

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Regular Meeting
March 10, 2016

CALL TO ORDER: By Chairperson Sommer on Thursday, March 10, 2016 at 7:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Board members; Ken Wirt, Bob Phillips, Jeannette Sommer, Travis Silvas and Mayor Tim Lewis.

STAFF: Community Development Director Myrkle, City Manager Guetschow and Deputy Clerk Dell'Acqua.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 11, 2016: Board member Phillips moved to approve the minutes for February 11, 2016 as presented. Supported by Wirt. Carried. 5 Yes. 0 No. 1 Absent (Hewitt)

ABSENT: Board member Hewitt

Hewitt arrived at 7:40 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No Public Comment

ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

A. PARKING LOT DESIGN:

Director Myrkle presented two designs to the board. He explained that they took into account the suggestions from the last meeting to include a lighting plan in the northwest corner and the controversy of the pocket park near Lovett Street and the parking space availability. He reported that he received two pieces of communication, one from Mr. Beebe, owner of the Wash Basket and the other from the new owner of Skidmore Bicycles. They were not in favor

of the development of a pocket park on Lovett. They stated that it would take up parking spaces for their businesses.

Discussion was held in regards to the pros and cons of the park on Lovett Street, the beautification of downtown to attract new business owners, and the current occupancy rates for city residents.

Board member Phillips moved to keep the parking lot as it is now. No second. Failed.

Board member Phillips moved to approve the new developed pocket park on Lovett Street, proposal dated October 2015. Second by Hewitt. Carried. 5 Yes. 1 No. (Wirt)

B. UPDATES & REPORTS BY DIRECTOR MYRKLE:

MAINSTREET TRAINING

Director Myrkle reported that the next Mainstreet training is scheduled for Wednesday, March 16 at Downtown Lansing. He encouraged all members to attend.

ART IN THE CITY GRANT

He reported that the Art in the City Grant had been approved. A presentation will be given by Barb Fulton at Windwalker on March 23 at 6:30 p.m. He stated that Board member Silvas has headed up the project. Director Myrkle explained that the project will be unveiled in October.

Chairperson Sommer asked where the sculpture will be located.

Director Myrkle reported that it will be placed at Peter's Circle.

BUDGET DISCUSSION

Director Myrkle informed the board that at the next meeting there will be discussion on the budget. He explained that currently the board is operating on just the 2 mills to maintain the downtown authority. He stated that there are two vacancies on the board and with the current budget, they may have to meet quarterly. He recommended that with the current budget the board may need to find sponsors for the concert series. He also mentioned that the Farmer's market may have to rent space.

Discussion was held in regards to finding larger businesses to sponsor the concert series, benefits of the mainstreet program, the recruiting of younger members and the future of downtown.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Board member Hewitt complimented the DPW employees for their work removing the snow this year.

Board member Phillips agreed that he was pleased with the the snow removal as well.

Meeting adjourned by Chairperson Sommer at 8:28a.m.

Denise Dell'Acqua, Deputy City Clerk