

DDA Board of Directors Meeting
Meeting Minutes of October 20, 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:

Vince Szymborski
John Grossi
Andrew Kopietz
Joan Bittner
Mark Hausner
Lawrence Ingram
Mayor Majewski
Dr. Shamiran Golani
Andrew Dow
Ahmad Al-Hasan
Mara Braciszewski – Administration

Absent:

Milo Madole

Guests: Tim Price

All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

No public comment.

Approval of Agenda – Addition or Deletion Items

A motion was made by Dr. Golani, supported by Ahmad Al-Hasan, and Board unanimously approved the agenda as presented.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Joan Bittner, supported by John Grossi, and Board unanimously approved the minutes of the September 15th meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Szymborski reviewed the Financial Report for the Month of September. The expenses for the month included the salary expense of the DDA Manager, and expenses related to posts on social media which amount to \$258.80 on a year to date basis.

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

1. Consider Planning the City's centennial. Hear from Tim Price and Mark Hausner (Board Member) regarding ideas.

Tim Price reviewed the recent activities of the Arts and Culture Commission regarding a logo and branding contest. The thought was to create new banners on Joseph Campau which celebrate the City's centennial. Mr. Price explained these new banners would replace the old banner remaining up all year. The Board then briefly discussed what would be put up afterwards. No decisions were made at this meeting. Andy Kopietz will follow up with Tim Price.

Mark Hausner discussed the idea if a New Years Eve ball drop in Hamtramck. He is working with a group to bring this idea to fruition.

Features would include:

2 Stages
Food Trucks
Music
Liquor sales (separate area)

The ask was the DDA to pull the permit required for the liquor sales. The specific ask was a letter of support written from the DDA. Mara and Vince to follow up on that request. Mark indicated that he would be meeting with the City Manager shortly to discuss.

Mark also indicated the Tour De Troit was considering a New Years Day run.

2. Consider bidding out snow removal services

Last year the DDA spent \$9,900 on snow removal. This expense is completely dependent on the weather. The concern is how can the DDA better manage this expense. Last year the snow was removed any time the accumulation was 2 inches or greater. Discussion was around raising this to 3 inches or potentially bidding it out. Vince will contact Bob Straske as to how we can better manage this expense.

3. Consider installing holiday decorations

This is an annual activity. The Board made a motion to pay up to \$2,500 for the installation and removal of the holiday lights. Motion made by Vince Szymborski and seconded by Joan Bittner. All in favor, motion carried.

4. Discussion of the Tuesday November 30th merchant Meeting and survey. Consider funding the meeting. Consider contributing prizes to the meeting.

Mara covered the Date and location of the meeting - Azal Hall, 2112 Holbrook. Motion by Ahmad, seconded by Andy Kopietz to fund up to \$500 in expenses for the Merchant Meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

5. Update on the TIF and 2 Mil

Mara briefly covered how a TIF and 2 mil function as a source of revenue for a DDA. Mara relayed information received from DDA financing professional, Joe Borgstrom, Principal of Place and Main Advisors, LLC.

Below is the e-mail sent by Joe:

The straight forward answer is TIF is the reallocation of existing tax collection mileages. A TIF plan does not increase taxes to local property owners.

The confusion may be that TIFs and DDAs are often confused as one and the same. DDAs use TIFs as the primary funding option. DDAs may levy an additional 2 mills for operating on properties within the district, but that is not included in a TIF. That is a separate assessment.

More conversations need to be had regarding the future of the city's DDA Tif Plan, which is soon to expire. This item is paused for further research and understanding.

6. Update from Sub-Committees to understand progress, achievements and needs. Listen to feedback from each member.

Andy Kopietz updated the group on the meetings and progress. Complete committee information is available on the City website, subdirectory DDA.

Andy Kopietz indicated that this committee is taking 10-12 hours weekly of his time. And further commitments will need to be made by those committee members (2-3 hours per week) so that the work effort can become more balanced.

Overall, the committee has been active, and regularly meeting.

Andy Dow indicated that while meetings have been scheduled, the Committee has struggled to meet. Further, due to the recent resignation of Abdulaziz Jobeh, other members will be needed to assist in activities.

It was thought that the upcoming Merchant meeting may be an opportunity to recruit more sub-committee members.

Ahmad indicated a new doctor is opening an office. 3 doors north of the D Loft.

Mayor Majewski reported that Studio 4 recently opened. Board members should stop in and introduce themselves.

Section II: Other Items

Chairman's Report:

No report for this meeting

Member Report:

No report for this meeting

Adjournment:

Mr. Szymborski made a motion for adjournment @7:38, supported by John Grossi. All in favor, motion carried.

