

**DDA Board of Directors Meeting**  
Meeting Minutes of April 21, 2021  
6:05-7:05 p.m.

**Call to order** – Meeting was called to order by Chairman Szymborski at 6:09 p.m.

**Roll Call**

**In Attendance:**

Mayor Majewski  
Vince Szymborski  
John Grossi  
Milo Madole  
Andrew Dow  
Joan Bittner  
Dr. Shamiran Golani  
Lawrence Ingram  
Ahmad Al-Hassan  
Mara Braciszewski – Administration

**Absent:**

Abdulaziz Jobeh  
Andrew Kopietz  
Mark Hausner

**Guests:** Zlatan Sadikovic, Tim Price, Lynn Blasey

**All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.**

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

Tim Price and Lynn Blasey spoke on behalf of a sub-committee of the Arts & Culture Commission and are looking to put up banners in support of Hamtramck Pride Month. This would be done in the Month of June. As they were not formally ready to present, they will return next meeting with a formal presentation to the Board. Mara will research what permits are required for the placement of the banners.

**Approval of Agenda – Addition or Deletion Items**

A motion was made by Ahmad Al-Hassan, supported by Joan Bittner, with the correction of the spelling of Ahmad's name as it was incorrectly spelled Almad. The Board unanimously approved the agenda as amended.

## **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Andy Dow, supported by Ahmad Al-Hasan, and Board unanimously approved the minutes of the March 17th meeting.

## **Treasurer's Report**

The Financial Statements for the month ending March 31<sup>st</sup> were not available for this meeting. Mr. Szymborski presented an Excel summary of YTD revenue and expense to the Board as well as a projection of full year expenses and normal year expenses. The Board reviewed and discussed the financial projections which disclosed an operating deficit if all projects were fully funded in the calendar year. The Board recommended we look at ways to increase revenues, as expense levels are not considered excessive at this time. Expense spending can be controlled further if required. The Board asked the DDA Manager to look into grant opportunities as well as other fund raising activities used by successful DDA's in Michigan.

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

### **a. Consider amending Section 12 of DDA Bylaws:**

i. Existing: The board may designate one or more committees, each committee to consist of one or more of the directors. The committees shall not consist of a quorum or majority of the board.

ii. Proposed change: The board may designate one or more committees, each committee to consist of one or more of the directors. ~~The committees shall not consist of a quorum or majority of the board.~~

**Action:** Motion by Andy Dow, seconded by Milo Reed to accept the proposed change. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Board.

### **b. Consider dissolving existing Sign Committee and Marketing Committee**

### **c. Consider establishing new subcommittees following the Main Street America structure:**

i. Economic Vitality and Design Committee Description of work: improving the physical appearance of Joseph Campau, supporting historic building rehabilitation and adaptive reuse, setting design review guidelines and processes, analyzing current market forces, providing a balanced commercial mix, supporting and expanding existing businesses, recruiting new businesses, supporting housing options, developing infill space, and converting unused or underused commercial space into economically productive property.

ii. Organization and Promotion Committee Description of work: marketing an enticing image, directing and creating social media campaigns, organizing events (e.g. street festivals, parades, retail and other special events), fundraising, recruiting volunteers, establishing public relations, fostering collaboration between stakeholders, developing work plans to guide the organization's work.

**Action:** A motion was made by Andy Dow, seconded by Almad Al-Hasan to adopt items b & c as written above. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Board.

**d. Consider assigning the following board members to each subcommittee:**

- i. Economic Vitality and Design Committee
- ii. Organization and Promotion Committee

Proposed Assignments discussed by the Board :

***Economic Vitality and Design Committee:***

Andy Dow  
John Grossi  
Vince Szymborski  
Mark Hausner  
Abdulaziz Jobeh  
Andy Kopietz

***Organization and Promotion Committee:***

Ahmad Al-Hasan  
Milo Madole  
Joan Bittner  
Dr. Golani  
Lawrence Ingram  
Mara Braciszewski

**e. Consider setting calendar dates and meeting times for subcommittees.**

**Action:** Boards will schedule first meetings prior to the next General Board meeting and set future meeting cadence.

**f. Consider applying same attendance provisions for DDA board meetings to subcommittee meetings.**

**Action:** Board agreed that missing 4 subcommittee meetings would result in removal from the subcommittee.

**g. Consider board attendance and acknowledge if anyone has missed more than three meetings during the 2020-2021 fiscal year.**

**Action:** No action as the Board had already voted in a prior meeting that 4 missed meeting within a calendar year would result of removal of that Board member.

**h. Consider issuing a statement of support to organize Music in the Park in August 2021.**

**Action:** motion by John Grossi, second by Vince Szymborski "The DDA is in favor of supporting the Music in the Park events, subject to learning more about time/place/costs/requirements". Motion was unanimously approved.

**i. Consider purchasing weed removal services to businesses along Joseph Campau.**

**Action:** John Grossi made a motion to reject the request to purchase weed removal services. Mr. Szymborski seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

The Board discussed allocating no more than 10 to 15% of its annual budget on “infrastructure” type projects.

**j. Consider attending MEDC Mainstreet training for 20 minutes.**

**Action:** The Board will attend the first two virtual classes online prior to the next Board meeting.

**SECTION II: OTHER ITEMS**

Chairman's Comments – N/A

Member Report –

1. John Grossi reported that the first DCFC game is 5/1/2021 and Amici's Pizza will be served.
2. Joan Bittner reported that there will be a scavenger hunt sponsored by the Hamtramck Historical Museum. The link to the event is below:  
[http://hamtramckhistory.com/newsdetail\\_T3\\_R136.php](http://hamtramckhistory.com/newsdetail_T3_R136.php)
3. Mara reported that she is interviewing 2 interns for the summer. If hired, they will focus on previously established DDA goals and objectives. The Board is appreciative of Mara's efforts to work on these objectives.

**Adjournment**

A motion was made by Andy Dow, supported by Joan Bittner, and Board unanimously approved to adjourn at 7:20 p.m.