



DDA Board of Directors  
Hamtramck City Hall, 3401 Evaline Street  
Third Floor Conference Room  
Regular Meeting  
April 15, 2020 6:05-7:05 p.m.



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### MISSION STATEMENT

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

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1. Call to order (6:11)

2. Roll call

*Present: Andrew Dow, Lawrence Ingram, Vincent Szyzborski, Dr. Shamiran Golani, Joan Bittner, Mayor Majewski, Zlatan Sadikovic, John Grossi, Andrew Kopeitz, Milo Madole Staff: Alex Iseri, Kathy Angerer, Casey Copp*

*Absent: Mark J. Hausner, Dr. Shamiran Golani*

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. Szyzborski motions to approve, Madole seconds, All approve*

6. Approval of Minutes

- Minutes – February 19th, 2020

*a. Dow approves, Ingram seconds, All approve*

7. Treasurer’s Report

- Financial Statements – Current Activity Reports through March 31, 2020

*a. Ingram reads through the financial reports as provided in the agenda packet.*

*Szyzborski asks about running fund balance, asks to have it provided for future meetings*

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

1. Discussion – DDA Manager Update

*b. Szyzborski asks Iseri to introduce himself.*

*c. Iseri expresses gratitude to be in Hamtramck and explains he was director of Mackinac Economic Alliance; he worked closely with St. Ignace DDA. Before that he was Peace Corps volunteer in Nicaragua. Prior to that he was a grad student at Western Michigan University and earned a degree in international development.*

*d. Szyzborski congratulates Iseri and expresses excitement to have him.*

*e. Dow asks if Iseri has been able to relocate. Iseri responds that indeed he has been able to relocate to live in Hamtramck*

1. Discussion – Sidewalk Snow Removal

- a. Iseri heard a lot of positive reviews of Bob Straske's work. Szymborski reiterates that it has been successful and applauds Iseri and Copp for publicizing it on behalf of the DDA.*
- b. Dow asks if Straske has been paid yet. Copp says there haven't been any invoices received.*
2. Discussion – Music in the Park
- a. Iseri explains that city staff are still trying to pencil in bands for the series but says we will be following the CDC guidelines very closely to see if we can actually proceed with the series. Szymborski agrees. Majewski reiterates that everything throughout all of summer are on hold.*
3. Discussion – Beautification Program
- a. Iseri explains idea to Instead of providing mini grants to businesses for maintaining their planter boxes like last year, we can have entire blocks work together. Residents can vote, and winner can be awarded at the Labor Day Festival. This will generate a sense of community.*
- b. Dow points out that not every block is the same size.*
- c. Szymborski asks the city staff to come out with a more solid proposal.*
4. Discussion – Merchant Meetings
- a. Iseri says there was a tentatively scheduled merchant meeting on April 23<sup>rd</sup> but it's no long appropriate to do so. Somehow, he would still like to get merchants together safely. Iseri asks the board what they think is the best way to do this.*
- b. Szymborski says the event certainly this has to be postponed, but recognizes how great these meetings are for relationship building. He worries that some businesses are not going to make it and our businesses will need help to get through the COVID crisis for a long time even after the virus as gone.*
- c. Iseri wonders about doing a live Facebook event to answer people's questions.*
- d. Angerer suggests that having Szymborski do a short message to relay to people about their options to help them, Szymborski agrees.*
- e. Majewski thinks the DDA could help be the one source to easily find COVID-19 business help.*
- f. Szymborski asks Iseri to make this an action item.*
5. Discussion – Plans for 2020
- a. Szymborski finds it ominous that there might not be a Labor Day Festival as we think about what's next for the rest of the year. Assuming that any of the things we talk about today cannot happen, we should still plan on using our resources as normal, but we can also think about how we can use the DDA resources on how to help businesses through the crisis.*
- b. Angerer suggests finding ways to bring people back to Hamtramck once people are safe to go out and do things again. Majewski concurs, suggesting the possibility of having an event to celebrate returning to normal if and when people are able to return to every day duties.*
6. Discussion – Committees
- a. Iseri has ideas for committees; Marketing committee focused on the outreach to those outside of Hamtramck. Also a beautification committee, separate but working cohesively with the city beautification commission.*
- b. Szymborski suggests having those not appointed to the Board also join the committees because there has been a lot of interest in joining the Board and these committees could be opportunities for new people.*
7. Discussion – Outreach
- a. Iseri explains how important it is to make the DDA Facebook a clearing house for information, but understands a lot of people are not on Facebook so he's looking for ways to distribute information to people who are not following us on Facebook. He asks the Board to review the document he sent to the Board via email that has resources to help businesses through the COVID crisis. Majewski asks to include restaurants and such as part of the one pager.*

## SECTION II: OTHER ITEMS

1. Chairman's Report

- a. *Szyborski is very hopeful for everyone's health and safety and is thankful for city staff in place to get the job done.*
- b. *Max Garbarino shares his job description with the Board and asks to Board to reach out to him if they need anything.*
- c. *Angerer says we already had a problem attracting people to have brick and mortar businesses, so now we need to encourage our current brick and mortar businesses to do online shopping. She also insists on taking advantage of all resources available such as liquor buy backs, there's help for barber shops, and there are resources specific to every type of business. She's happy there are Hamtramck businesses applying for grants. Angerer says life is going to be different after this crisis.*

## 2. Members' Report

- a. *Majewski asks Angerer how she thinks this will impact the DDA budget. Angerer replies that the budget is \$35,000 a year for DDA, Szyborski says this is the time to tap into the reserve fund. Majewski wonders if there are ways that the DDA can help our businesses adjust to life during and beyond COVID. Szyborski thinks this is how to use our DDA merchant meeting, or virtual talks on Facebook to do this. Kopeitz said he can put together resources to on what can be done and thinks these workshops are a great idea. Majewski thinks there might be some members of the business community that have expertise in this.*

*Bittner motions to adjourn, Dow seconds. All approve*

## ADJOURNMENT (6:59)

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.