

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
WHICH TOOK PLACE ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 2007  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, MIDLAND, MICHIGAN

Christin O'Callaghan read Roll Call.

**PRESENT: DDA MEMBERS** – Jenny Anderson, Ann Beck, Bo Brines, Doug Chapman, Mike Hayes, Jack McCandless, John Reisner, Ranny Riecker, Claudia Wallin

**ABSENT:** Fr. Jim Bessert, Paula Liveris, Jon Lynch, Jim Stamas

**PRESENT: STAFF** – Christin O'Callaghan, Margaret Maday, Keith Baker, Denise Hufford, Stephanie Szostak, Brad Makki

**PRESENT: OTHERS** – John Palin

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

**1. Approval of past meeting minutes**

Motion to approve the April 11, 2007 meeting minutes by Hayes. Seconded by Reisner. Approved unanimously.

**2. Financial Reports for March**

Maday presented the April 2007 financial statements. Motion to approve statements by Riecker. Seconded by Hayes. Approved unanimously.

**3. Reports**

**a) Design Committee**

Beck reported that the Redevelopment and Design Study Workshops will be held on May 22 and May 23. The Board is especially invited to attend the sessions highlighted with an asterisk. The meetings will be held at Riverside Place Apartments on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

Beck reported that bike racks have been ordered and will be placed once they arrive.

Beck reported that they are working on new signage for parking and other issues. Will match the new wayfinding signage.

**b) Horticulture Report**

Szostak reported that planting beds are in the process of being cleaned up prior to plantings along with the addition of mulch to the beds. The irrigations system is on, including the jumping jewels. Annual planting will occur the week of May 22 along with hanging baskets and portable flower containers.

Szostak reported that construction in the Main and Cronkright area has begun and is scheduled to be completed by May 25.

**c) Economic Restructuring Committee**

Reisner noted there are seven (7) downtown properties available for rent and two (2) properties for purchase. Reisner reported that the Business recruitment document will be going to press shortly and any changes should be reported to O'Callaghan immediately.

**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 1<sup>st</sup> 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, Midland Animal Clinic, Northern Animal Clinic, Shelley Park of RE/MAX, Wolverine Bank, Countryside Animal Health Center and SOS Animal Rescue. Thank you to Sandy Clark of I've Been Framed for chairing this event.

Wallin reported that the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 on Main Street. Sons of Beaches will perform 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 is a 10-week free concert series on Thursday nights from 7-9 pm.

Wallin showed a sample of the new downtown brochure listing all the downtown businesses and events. Hope to have it available soon.

**e) Michigan Main Street**

O'Callaghan reported that the Michigan Main Street Conference in Ishpeming was great. The topic was MDOT and enhancement projects. There may be a possibility of a streetscape grant. O'Callaghan will pursue. Next meeting is in Iron Mountain on August 12 and the Board is invited to attend.

There is also an upcoming Downtown Conference September 18-20 in Traverse City. Will share the information as it is made available.

**f) Midland Downtown Business Association Report**

O'Callaghan discussed the recognition of long term businesses in Midland. The MDBA would like to recognize those businesses that have been in business and downtown for 50 plus years. Recently the MDBA awarded a brass plaque to Norma Baringer of Baringer's Men Shop that has been in business downtown since 1939. Would like to place the plaque in the sidewalk and is currently working with the Engineering Department to make that possible. Will need to get City Council approval.

Beck motioned that the Downtown Development Authority hereby recommends that Midland City Council approve the request of the Midland Downtown Business Association to install bronze plaques in the public right-of-way in downtown Midland for those establishments which have been in business for over 50 years. Seconded by Wallin. Approved unanimously.

**4. Public Comments**

None.

**5. Old Business**

None.

**6. New Business**

John Reisner is retiring from Chemical Bank June 1<sup>st</sup>. Walling noted that the DDA Board appreciates all his hard work over the years and will greatly miss him.

Father Jim has accepted a promotion to a congregation in Saginaw and will be leaving sometime in July.

The nominations committee will be accepting nominations and presenting them next month.

O'Callaghan noted that reservations for the Tips & Tricks luncheon can be made to the DDA office at 839-8433. The cost is \$12 for the luncheon and the presentation.

**7. Adjourn**

There was no further business to come before the Board. Riecker moved that the meeting be adjourned. Reisner seconded. Meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.