

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
WHICH TOOK PLACE ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 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, Paula Liveris, Jon Lynch, Jack McCandless, John Reisner, Ranny Riecker, Claudia Wallin

ABSENT: Jim Stamas

PRESENT: STAFF – Christin O'Callaghan, Margaret Maday, Keith Baker, Daryl Poprave, Denise Hufford, Stephanie Szostak

PRESENT: OTHERS – none

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

1. Approval of past meeting minutes

Motion to approve the March 14, 2007 meeting minutes by Hayes. Seconded by Reisner. Approved unanimously.

2. Financial Reports for March

Maday presented the March 2007 financial statements. Motion to approve statements by Riecker. Seconded by Anderson. Approved unanimously.

3. Reports

a) Design Committee

Beck reported an Action Item. Area of Main and Cronkright to be landscaped. Bids received March 20th and reviewed March 23rd. Szostak reviewed landscape design which will include brick pavers recovered from Ashman Court construction, benches from daBenchi Sculpture Series, two (2) sculptures purchased last year, solar lighting, rose shrubs, hydrangea tree, lavender bushes, ornamental grasses, bike racks, redbud trees, magnolia and crabapple trees and various annual flowers. Work scheduled for May 1- 25. Bid awarded to Maple Hill. Hayes requested that trash bins be included which the City of Midland will place. Beck motioned for approval of Maple Hill as contractor by Midland City Council for a price of \$11,009 plus an additional 10% contingency. Motion to approve by McCandless. Seconded by Hayes. Approved unanimously.

Beck reported on Redevelopment and Design Study with Hamilton and Anderson. Invitations will be sent to community for their participation in public meetings on May 22 and May 23. Time and location to be announced soon.

Beck reported that WiFi is now available downtown thanks to Pilgrim Technology along with Mercury Network. For more information contact Christin O'Callaghan at 839-8433.

b) Economic Restructuring Committee

Reisner noted there are 4 downtown properties available for rent and 2 properties for purchase. Reisner noted a new business downtown will be opening shortly – Punk Mothers Skate and Thrift.

c) 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 sponsored by Pizza Sam's and Daddy O's from 6-8 pm.

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. Sponsors for this event include Soldan's Feeds & Pet Supplies, Howl-a-Day Pet Resort, Invisible Fence, and Northern Animal Clinic. 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, restaurants will offer outdoor dining and there will be an After Party from 9-11 pm with the music of Jay Nash.

Wallin reported that Tunes by the Tridge only has two (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.

Wallin reported that the DDA is working on a downtown brochure listing all the downtown businesses and events and hope to have it available this summer.

d) Michigan Main Street

O'Callaghan reported the Main Street conference she attended in Seattle was extremely helpful and worthwhile. Many great new ideas about sustainability and attracting sponsors.

e) Midland Downtown Business Association Report

O'Callaghan discussed the Downtown Midland Opening Day Tailgate Party this Friday, April 13th from 4-7 pm to celebrate opening day of the Great Lakes Loons season. Nine parking lots are participating and downtown will be giving out 1,000 free balloons. The Dow Diamond ribbon cutting will be at 4:45 pm.

4. Public Comments

None.

5. Old Business

None.

6. New Business

Keep Michigan Beautiful has awarded Downtown Midland with an award for the Ashman Streetscape project. O'Callaghan will be traveling to Lansing on May 20th to receive the award.

Hayes reminded the community that the Michigan Baseball Foundation broke ground just over a year ago and now have a brand new, state of the art stadium ready to open. MBF is proud and happy to be the new neighbor to downtown Midland. There are plenty of tickets left for home games (except opening weekend). Wallin asked if the stadium is available for other events. Hayes responded that the Dow Diamond is a year round facility and is available for trade shows, wedding receptions, holiday parties, business meetings, and many other activities – please contact the Loons office for more information.

7. Adjourn

There was no further business to come before the Board. Riecker moved that the meeting be adjourned. Beck seconded. Meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.