

**DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**March 12, 2015**

**CALL TO ORDER:** By Chairperson Sommer on Thursday, March 12, 2015 at 7:30 a.m.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Burch, Tim Jewell, Tom Hewitt, Bob Phillips, Mike Lahr, Jeanette Sommer and Travis Silvas

**STAFF:** Community Development Director Myrkle and Deputy Clerk Dell'Acqua.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 8, 2015:** Board member Lahr moved to approve the minutes of January 8, 2015 as presented. Phillips made amendment to Board Member comments. Seconded by Phillips. Carried. 7 Yes. 0 No.

**ABSENT:** Doug Buck

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** No Public Comment.

**ITEMS OF BUSINESS:**

**1. MICHIGAN MAIN STREET PROGRAM:**

Director Myrkle reported that at the last Can Do meeting discussed the application process for the Michigan Main Street Program. He is moving forward with the application process. Discussion was held.

**2. PUBLIC ART FOR COMMUNITIES GRANT:**

Director Myrkle informed the DDA that L.E.A.P (Lansing Economic Area Partnership) is awarding grants for a public art policy. He reported that once we qualify for the grant we will be awarded \$10,000 dollars to place a piece of art sculpture within the right-of-way in our community. He stated that an Ad-hoc committee must be formed to apply for the grant. Bob Bauer offered Peter's Circle to place the sculpture. Discussion was held.

**3. FARMERS MARKET UPDATE:**

Director Myrkle reported that the committee for the farm market has grown to forty members and they held a meeting last night, March 10<sup>th</sup> from 6-7:30p. They decided to add Thursday night to the Farm Market with hours from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m beginning in June. He reported that there were a few Amish interested in becoming vendors. The market will be located on Cochran, as it will be a more visible location. Discussion was held.

**4. WEST LOVETT PARKING:**

Myrkle expressed his concern for the parking space availability on West Lovett due to the local AA meeting held during regular business hours. Some of the business owners requested the parking be limited from two hours to a lesser time. Myrkle would like to look into a parking time of 30 minutes. The board discussed the issue and tabled the item until the next meeting in April.

**5. FY 2015-16 BUDGET DISCUSSION:**

Myrkle reported that the budget was the same as last year. He discussed the items on the budget from operating needs, special assessments, waste removal, streetscapes, and tree

replacement to the concert series and the farm market. He expressed his concern for the high cost of watering and upkeep of the downtown flowers and trees and was looking for solutions to reduce the cost. He stated that no decisions needed to be made today but, urged members to be ready at the next meeting to take action on the budget.

Discussion was held on the budget and the property tax revenues of the city businesses.

Sommer commented on the sponsorship costs from the concert series.

Hewitt stated that the limitation of the budget limits the DDA as an active board for the city. Myrkle stated that there are three options the board can take with the budget as it sits. First, they can ride it out with the minimal level of volunteers and supplement what we have to work with financially. Second, they could expand the DDA to include Lansing Rd to levy more value. Lastly, the DDA could choose to disband.

Hewitt suggested to assess businesses to generate more revenue. Discussion was held on capital improvement.

Myrkle was in favor of waiting until the next year so see if it may bring some new developments. Silvas commented on educating the public.

#### **6. RAIN OUT OPPORTUNITY FOR CONCERTS:**

Director Myrkle stated that the Charlotte Performing Arts Center has offered their stage, in the event of a rain out, during the summer concert series. They offered free

admission and the stage. The DDA would still be responsible for paying the artists. Myrkle wanted to present this opportunity to the board before he made any decisions. He also mentioned that it would affect the farm market traffic. Discussion was held. All members were in consensus.

#### **UPDATES AND REPORTS:**

Myrkle gave an update on the Celebrate Charlotte Festival in June. He reported that new items would be added to the celebration. On Thursday, he will be adding to the two 100 blocks, "Touch a Truck", for the children of the community. The local farmers, Fire Department and Police Department will be displaying their vehicles and tractors for the kid as part of this event. On Friday, he will be adding Capital Harley Davidson motorcycles downtown. He reassured the board that the classic cars will still be located near the old Courthouse Square as last year. There will also be a "Pub Crawl" with music as well. On Saturday, there will be a possible United Way Color Run. Myrkle was still trying to work out the issues with the amount of color on the street, but it looks like it will be a popular event. He will still have the "Blues and Brews" at Beach Market. He also reported that the Lions Club will no longer be having the "Fly In" at the airport but, they will be holding a pancake breakfast on Sunday. And there will be fireworks at the fairgrounds this year.

On March 26, there will be an Outreach meeting at the Spartan room in the library. The meeting will educate the public about the downtown development. The chamber will be promoting the event. All DDA members were encouraged to attend.

The parking lot construction project is underway and City Manager Guetschow is working up a plan to present to the Council next week.

Myrtle reported there are solutions to the Semi-truck and MDOT issues.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:**

No comment

**Meeting adjourned by Chairperson Sommer at 8:39 a.m.**

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Denise Dell'Acqua, Deputy City Clerk