

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
WHICH TOOK PLACE ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2007
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, MIDLAND, MICHIGAN

Christin O'Callaghan read Roll Call.

PRESENT: DDA MEMBERS – Ann Beck, Bo Brines, Doug Chapman, Mike Hayes, Paula Liveris, Jon Lynch, Jack McCandless, John Reisner, Ranny Riecker, Claudia Wallin

ABSENT: Jenny Anderson, Fr. Jim Bessert, Jim Stamas

PRESENT: STAFF – Christin O'Callaghan, Denise Hufford, Margaret Maday, Bradd Maki, Stephanie Szostak

PRESENT: OTHERS – Cheryl Wade (Midland Daily News), Joe Garrison (President – MDBA), John Palen (Midland Issues)

Wallin called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

1. Approval of past meeting minutes

Motion to approve the December 13 meeting minutes by Hayes. Seconded by Riecker. Approved unanimously.

2. Financial Reports for October and November

Maday presented the December 2006 financial statements. Motion to approve statements by Beck. Seconded by Riecker. Approved unanimously.

3. Reports

Wallin reported that a Strategic Planning Session was held that day and was very good. A vision statement was developed “Small City Charm with Big City Choices.” Committees will review prior to board adoption at a later date.

a) Budget Committee

Riecker reported that the budget committee has met twice and will meet again on January 23, 2007.

b) Design Committee

Beck introduced the new City Horticulturist – Stephanie Szostak. Szostak is a Michigan State University graduate with experience running her own Landscape Design business in Kalamazoo.

Beck reported that the requests for proposals for the redevelopment and design study have been mailed and are due back by January 30th at 2 pm. A special board meeting will held on February 7, 2007 at 3 pm to discuss the proposals and select

bidders for interviews. Another special board meeting is scheduled for February 14, 2007 at 9 am to interview select bidders. Both meetings are open to all Board members and the general public.

c) Economic Restructuring Committee

Reisner noted there are 6 downtown properties available for rent and 2 properties for purchase. Also, new legislation signed by Governor Granholm will allow additional liquor licenses to be available in the DDA district based on development money spent. For each \$200,000 increment of investment in the district, an investor can request a license at a cost of \$20,000 per license with a \$75,000 investment into the building required.

d) Creating Cool Promotions Committee

The 2007 Downtown Art Project is officially titled “da Benchi – Hot Seats in a Cool City.” Letters were sent to artists in the whole Tri-County region and beyond. Applications are available on the DDA website. Deadline to apply is January 31, 2007. It will be a juried selection with artists being notified by mid-February. Northwood University students are working on a family ice cream social for the Kick-Off party, which is scheduled for June 1, 2007. The public auction is scheduled for September 13. The benches will be free-form.

e) Midland Downtown Business Association Report

Joe Garrison, MDBA President, reported that the MDBA committee structure is modeled after the Michigan Main Street program with 4 subcommittees; Executive Committee, Marketing Committee, Physical Improvement Committee, and Business Liaison Committee.

Garrison reported on upcoming events, including:

February 17, 2007 – Sizzlin’ Shiver Winter Festival sponsored by Ashman Court Hotel...more details to come.

April 13, 2007 – Tailgate Party celebrating Opening Day of the Great Lakes Loons 2007 Season...more details to come.

4. Public Comments

None.

5. Old Business

None.

6. New Business

None.

7. Adjourn

There was no further business to come before the Board. Beck moved that the meeting be adjourned. Riecker seconded. Meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.