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The Reading Redevelopment Authority has given its consent for the Greater Reading Entrepreneur's Connection to develop a small park at Second and Franklin streets.

Chairman Todd Auman said he was approached by Dr. Henriette Alban about letting the group develop a park on the land owned by the authority.

Auman said other cities have developed "pocket" parks with the idea to improve the feel of the neighborhood.

The group estimates that creating the park will cost \$20,000 to \$25,000, which it would acquire through fundraisers, Auman explained.

Authority members said they are in favor assisting the volunteers through the process.

"We can use this as a prototype to encourage a green-up-Reading initiative," Auman said.

In other business Wednesday, Auman made clear that it is the No. 1 goal of the authority this year to find new funding sources for future projects.

"The funding has to be in place to realize what an impact this organization can have on the city," he said.

The board challenged Executive Director Adam Mukerji to search for funding opportunities.

Auman said project funding will go hand in hand with the development of a market-value analysis map.

The board has a contract with The Reinvestment Fund of Philadelphia to create a block-by-block map to help government and private developers get the greatest impact from investments.

- By David A. Kostival

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Reading Redevelopment Authority

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