

City of Hamtramck Downtown Development Authority

Board Of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 17, 2022 • 6:05 PM
Council Chambers (2nd Floor, City Hall) • Hamtramck City Hall, 3401 Evaline St.

Mission Statement: The City of Hamtramck's Downtown Development Authority supports people, projects, and partnerships that further the economic growth and stability of a thriving Hamtramck.

1. Call to order

- Call to order at 6:09 PM EST

2. Roll call (TBD): ☒ (In Attendance) / ☐ (Absent)

- ☒ Mayor Ghalib / ☒ Ahmad Al-Hasan / ☒ Milo Madole / ☒ Andrew Kopietz / ☒ Shamiran Golani / ☒ Joan Bittner / ☐ Anwar Hassan / ☒ Karen Majewski / ☐ Andrew Dow (excused)

3. Pledge of allegiance to the flag

- The Pledge of Allegiance was completed

4. Public comment & introduction of the public (3 minutes per person limited to DDA issues);

- **Karolynn Falkner** (reads comments from **Lynn Blasey**, Hamtramck Resident) —
 - Planter boxes, new updates, Bengal auto sales, and franklin electric are supporting the watering of planters with the procurement of a water tank and truck, looking for volunteers to help with watering
 - Fri., Oct. 7th — spring ball planting for planter boxes with funding assistance from GM; asks that the public join volunteers at Pope Park to support planting
 - Collecting more plant donations, holding them in her yard as a nursery; will begin transplanting them into planter boxes across Jos. Campau and downtown
- **Max Gilginas** — speaks as a community volunteer coordinator; working with summer youth interns (curb painting and trash pick-up along Conant and Joseph Campau), volunteers will be filmed by Greg from cable station, interns are working on dining guide for the city, also organizing GM volunteers each Friday to work across city-related projects (cleaning, etc.)
- Started a volunteer Facebook group called the 'Hamtramck Trashies,' **Andy** and **Milo** ask how DDA can help Hamtramck Trashies
- **Max** suggests posting volunteer opportunities on the DDA Facebook page.

5. Approval of agenda

- **Ahmad Al-Hasan** - Adds 100-year centennial banners as item 4 to this meeting's agenda; **Karolynn** confirms the addition of this topic to this month's agenda
 - **Milo Madole** motions to approve July's meeting minutes; **Joan Bittner** seconds of the motion, the motion carries

6. Approval of minutes

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- **Milo Madole** motions to approve July's meeting minutes; **Mayor Ghalib** seconds of the motion, the motion carries

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

- 1. Board Votes to approve the annual DDA budget** — The board will deliberate and vote to approve the provision of DDA funds for the next fiscal year. **(Karolynn Faulkner, DDA Board)**
 - **Milo** elaborates on the DDA's budget; it is spending into the red with its budget and acknowledges that the DDA must become more conservative with its budget. Joan affirms Milo's comments.
 - **Board** discusses the use of DDA funds which are paid directly to the City to promote shopping for the holidays; **Ahmad** and **Dr. Golani** express that \$3K of the annual funds that DDA pays to the city can, instead, go towards snow plowing or other matters that serve the needs of DDA merchants across Jos. Campau. **Board decides to remove the \$3000 for parking meters from the budget.**
 - **Ahmad** motions to approve the DDA's amended budget, **Karen** seconds to approve the budget, and **the board** passes the motion.
- 2. Joe Louis Greenway presentation** — A project update from the City of Detroit **(Hanan Ali Yahya), 10 minutes**
 - **Hanan** introduces City staff and project progress.
 - Expecting to host a soiree event on Oct. 29th; a celebration of the first mile of the created trail, invites the public to attend the event, trailing planning is using a lot of ARPA dollars (\$100 million was procured from the state of Michigan to construct portions of the greenway)
 - Wants to complete the design and expansion of the greenway in 5 years as opposed to the original 10 years that were projected
 - Greenway is a 24-hour greenway with emergency call boxes every 250 ft, adequate lighting, way-finding, and multiple access points.
 - The City of Detroit will maintain the extension of the greenway in coordination with Wayne County; Hamtramck Dr. is in the process of being redesigned.
 - Ahmad confirms that surveillance cameras along the Greenway will connect back to the Detroit police department for monitoring.
 - 2 sections of greenway in Hamtramck; from Carpenter to Canniff St. and Holbrook to Hamtramck Dr.
 - City wants to circulate a survey to business owners in Hamtramck to help understand their needs and how the city can better design the greenway to intersect with Downtown Hamtramck; **Board** raises a concern about the elimination of parking in front of businesses (Street parking) to serve the inclusion of the Greenway.
 - Ahmad asks how the DDA can support the surveying of the community; asks who runs the initiative; **Karolynn** suggests this action might fall into the hands of the CED office and the City of Detroit (jointly)
 - **Hanan** will revisit past community engagement efforts across the project's timeline to help educate the DDA about the conversations that have been had with local businesses and the city council regarding Greenway's fundraising, design, and execution.
 - **Board** advocates that the DDA coordinate a community engagement meeting for the businesses along the Greenway that the absence of parking spaces will impact because

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the Greenway's construction

- Board advocates sending printed communications to impacted businesses to address public concerns carefully.
- **Hanan** explains how the City of Hamtramck and the City of Detroit will collaborate to maintain the greenway; the Greenway will be maintained through a \$50 million dollar endowment; explains that the City of Detroit will coordinate a future public engagement activity to preview the greenway and alley's usage to the local community.

3. **ACCESS** — A presentation about 'ACCESS,' the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services. (**Ayesha Maxwell**), 10 minutes

- **ACCESS** introduces itself to the board; wants to spread visibility onto **ACCESS's** programming; training, workshops, and micro-loans for small businesses
- Focuses on Dearborn, Hamtramck, Highland Park, and the City of Detroit
- Discusses social services that **ACCESS** provides to the community, entrepreneurial training for people in grade school (youth), workshops, and online/virtual training
- **Board** asks if **ACCESS** can supply it with printed literature; **ACCESS** obliges
- **ACCESS** is seeking office space in Hamtramck
- **Board** suggests that a member of **ACCESS's** Hamtramck team might make a great addition to the DDA's board of directors.

4. **Centennial Banners — Agenda Addition**

- **Board** asks about the installation of the centennial banners and if their execution has been held up because payment has not been provided to the printer of the banners.
- **Board** discusses streamlining payment for physical expenses (ex: printed banners)

SECTION II: OTHER ITEMS

1. **Public comment & introduction of the public** (3 minutes per person limited to DDA issues)

- No further comments.

2. **Chairman's Report** (2 minutes)

- **Regarding the budget** — Board should assemble a financial plan regarding the revenue and expenses so that approvals of expenses and donations from the DDA can be streamlined and executed. Board members should let **Milo, Ahmad, and Karolynn** know if they are interested in joining the budgetary planning discussions.
- Labor Day Festival is Labor Day Weekend (Sat–Mon); Board asks that its members join Arts and Culture Commission at the Labor Day Festival.

3. **Member's Report** (5 minutes)

- **Karen**; there will be a parade on Labor Day; wishes to find more business representation for the parade; indicates that there is a form to fill out online to capture individual and business participation
- **Joan**; Provides 100-year centennial stickers to Board members to pass out among each

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other.

- **Mayor;** regarding flower beds — Lynn Blasey is excellently managing the flower bed planting. Asks if there can be more flowers visually planted into the planters (right now, there is more greenery than flora and fauna)
 - Met with Wayne County officials regarding the jail, and officials are asking the City and CED what things can be done to replace the jail with assets that can be of use to the local community (I.E., mixed-use development of the land, etc.)

4. ADJOURNMENT

- **Meeting adjourned at 7:41 PM**
 - The board motions to adjourn the meeting, Karen seconds that motion, motion carries

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