



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

Danbury Main Street Partnership

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 5, 2015 – 4pm

Conference Room 3C

Next regularly scheduled meeting: March 5, 2015

Members Present: Mayor Mark Boughton, Mike Kallas, Jim Maloney, Andrea Gartner, Marie O'Neill, Warren Levy, George Psarofagis, Steve Bull, Jack Deering,

Members Absent: Paul Steinmetz, Lambert Shell

Staff/Guests Present: Dennis Elpern – Planning and Zoning Director, Bruce Tuomala - Economic Development Director, Roger Palanzo – Rich Antous – Downtown UNIT Coordinator, Perry Salvagne – Hodge Insurance, Michael Visovsky

The meeting was called to order by Mike Kallas at 4:05pm.

Approval of minutes from December 4th, 2014 meeting. Motioned to accept by Andrea Gartner; Seconded by Jim Maloney. Minutes unanimously approved.

Public Comments: NONE

Old Business: NONE

New Business:

- Rich Antous presented a new awareness and enforcement plan to reduce/eliminate panhandling. Mr. Antous provided significant research which states that contributing to panhandlers is ineffective in improving the recipient's health and well being. It is proven that successful, aggressive panhandling not only encourages the individuals to continue their practice, it also discourages patrons and pedestrians from utilizing services, causes significant economic damage.

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BY: 

Some of the effort will include:

- Posters to raise awareness are currently being produced by Escape to the Arts
 - A new signage ordinance will be introduced allow businesses to cover only 15% of the businesses front window. This provides comfort for the patron in the store to look outside while also allowing those on the sidewalk to look into an establishment. This ordinance will encourage trade and public safety.
 - Clean Communities provision to remind area businesses to keep their storefronts and alleyway clean and inviting.
 - Public Announcements. This effort has begun with a post in the Tribuna and followed in other publications
 - Letters to business owners and property owners announcing the new effort will be going out next week
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- Jim Maloney announced that the Connecticut Institute for Families' downtown Danbury Community Health Center's planned construction at the site of the old Danbury Police Station is currently taking bids from contractors and planning to announce a groundbreaking for March 2015.

Mayor's Update

- Naugatuck Valley Community College expansion meeting on Tuesday.
- Greystar project at Kennedy Avenue moving along well utilizing local contractors.
- New decorative trash receptacles have been ordered for the entire City Center.
- City Center office relocation – TBD
- Soon to post open position for Veterans Affairs
- Pocket Park near the DPD being designed and demo of old house to begin soon.
- The Hackerspace at the Danbury Innovation Center reports that in the first 3 months of opening, they have secured over half of their membership goal. Congrats.
- Steam cleaning of downtown sidewalks to begin this summer.
- Discussion has begun to relocate the bus pulsepoint to a location near the Metro North train station.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:56 pm. Motion by Warren Levy. Second by Steve Bull. Unanimous approval.