

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Regular Meeting
February 20, 2018

CALL TO ORDER: By Chairman Wilson on Tuesday, February 20, 2018, at 8:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Chairman Wilson, Board members Phillips, Wirt, Silvas, and Mayor Lewis.

ALSO PRESENT: Community Development Director Myrkle and Deputy Clerk Walters.

ABSENT: Board members Lyon, Limas, and Potter.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE SPECIAL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 17, 2017: Board member Phillips moved, supported by Wirt to approve the minutes of January 16, 2018 as presented. Carried. 4 Yes. 0 No. (3 absent Lyon, Limas, and Potter)

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

A. HISTORICAL SOCIETY UPDATES:

Board member Lyon arrived at 8:02 A.M.

Julie Kimmer, 201 W Seminary, presented an image of the historical signs Dornbos is making for the residential properties in the National Registry. Discussion was held regarding the potential commercial uses of these signs downtown. Kimmer stated that the registry is available electronically from herself or from the library. Kimmer stated that there will be a launching party this spring.

Mayor Lewis and Community Development Director Myrkle discussed posting access to this document on the City's website as well as a presentation to the Charlotte Rising group.

B. BEECH MARKET PROJECT: Board member Wilson proposed the idea of abandoning the alley between 136 S Cochran Ave and Lovett Street. He stated that he will be asking DPW to clarify what he needs to do to move this forward and suggests it could be done in conjunction with the Beech Market Project

Director Myrkle says that April 1st is the deadline for final plans coming from Damian Star at Weiland-Davco. The project will then move forward after receiving a formal grant agreement from the State of Michigan and will have a two year timeline.

C. FESTIVALS: Director Myrkle said there is work being done to have a weekend arts festival June 2, 2018 headed up by the Windwalker Gallery. They would like to paint a street mural in the new parking lot. Board member Lyon proposed the possibility of the mural being on a building rather than the street.

Director Myrkle said the summer concert series must be discussed. The DDA does not have any finances to contribute this year. Previously the DDA had contributed \$3,500, with the total concert costs being over \$6,000. Sponsors will raised to \$500 per sponsor and would need a total of eight in order maintain the full concert season. Director Myrkle also mentioned that the concert schedule will start about two weeks earlier so the last couple of concerts do not overlap with the school year as they did last year.

Public comment from Carolyn Rosier, 211 S Cochran, suggested that there be no concert the week of July 4th holiday.

Board member Phillips inquired on payment policy if there is a rain date. Director Myrkle stated that our indoor venues have proven unreliable in this situation. He also presented that in the past that policy is as follows:

1. If canceled ahead, we do not pay the band.
2. If the band travels, then we cancel, we pay half.
3. If cancelation happens during performance, we pay full.

Board Member Wirt suggested a “pass the hat” at the concerts to help raise money for them. Myrkle clarified that was a possibility if there was a community group such as Kiwanis or Lions willing and able to do so. Kimmer mentioned that the Courthouse Square Association has an old voting box that could be used to collect donations.

Board member Phillips asked if Kiwanis would still be doing snacks, Myrkle said he had not yet heard from them. Lyon began discussion by suggesting an opportunity to make the concert event more of a money making event by selling items such as food, T-shirts, 50-50, etc. He mentioned this could promote more traffic to the event as well.

D. OTHER: Chairperson Wilson requested some advertising from the Chamber of Commerce for the next meeting in their newsletter.

COMMENTS: Board member Wirt thanked the city and DPW for great snow removal work this year. Lyon agreed saying the work was done quickly. Mayor Lewis mentioned that staff had strategized before the season to improve the process and agreed everyone did a great job. Brief discussion was held regarding possible ways to continue improving this process.

Meeting adjourned by Chairperson Wilson at 8:40 a.m.

Jessica Walters, Deputy City Clerk