



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

Danbury Main Street Partnership

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 7, 2013 – 4pm

City Council Chambers

Next regularly scheduled meeting: March 7, 2013

Members Present: Mayor Mark Boughton, Ingrid Alvarez-Dimarzo, Mike Kallas, James Maloney, Marie O'Neill, Shawn Palmer, Paul Reis

Members Absent: Steve Bull, Andrea Gartner, Warren Levy

Staff/Guests Present: Dennis Elpern – Planning and Zoning Director, Bruce Tuomala - Economic Development Director, Debbie Pacific – Director, Danbury Parking Authority, John Deering

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Boughton at 4:12pm.

Minutes from the January 7, 2012 meeting were approved.

New Business:

A. Presentation – Danbury Parking Authority.

Debbie Pacific gave an overview of the Danbury Parking Authority and discussed strategic opportunities and challenges.

- The authority is a quasi-city agency and self supported.
- 35% of revenue is from permits. Tickets are the lowest form of revenue.
- There is a misconception that there is not enough parking downtown. There are 1593 parking spaces managed by the authority: 550 Patriot Garage, 380 Bardo Garage, 100 Lot/Permits, 129 Metro North, and 428 Meter on 16 Streets. Peak utilization is 75% for the Patriot Garage and 33% for the Bardo Garage.

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BY: 

- The authority tickets overtime and lack-of-permit violations. The police ticket everything else.
- Garage rates are lower than similar-size cities: \$45/month or \$1.00/hour.
- The garages are clean, well-lit, secure and have had no incidents of crime and vandalism.
- The authority offers a refillable \$5 Park Smart Card, available in any denomination.
- The library area is the biggest challenge for the authority. Spaces are limited for nearby businesses and library users. The pending DIC and NVCC growth will make things worse. New solutions are required.
- Possible strategies include better signage to find parking, a parking analysis, a third garage at Liberty Street, and new cluster approaches.
- Distribution is a primary factor. People don't like to park too far from their destination.

Mayor Boughton Update:

- The June 8-9 Mad Hackers Social Media Conference is moving forward with strong momentum. The leadership team, strategy/plan and financials are in place. Hearst Media will be the presenting sponsor.
- Final review and approval of DIC construction plans is pending. Work will begin this month and should be completed by the end of June.
- The proposed 5k race for Newtown will not be held in Danbury. The City cannot accommodate the 10,000 projected runners. The race will be held in Hartford instead. But, Rogers Park Middle School will host a 5k race on May 18th in honor of Dawn Hochsprung, Lauren Rousseau and the families, benefitting the established college scholarship fund.

Other New Business

- Dennis Elpern said Entertainment License packages have been sent to 20 downtown businesses. They will have 30 days to apply.
- Jack Deering said the Danbury Westerners Annual Breakfast, and home opener, are on June 7th and could be a great tie-in with the Social Media Conference.

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 pm