

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
January 4, 2024
APPROVED MINUTES

Jeff Mossel opened the meeting at 8:03 a.m. who asked for a roll call.

PRESENT: Jeff Mossel, John Miedema, Clinton Zimmerman, John Milan, Charlene Nowlin, Bob Patterson, Chad Nastoff, Linda Miller and Paula Robison

ABSENT:

ALSO, PRESENT: Mark Gifford, City Manager, Heather Bowman, Director of Public Works, Josh Pyles, DBA Director and Steve Gove, PR/Communications Coordinator.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion moved by John Milan, seconded by Charlene Nowlin to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2023 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mark Gifford presented the Quarterly Financial Status through September 2023. At the present time the revenue is at \$86,380.54 Expenditures of \$33,236.99 with end fund balance of \$114,754.87. These figures represent through September 2023.

PUBLIC COMMENT NOT RELATED TO AGENDA

BUSINESS

FOTA – Mark noted Festival of the Arts booklet is nearly complete and will be out soon. There are many exciting events being offered this season. The Grand Rapids Symphony is coming to town. There will be a piece of art by Ivan Iler. located downtown. FOTA has requested support from the DDA in the past DDA has given \$250 however after discussion the committee wanted to give \$500 this year.

Motion moved by John Milan, seconded by Chad Nastoff to give \$500 to support FOTA. Motion passed unanimously.

Downtown Flowers – Heather stated that she has been working with MDOT and Dave Hamlin to place flowers along the Maple Street and the Baldwin Street Bridges. Heather is hopeful this will come together for this 2024 season.

Farmer's Market - Josh announced the end of the year meeting was rescheduled however when they meet, they will be discussing doing away with Tuesday's Market and moving the Friday Market across the street to Bernie's Parking lot area. The space across the street is the same. Parking would be in the street and across the street.

Hemlock Park Update – Mark informed the board that there was one bid received for the Hemlock Park Splash Pad and Playground. The bid was received from Gerber Construction and was approximately \$2,050,000.00. The playground was \$500,000 alone. Mark and Heather have been working with Carla, City Treasurer, to find the funds as the bid came in over the amounts of the grants received. They are going to recommend the City Commission to move forward with the bid from Gerber. Mark is very hopeful to get the project underway this summer.

Chairperson/Cochair person – Members discussed Chair and Cochair. Jeff Mossel was nominated for Chair and Clinton Zimmerman was nominated for Cochair.

Motion moved by Linda Miller, seconded by Charlene Nowlin to appoint Jeff Mossel to Chairperson. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion moved by Clinton Zimmerman, seconded by John Milan to appoint Clinton Zimmerman to Cochair person. Motion passed unanimously.

Signage – Heather reported she is continuing to work with FSU and MDOT on new signage on Perry Street and Northland Drive. GFWC was represented and mentioned they would like to see the present signage restored so that all signs match throughout the city. Heather informed MDOT has so many restrictions on how and what the signs are made of. Mark noted that they have also been considering the option of a digital sign. All members and GFWC liked the option of the digital sign. Heather will gather information on a digital sign and will continue to work with everyone and get the new signage as soon as possible.

Other – Mark mentioned there is nothing official to announce however there has been much discussion on a potential theatre owner wanting to reopen the theatre downtown. The gentleman has had his team here a couple of times scoping out the building and location and he presently owns successful theatres in northern Michigan.

Next meeting of the DDA will be a Special Meeting, April 4, 2024 @8am.

Jeff Mossel declared the meeting adjourned at 8:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Trina Poulos
Recording Secretary