

City Of Hamtramck
Downtown Development Authority
Minutes
Hamtramck City Hall, 3401 Evaline
Third Floor Conference Room
July 20, 2016

Meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m.

All stood and said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

Present: Joan Bittner, Andrew Dow, Dr. Shamiran Golani, Lawrence Ingram,
Vincent Szymborski

Absent: Kathy Angerer, Jeremy Duncan, Mayor Karen Majewski, Mark J. Hausner, Alissa Shelton

Public Comments:

Robert Zwolak distributed a business density that highlighted statistics on all the different businesses in the city (i.e. bars, retail, salons, mosque, doctors etc.)

Dow asked Zwolak where he gathered his information and he stated he gathered the information from the Hamtramck Review.

Zwolak spoke on the sidewalk sales he observed in the city and states the DDA should promote them. He thinks it would be a good way for the merchants to sell their merchandise, to get to know their fellow business owners and build a relationship with the residents.

Bittner says in the past she has tried to get the business owner to participate but it was very difficult and no one wanted to pay for it.

A motion was made by Szymborski, supported by Bittner, and Board unanimously approved postpone agenda items C-F until the August Board meeting.

A motion was made by Dow, supported by Ingram, and Board unanimously approved the new agenda.

A motion was made by Bittner, supported by Golani, and Board unanimously approved the minutes of the June 15, 2016 meeting.

The budget for fiscal year 2015-2016 was \$45,000 expenditures for the year were \$35,000 in which \$10,000 will roll over into 2016-2017.

Reviewed report for any outstanding expenditure and a receipt for approximately twohundred dollars for food from the DDA merchant meeting were still outstanding,

There were questions on the breakdown and why items are not posted in the order in which purchased.

Szymborski informed the Board that what they were looking at was a print out of the general ledger and not a true financial report.

Agenda Items:

Greg Kowalski, Hamtramck Historical Museum narrated a power point presentation.

The presentation was a proposal on the need for a Hamtramck Visitor Center and why it would be beneficial to have it located in the Hamtramck Historical Museum.

Kowalski says Hamtramck has at least 150 visitors a week making Hamtramck a tourist destination.

Kowalski states that having the Hamtramck Visitor Center in the Museum would benefit not only the Museum, but the DDA and all business in the city.

The Hamtramck Visitor Center will have maps of the city and also a space where businesses can display their information such as menus for restaurants, business cards, information booklets or pamphlets, etc.

There was discussion on who would be able to manage the Hamtramck Visitor Center with Cindy Cervenak, DDA Promotions Sub-Committee mentioned as a possible staffer.

Kowalski requested that the DDA pay for the signage and in turn they will put a link to the DDA website on the Museums website.

Szymborski stated that the Visitor Center supports the DDA Mission Statement and will be discussed further at the August DDA meeting.

There was discussion on the distribution of DDA dustpans.

First round distribution the business owners were very receptive and it gave the Board a chance to meet and talk to the merchants.

The Board found the business owners are more willing to engage when there is a visit to their business.

There was a discussion on a day/date to distribute dustpans either a Wednesday evening or Saturday morning, a date will be chosen at the August DDA meeting.

At least six Board members will need to be available on the day dustpans are to be distributed.

Discussion on who will drive as dustpans are being distributed and Kristi Gray and Cindy Cervenak were two names that were mentioned.

Agenda Items for next meeting:

- Hire a part time DDA manager.
- Find volunteers to help with the DDA (they do not have to live or work in Hamtramck)
- Follow-Up Report – Incremental Development Workshop.
- Select three goals (long or short term) for the DDA that support the mission statement.
- Visitor Center.

- Select date for distribution of dustpans.

Chairman's report:

- Great job on the merchant meeting, great interaction and the speakers were great.
- Thanks Shelton for the use of Bank Suey for the July Merchant Meeting.
- There was mention about the Polish Market and if there were any plans for it. He stated that he would reach out to some people and that may be interested in moving into the Polish Market building.
- Noticed American Fish and Chicken had a sign for King Ice Cream and wanted to know if they were closed. Bittner informed him they were open and expanding.
- Better Life Bags brought in a lot of business not only for themselves but for the city.

Members report:

- Dow let the Board know since Duncan's resignation, John Weier has joined as a part of the Sign Committee.

A motion was made by Szymborski, supported by Bittner, and Board unanimously approved to adjourn at 7:27 p.m.