

Minutes: June 16, 2021 Hamtramck DDA Meeting

1. Call to order 6:10

2. Roll call

1. Andrew Dow
2. Lawrence Ingram
3. Mark J. Hausner
4. Vincent Szymborski
5. Dr. Shamiran Golani
6. Joan Bittner
7. Mayor Majewski
8. John Grossi
9. Andrew Kopietz
10. Milo Madole
11. Abdulaziz Jobeh
12. Ahmad Al-Hasan
13. Mara Braciszewski

3. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

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

Public Comment:

Konrad Maziarz commented that the Hamtramck Labor Day Festival will be held this year. This is subject to absence of any new state orders or restrictions. The Festival Committee will attend the next DDA Board meeting to request funding requirements.

John Bissa was in attendance and will address item #4

5. Approval of Agenda – Add or Delete Items

John Grossi made a motion supported by Andy Dow to add item #9 to the agenda. “Mark Hausner to discuss grant dollars and application being considered” Motion carried, item added.

6. Approval of Minutes (May 19, 2021)

Joan Bittner made a motion seconded by Ahmad Al-Hasan to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2021 meeting. Motion carried.

7. Treasurers Report <Attachments>

Mr. Szymborski covered the financial results as of May 30, 2021, the projection to the end of the fiscal year and the Budget for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

For fiscal year ending 2021, revenues stood at 27,291 with expenses projected to be 38,694. This will leave a deficit for the year of 11,403.

Next a proposed budget was reviewed for fiscal 2021-2022. This budget, while draft, disclosed a deficit for the year of \$6,220. The Board discussed other ways to allocate the money as well as spending more money on Marketing, which better aligns with the purpose of the DDA. To bolster revenue, the use of project “sponsorships” was discussed as deficit spending is not the desired go forward behavior. To this point, deficits will be made up by the DDA’s reserve fund.

The Board also reiterated the need for the district database for marketing purposes.

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

1. 2021-2022 Budget Discussion

See comments under Treasurer’s report

2. Follow-up of planter box discussion. Consider funding \$300 for planter box signage. Signs will say “This Flower Box is sponsored by _____”

Lynn Blasey was not present to cover this item. The Board discussed placing signs in planter boxes and was generally against the idea preferring to support the efforts via social media.

3. Discussion of funding \$1,200 for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 (\$100 per month) for Facebook advertising, including community-based promotions and story-telling.

Andy Kopietz provided the Board an explanation of the potential uses and benefits of Facebook advertising, promoting and storytelling. It was determined that this aligns with the previously discussed marketing objectives.

Motion by Ahman Al-Hasan, second by Andy Kopietz supporting the allocation of up to \$1,200 for fiscal year 2021-2022. All in favor, motion passes.

4. Discussion of funding Hamtramck Music Festival

Presentation by John Bissa. The Festival is now a 501c3. The Festival is scheduled for 8/5 to 8/8. This year’s event is looking to include outside venues. They also have a couple of new sponsors. The request was for the DDA to financially support with \$4,000. Motion by John Grossi, second by Dr. Golani to provide up to \$4,000 in financial support for this year’s HMF. Motion unanimously approved.

5. Discussion of funding \$600 for Music in the Park in August

Extensive discussion on this topic. Motion was originally submitted by Ahman Al-Hasan, seconded by Mark Hausner to support the Music in the Park event up to \$600. Unanimously supported.

Further discussion occurred and concern was over support of HMF/the Labor Day Festival and Music in the Park. Motion by John Grossi, seconded by Andy Dow to withdraw support of the prior Motion. This motion had unanimous support.

The DDA will not fund this effort.

6. Discussion of attendance and reminder of bylaws amended in February 2021:

Section 7. Absences: A board member is allowed (3) absences in a fiscal year.

More than (3) absences will result in immediate removal from the board.

The Board reviewed the attendance results over the past year. The decision was made to enforce the new policy effective 7/1/2021. Attendance will be tracked at each DDA Board meeting.

Bylaws will be re-typed so that future edits are easier to document and effect. Mara to re-format the Bylaws.

Update on committees:

a. Approve Andy Kopietz as committee member and chair of Organization and Promotion Committee.

b. Approve Lawrence Ingram as Economic Vitality and Design Committee member

c. Update on Organization and Promotion Committee meeting, including MMLF Microgrant status and future meeting times.

The Board discussed this and item #9 together. The initial discussion centered on potentially submitting two grant applications. After some discussion of those merits, it was determined that the DDA would submit a grant application and a second application would not be submitted.

d. Update on Economic Vitality and Design Committee

The Committee will look to schedule its first meeting in the coming 2 weeks.

8. Discussion on Mainstreet Training

Mr. Szyborski asked the Board to complete it's training by the next meeting as funding requirements will be discussed.

9. Mark Hausner to discuss grant dollars and application being considered

See sub item (c) Mark's request was covered within that item.

SECTION II: OTHER ITEMS

1. Chairman's Report (2 minutes)

Mr. Szyborski reported that he had not been contacted by any Board members looking to take over the Chairmanship as discussed last month. As such, his term will be completed as is.

2. Member' Report (5 minutes)

Joan Bittner reported that Greg Kowalski visited Cedar MI, which has the Cedar Polka Fest.

*Mara reported that the Pride committee will have a flag raising on Saturday June 19th at 8:30 am.
All are welcomed to attend.*

ADJOURNMENT

Motion Made by John Grossi, seconded by Mark Hausner for adjournment @ 7:55. All in favor, motion carried.