

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Regular Meeting
September 8, 2016

CALL TO ORDER: By Chairperson Sommer on Thursday, September 8, 2016, at 7:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Board members Hewitt, Phillips, Sommer, and Silvas.

ALSO PRESENT: Community Development Director Myrkle, Deputy Clerk Dell'Acqua, and Mayor Lewis.

ABSENT: Wirt

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 9, 2016: Board member Phillips moved to approve the minutes for June 9, 2016, as presented. Supported by Silvas. Carried. 4 Yes. 0 No. 1 Absent (Wirt)

PUBLIC COMMENT: No Public Comment

ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

A. PETER KAGAYAMA VISIT TO CHARLOTTE:

Amanda Lipsey from the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce spoke in regards to an up and coming workshop scheduled for October 3rd and 4th. The key speaker will be author Peter Kagayama. He has written the book, "For the Love of Cities". The book encompasses the idea of "developing home" and it was inspired by his hometown of St. Petersburg, Florida. She hopes to have 75-100 people for the workshops.

Director Myrkle asked board members if they would be interested in donating a total of \$500.00 to the event. It would be a donation outside of the budget. **Board member Hewitt moved that members of DDA make a donation totaling \$500.00. Second by Silvas. Carried. Absent (Wirt)**

B. MICHIGAN MAIN STREET UPDATE:

Director Myrkle gave a brief report of the role of the DDA and the Michigan Main Street organization. He explained that in order to stay competitive with outlying cities, such as Hastings and Marshall, he would like to see the board members involved in the Main Street program. The organization is expected to become a grant based, non-profit and the deadline for the 5013C is December 2nd. The state asked the city to create a full time manager position, outside of the city staff, to play an active role in working with Charlotte businesses, coordinating activities and maintaining the status of the program. He reported that the next meeting for the Michigan Main Street will be Thursday, September 22nd at 5:30p at The Hall, (previously Scottish Thistle), 127 S Cochran, Charlotte.

Discussion was held.

Board member Hewitt left at 8:08 a.m.

C: #CHARLOTTERISING UPDATE

Director Myrkle explained that #CharlotteRising is an aspect of the Michigan Main Street program and has been supported by an intern Dillon Rush. There has been a few interested and motivated citizens such as the Vanderstelt brothers, Barbara Fulton from Hayes Green Beach, Anthony Faulkner and Joe E. Pray who want to see the downtown area develop. He reported that there has been \$150,000 from a block grant to develop Beach Market. Eventually, he would like to see the Farmer's Market moved to Beach Market.

D: PARKING LOTS 4 & 10 PROJECT UPDATE

Director Myrkle reported that the high bidder for the parking lot project was awarded to Reith-Riley Construction. The project will begin September 12th and is to end on November 11th. The City has purchased the old Carriage cleaners location on 108-110 W. Lawrence for a pocket park. When the environmental testing was done they discovered that there was chemical contamination due to the dry cleaning chemicals. So instead of a greenspace, there will be a hardscape put in this area.

OTHER UPDATES – Bryan Myrkle

Semi-Truck Traffic

Director Myrkle reported that Michigan Department of Transportation met with Mayor Lewis and the City Manager regarding the truck traffic in downtown. At the meeting, they discussed changing the signals and speeds, angle parking and rerouting the Federal Truck route to Packard Hwy instead of M50.

Mayor Lewis explained to the board that since he began office, one of his goals was to help eliminate the truck traffic through downtown. He met with State Legislatures, and Senators to get this issue resolved. He even met with some of them at the Gavel while the trucks went by to point out the noise. He and the city manager worked with MDOT a few weeks ago and felt they were successful in getting through to them in regards to the issue of truck traffic.

Sculpture

Mr. Myrkle was pleased to report that the Art Sculpture at Peter's Circle will be unveiled by the end of October.

Charlotte IGA

He explained to the Board that some citizens are interested in developing the IGA to either an anchor retail or back to a grocery store.

Can Do Committee

This committee hired a group called Red Head Design, out of Old Town Lansing, to market the city in the next six months.

Sidewalk and snow removal assessments

Myrkle wanted to inform the board that these assessments have been approved by City council and the city has contracted with the Eric Rogers Company this year. There will be a public hearing at the Council meeting on September 12, 2016, for this special assessment.

Discussion was held.

Board member Phillips thanked Bryan for his work in the summer concert series this year. Chairperson Sommer agreed that she was impressed as to how smooth they ran this year.

Meeting adjourned by Chairperson Sommer at 8:34 a.m.

Denise Dell'Acqua, Deputy City Clerk