

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
July 1, 2021
APPROVED MINUTES

Chairman Mark Sochocki opened the meeting at 8:12 a.m. and asked for a roll call.

PRESENT: Mark Sochocki, John Miedema and John Milan

TARDY: Clinton Zimmerman and Jeff Mossel

ABSENT:, Charlene Nowlin, Paula Robison, Bob Patterson and Randy Ostrander

ALSO, PRESENT: Josh Pyles, DBA Director Mark Gifford, City Manager
The regular meeting of the DDA was opened up at 8:19 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion moved by Jeff Mossel, seconded by Clinton Zimmerman to approve the minutes of regular meeting, April 1, 2021. Motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Sochocki stated the ending balance looked to be \$17,420.73 under expected expenditures. Also noted the \$7500.00 approved for Hemlock Park Project had been taken out.

PUBLIC COMMENT NOT RELATED TO AGENDA

Clinton Zimmerman noted that Binney's Auto Parts was closing. There has been no interest on either the JCPenny's or Movie Theatre Buildings at this point.

BUSINESS

Twinkle Lights – Mark informed the board The City is still looking for a vendor for the twinkle lights as the present vendor has fallen ill.

John Kuhna Mural - Sochocki informed the board the expansion joints have become an issue as the panels are popping due to so much expansion and contraction. Joe Bentley is going to help my putting fasteners every six inches. Gifford will wait until fasteners complete and Mural is approximately 5-7 years old and have John come back and touch up/maintain the Mural.

Hemlock Park Update – Mark informed the board that the Project has been out to bid two times. The first time there were not any bids received and the second time there were two bids, both placed for the Kayak Launch however both were \$75,00 over estimated costs. The city did not accept either bid. The City is planning to move forward with the utility portion of the Project (pending bids and availability of supplies due to Covid Pandemic) and will put the whole (including Splash Pad) Project out to bid this winter. The fundraising efforts are doing phenomenal at around \$600,000 with the estimated

Project around 1.3 million. The Committee is still waiting to hear back on the Grant, should be around September. Progress is being made just delayed.

Retaining Wall – The retaining wall at the housing commission property has a preliminary estimated cost of approximately \$2.5 million dollars to repair. This is the low estimate with hopes of using a crane, if the crane is not used a barge would need to be brought in making the costs even higher. Mark informed the City/Housing Commission will look into different grant possibilities and are dealing with the Muskegon River Watershed folks to consider different fundraising events.

DBA - Josh informed the committee that Farmer's Market is up and running. Tuesdays are off to a very slow start and there is talk of evaluating and possibly changing up some hours of the Tuesday market next season. Summer concerts are up and running only one cancellation so far due to inclement weather.

Other – Sochocki mentioned maybe we consider either cancelling or moving the July meeting up next year as many members are on vacation in July.

Next meeting of the DDA will be October 7, 2021. This meeting will be an Informational Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Trina Poulos
Recording Secretary