

DDA and Planning Commission SPECIAL Meeting Minutes
Byron Municipal Building
September 20, 2022

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm by Chairperson Vandemark

Roll Call Present: Brittain, Vandemark, Miller, Russell, & Baker-Murph. Absent: Dickinson, Bailey & Bessenbacher. Total 5 members were present with 3 absent and 1 vacant seat. Also present, Blake Strozier of Rowe Professional Services Co (hereinafter referred to as RPS) and member of public Robert Whitehead.

Per Vandemark, this is informational meeting only to get public input on a possible future Riverwalk or Boardwalk along the river.

Blake Strozier of RPS indicated that after his inspection of the riverbank that the terrain is too steep and too dangerous on the East side of the Shiawassee River through the Village of Byron to have any type of riverwalk to be constructed there. He indicated that the project would be better to be proposed on the West side of the river and maybe a boardwalk from one side to the other. He indicated that a raised boardwalk using crushed limestone on the ground along the bank is a suggestion. There was some discussion about land ownership and usage.

Blake indicated that grant funding is viewed as more accessible if it is also linked to existing recreation areas, such as ball fields. He also said that having a Parks & Recreation Plan for the Village would be helpful to mention on grant applications. There are DEQ and DNR grants possibly available, per Blake.

It was discussed that if this project moves forward that it would likely need to be completed in phases, but that the phases could be split at a later time on an action plan.

Next step is that Blake of RPS will take back the information gathered at this meeting to his office and put together images from all views. For the DDA, we need to start with the existing Master Plan and look at a Parks & Recreation Plan to be sure those include plans for working together toward a boardwalk and intertwining all the Parks & Recreational areas in the Village, which will look better for future grant applications.

Meeting adjournment: Vandemark adjourned special meeting at 8:09pm.

Beverly Miller, Acting Recording Secretary

Date

Rob Vandemark, Chairperson