, 330-697-0957
 - b. Annual Board Meeting – open to current and prospective Board Members
 - i. Monday, April 26 7:00 pm at Fire Department
 - ii. Contact Becky Newell, bjnewell@neohio.twcbc.com, 216-990-5086
 - c. Spring-Spruce Up – everyone strongly encouraged to participate & spread the word!
 - i. Saturday, May 15 8:00 am at Jake's or anytime before noon along Main St.
 - ii. Bring leaf blower, edger, shovels, brooms, gardening tools, window cleaning supplies
 - iii. Contact Becky Newell, bjnewell@neohio.twcbc.com, 216-990-5086
 - d. Committee Meetings
 - i. Art on the Hill: Becky Newell, bjnewell@neohio.twcbc.com, 216-990-5086 or Christine Pitsinger, communityjournal@yahoo.com, 330-414-6486
 - i. Potato Festival Booth: Jim Oster, osterpj@sbcglobal.net, 330-274-2802
 - ii. Potato Festival Parade: Carl Zeleznik, sierrainc811@aol.com, 330-274-2959
 - iii. Walking Through Mantua's Past: Linda Ehlert, nicknlinda@att.net, 330-274-0803 or Melanie Miracle, miraclelot@yahoo.com, 330-322-6461
 - iv. Fundraising: Edie Benner, ebenner@roadrunner.com, 330-697-0957 or Jim Oster, osterpj@sbcgloal.net, 330-274-2802 or Jim Rogers, jimrogers39@sbcglobal.net, 330-274-8738