



DDA Board of Directors
Hamtramck City Hall, 3401 Evaline Street
Third Floor Conference Room
Regular Meeting
December 18, 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 (6:10) *Bittner calls to order the meeting.*

2. Roll call

Present: Andrew Dow, Lawrence Ingram, Mark J. Hausner, Dr. Shamiran Golani, Joan Bittner, Mayor Majewski, Zlatan Sadikovic, John Grossi, Milo Madole. Staff: Casey Copp
Absent: Vincent Szymborski, Andrew Kopeitz,

3. Pledge of allegiance to the Flag

4. Public Comment & Introduction of Public (two minutes limited to DDA issues)

5. Approval of Agenda – Add or Delete Items

a. Bittner motions to add “sidewalk snow removal” to the front of the agenda.

b. Grossi motions to approve agenda with the addition, Hausner seconds. All approve.

6. Approval of Minutes

- Minutes – November 20th, 2019

a. Majewski motions to approve. Madole seconds. All approve.

7. Treasurer’s Report

- Financial Statements – Current Activity Reports through December 31, 2019

a. Ingram reads through the financial statements. The Board asks for clarification from the City CFO explaining the \$7,146.83 figure in the “Net of Revenues/Expenditures – 2018-19” line.

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

1. Discussion – Sidewalk Snow Removal (added agenda item)

a. Bob Straske of BCL Contractors: Straske explains his experience working with the City of Hamtramck on a variety of projects, including the recent installation of holiday snowflakes/ornaments on Jos. Campau. He apologizes for giving a vague quote last month, but explains that a flat price will not work and he lowers the proposal to \$75 per man per hour to remove snow on the sidewalk from Carpenter to Denton and all the side streets up to the alley.

It's expensive because the nature of the business requires people to work at any hour of any day.

- b. Golani questions about where the snow is put and if doors will still easily be opened. Straske says opening doors will not be a problem and snow will be pushed towards parking meters. Bittner says that snow piled by meters makes getting out of cars incredibly difficult for older folks. Ingram asks if Straske salts, which Straske says his company does not. Grossi says businesses can salt on their own and code enforcement must get a notice to start enforcing that. Majewski says she likes the idea and it would be a nice move for the tax paying businesses and also benefits customers. Dow says all businesses that pay DDA tax should be a part of this, including the DDA businesses that go past the alleys such as Polish Village or Painted Lady. Grossi reinforces that every business must be informed about this.*
 - c. Madole motions for the DDA to contract BCL Contractors to remove snow on the sidewalks of the DDA district for a one month trial, at \$75 per man per hour. Grossi asks to amend the motion to automatically renew the trial for the rest of the season if the DDA does not meet next month. Madole consents to the amendment, Grossi seconds the motion, all approve.*
2. Discussion – DDA Manager Update
 - a. Copp updates the Board on the search for the new CED Director/DDA Manager. Currently the applicants have been narrowed down to 3 or 4 applicants and interviews are being scheduled. Grossi questions why the Board wasn't given resumes to look over, and Dow clarifies that they had the opportunity to look them over the past month, which he and Vince Szymborski both did a few weeks ago. Bittner says she has been contacted by Szymborski about participating in interviews.*
 3. Discussion – New DDA Board Member Applicant – Lazetta Elliott
 - a. Lazetta Nina Elliott introduces herself. She operates Nina's Place, a newly opened and renovated banquet hall. She wants to participate on the Board because she loves the community and hopes to volunteer in any way she can to help improve the city. She will retire from her career at the DHS of the State of Michigan in the next year, hoping to spend more time with family and volunteering which is why she wants to join the DDA.*
 - b. The Board introduce themselves. Majewski says she will consider the application and bring it to the next City Council meeting.*
 4. Discussion – Small Business Saturday Review
 - a. Copp asks the Board to review Small Business Saturday. The Board generally felt it was a success. Bittner wants to get a head start on advertising for it next year because it was scrambled together last minute. She wants to start advertising for it at the Labor Day festival. Majewski says it was a good start and we need to build on that momentum for next year to grow the event.*
 5. Discussion – Parking Update
 - a. Majewski updates the Board on the recent City Council resolution that approved an agreement with Municipal Parking Services to implement paid parking on Joseph Campau and some city lots. Amid many questions from the Board, Majewski explains the city has full control over the new parking system. There's currently a 17% public compliance with the current parking meters, and this is meant to encourage turnover. Grossi and Bittner worry that increased rates will hurt business. Dow says the price of parking should be cheaper in the parking lots than the streets. Grossi hopes there will be a longer grace period than 5 minutes before tickets get issued.*
 6. Discussion – Small Business Property Tax Exemption
 - a. Copp explains again the small business property tax exemption form is for exclusively personal property and it applies to at least 90% of businesses in Hamtramck and encourages the Board to share the forms with other businesses.*
 7. Discussion – Plans for 2020
 - a. Majewski motions to approve the schedule for next year's DDA meetings. Dow seconds. All vote in favor.*

b. Grossi says he hopes the Board will improve communication with the business community next year. Hausner emphasizes the need to have a better website, saying for eight years he has sat on the Board and nothing has changed regarding the website or social media. He questions why Colleen Robar no longer is a part of the website. Grossi echoes Hausner saying some Board members are wrong for not wanting her around anymore. Bittner asks the Board to give the new DDA manager some time to figure that out. Majewski says it will be figured out next year.

SECTION II: OTHER ITEMS

1. Chairman's Report
2. Members' Report

ADJOURNMENT (7:27) Hausner motions to adjourn. Dow seconds. All vote in favor.

PLEASE NOTE: This notice is posted in compliance with PA 267 of 1976 as amended (Open Meetings Act), MCLA 41.71 a (2)(3) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). City of Hamtramck will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the Meeting to individuals with disabilities at the Meeting or Public Hearing upon 10 days notice to the City Clerk's Office. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Hamtramck City Clerk by writing or calling the Clerk's Office at (313) 870-0343.