



DDA Board of Directors
Hamtramck City Hall, 3401 Evaline Street
Third Floor Conference Room
Regular Meeting
August 21, 2019 6:05-7:05 p.m.

MISSION STATEMENT

“The Hamtramck Downtown Development Authority supports people, projects and partnerships which further the economic growth and stability of a thriving Hamtramck.”

1. Call to order (6:06 PM)
2. Roll call
 - Present: Andrew Dow, Lawrence Ingram, Dr. Shamiran Golani, Joan Bittner, Mayor Majewski, Kelli Kavanaugh, Zlatan Sadikovic, John Grossi, Andrew Kopietz. Staff: Casey Copp
 - Absent: Mark J. Hausner, Vincent Szymborski
3. Pledge of allegiance to the Flag
4. Public Comment & Introduction of Public (two minutes limited to DDA issues)
 - Robert Zwolak tells the Board that the city needs to bring back the highlighting of special attractions. He also states that the city must formulate better detours during road construction as was not the case recently on Holbrook, and that the city must consider this when road construction comes to Caniff in the future.
5. Approval of Agenda – Add or Delete Items
 - Grossi adds agenda items 8 and 9 regarding the website and murals respectively.
6. Approval of Minutes
 - Minutes – July 17, 2019
 - Grossi motions to approve the previous meetings’ minutes. Kopietz seconds. All approve.
7. Treasurer’s Report

- Financial Statements – Current Activity Reports through December 31, 2019
- Ingram reads through the financial statements as provided in the agenda packet.

SECTION I: AGENDA ITEMS – For Discussion/Action/Information

1. Discussion – DDA budget
 - Mayor Majewski motions to table this agenda item for the next meeting. Grossi seconds. All approve.
2. Discussion- Music Festival
 - The guest speaker gives the dates for next year’s Music Festival to be February 27th-29th. He says there will be more bands and venues than ever before in the 7 year history of the festival being hosted in Hamtramck. The speaker encourages a collective effort to generate \$1 million of economic growth and recommends Colleen Robar to lead this program.
 - The Board discusses Mrs. Robar’s role in the website. Bittner says they City must own domain name of 8 Days in Hamtramck. Mayor Majewski states that it could pose problems if the Board waits until next month to approve anything it could hamper the planning for the festival. Grossi questions that status of a contract with Mrs. Robar and Ingram claims Mrs. Robar has not done anything since the Paczki Run. Grossi believes she is still working for the City. Grossi motions to retain Mrs. Robar based on the 2019 Communications Plan but received no second. Bittner proposes getting a marketing committee meeting to decide on a proposal regarding Mrs. Robar’s work.
 - Dr. Golani, Kavanaugh, and Bittner agree to meet on Tuesday, August 27th at 6 PM and will report back with their discussions.
3. Discussion- Litter Maintenance in DDA District
 - Bittner says advertisements for schools are not allowed in flower boxes. Grossi says businesses don’t bother to clean up. Sadikovic laments that he cannot clean up for every business around him despite his efforts, especially the vacant businesses, and suggests getting a cleaning service similar to how it’s done in other cities. Dow says it will be difficult to pay for a consistent cleaning service. It’s agreed that Copp will gather information on potential cleaning services to be presented at the next meeting.
4. Discussion- Communications Plan Status
 - Gross motions to authorize marketing committee to determine communications plan up to \$10,000. Mayor Majewski seconds. All approve.
5. Discussion – Next Merchants Meeting
 - Copp explains the need to have another merchants meeting and asks the Board to consider a target demographic for engagement. Mayor Majewski says the goal of the merchant meeting should be as inclusive as possible and should engage everyone. Mayor Majewski also suggests the meeting should take place at a business, such as Bon Bon Bon or Woodward Throwbacks. The Board sets a target date for middle October during a weekday evening. Copp agrees to work on setting a date and location to be presented at the next meeting.
6. Discussion – DDA Database Progress

- Grossi says this will be a great marketing tool to engage businesses and business owners. He adds it will be a great way to get the word out for the next merchants meeting.
7. Discussion – Joe Louis Greenway/Bike lanes
 - Copp explains new developments regarding the Joe Louis Greenway and the idea of putting the greenway's route between Holbrook and Caniff through the west side alleyway. Kavanaugh says it could pose safety risks, and Mayor Majewski agrees but also explains ways the alleys could be better utilized as is done in other cities. Grossi says the DDA is very interested in this idea. Kopietz suggests having someone from the Joe Louis Greenway project present their ideas at the next meeting.
 8. Discussion – Website
 - Grossi motions to look into bids for the DDA to get its own website. Mayor Majewski seconds. All approve.
 9. Discussion – Murals
 - Grossi wants to work with Kopietz to get a formal application to put murals on buildings as a way to get businesses reimbursed for mural projects. Bittner questions if a mural committee would approve mural projects while Dow questions if the sign committee should be added to this. Grossi says he's open to all ideas. Mayor Majewski says there's no need to have the whole Board approve murals and Bittner says there should be a committee. Kavanaugh states there's a difference between signs and murals because one is commercial and the other is art. Kopietz says he will look elsewhere such as Philadelphia for examples of best practices.

SECTION II: OTHER ITEMS

1. Chairman's Report
 - Bittner says she is proud of everyone on the Board for taking such active roles in the community.
 - Sadikovic gives news that some people are looking to move away from Hamtramck because of recent shootings, but provides good news that part of Joseph Campau got repaved that morning.
 - Mayor Majewski says a lot of customers have been coming into her business from all over the place and views this as a good sign for business in the community.
2. Members' Report

- Copp thanks the Board for being patient with the Department of Community and Economic Development with many transitions but states there hopefully will be stability going forward and is grateful for the opportunity to work with the DDA.

ADJOURNMENT

- Dr. Golani motions to adjourn, Dow seconds. All approve.

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