

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
WHICH TOOK PLACE ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 2007
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, MIDLAND, MICHIGAN

Christin O'Callaghan read Roll Call.

PRESENT: DDA MEMBERS – Jenny Anderson, Ann Beck, Fr. Jim Bessert, Bo Brines, Doug Chapman, Mike Hayes, Jon Lynch, John Reisner, Jim Stamas, Claudia Wallin

ABSENT: Paula Liveris, Jack McCandless, Ranny Riecker

PRESENT: STAFF – Christin O'Callaghan, Margaret Maday, Bradd Maki, Keith Baker, Daryl Poprave

PRESENT: OTHERS –Cheryl Wade (Midland Daily News), 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 February 14, 2007 meeting minutes by Hayes. Seconded by Stamas. Approved unanimously.

2. Financial Reports for October and November

Maday presented the February 2007 financial statements. Motion to approve statements by Hayes. Seconded by Chapman. Approved unanimously.

3. Reports

a) Budget Committee

Wallin presented 07/08 budget and pointed out the fund balance of \$72,500. Lynch recognized that the budget committee has responded to the DDA goal of using the fund balance for worthy projects. Wallin noted that all DDA committees have a chance to comment on the budget to the Budget Committee. Motion to approve budget by Wallin. Seconded by Reisner. Approved unanimously.

b) Design Committee

Beck noted that the requests for proposals for the construction and landscaping on the area of Main and Cronkright are due March 20 and should be less than \$20,000. Work to be done between May 1 – Labor Day and will use some of the benches from the daBenchi Summer Art Project.

c) Economic Restructuring Committee

Reisner noted there are 5 downtown properties available for rent, 1 residential property for rent and 2 properties for purchase. Reisner thanks Senators Stamas, Allen, and Gilbert for visiting Midland to support downtown development.

d) Creating Cool Promotions Committee

Wallin reported that 2007 Art Project is titled “daBenchi – Hot Seats in a Cool City.” 19 benches will be constructed from 17 artists. Kick Off event, titled Summer Seats & Beats, is June 1st and will be a family friendly ice cream social.

Wallin reported the 3rd annual Parade Your Pet event will be held on May 19 this year in the grassy area near the Tridge. Pets may pre-register online or at the event. Event organizers are looking for pet-friendly sponsors and hope to partner with Leader Dogs for the Blind, SOS Animal Rescue, 4H, and Paws for Claws. Activities include doggie musical chairs, pet grooming, and face painting. Thank you to Sandy Clark of I’ve Been Framed for chairing this event.

Wallin reported that the 3rd annual Summer Solstice Stroll will be held on the longest day of the year, June 21 and is sponsored by MCV. Strange Fruit, a Matrix event and Australian Aerial Performance group will be performing along with Sons of Beaches at Tunes by the Tridge that evening. Retail stores will have special offers and there will be an After Party from 9-11 pm. The next meeting for this event is tomorrow, March 15 at 9 am in the DDA offices.

Wallin reported that Tunes by the Tridge only has 2 sponsorships left. This is a 10-week free concert series on Thursday nights from 7-9 pm. Contact the DDA offices if interested in being a sponsor.

e) Midland Downtown Business Association Report

O’Callaghan discussed the Sizzlin’ Shiver Winter Festival held in February. Fun event, but cold temperature. Committee working on some fresh ideas for next year’s winter festival.

O’Callaghan also reported that Downtown Midland is hosting a Tailgate Party to celebrate the opening day of the Great Lakes Loons season. Will include parking lot tailgate parties to encourage parking downtown along with musical entertainment. Come downtown – even if you don’t have a ticket – to enjoy the fun atmosphere of opening day.

MDBA General meeting is Wednesday, March 21 at 8 am at Pizza Sam’s. This meeting is a week early due to Midland Public Schools spring break.

4. Public Comments

None.

5. Old Business

Reisner noted that this is Chemical Bank’s 90th birthday and to stop by that afternoon for cake.

6. New Business

None

7. Adjourn

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