

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
WHICH TOOK PLACE ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 2007
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, MIDLAND, MICHIGAN

Christin O'Callaghan read Roll Call.

PRESENT: DDA MEMBERS – Ann Beck, Fr. Jim Bessert, Bo Brines, Doug Chapman, Mike Hayes, Jon Lynch, Ranny Riecker, Jim Stamas, Claudia Wallin

ABSENT: Jenny Anderson, Paula Liveris, Jack McCandless

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

PRESENT: OTHERS – Amy Chesterton, Kent Anderson, John Palin, Dave Gray, Joe Garrison, Peyman Zand, Cheryl Wade, Brian McFadden, Steve Bush, Patty Aspin, Dan Cline, Julie Close, and other members of the general public

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

1. Approval of past meeting minutes

Motion to approve the May 9, 2007 meeting minutes by Riecker. Seconded by Beck. Approved unanimously.

2. Financial Reports for May

O'Callaghan presented the May 2007 financial statements. Motion to approve statements by Riecker. Seconded by Stamas. Approved unanimously.

3. Reports

a) Design Committee

Beck reported that they are working on new kiosk signage and new signage for parking.

Beck reported that there has been a facade request. Action item is for \$3,176.82 for Rockwell House to purchase new awnings. Owner Amy Baranowski has requested this and the Design Committee has approved the design. Motion to approve action items by Beck. Seconded by Hayes. Approved unanimously.

Amy Chesterton from Hamilton Anderson gave a presentation on the Downtown Redevelopment and Design Study.

Beck showed the plaque that the DDA received for the Keep Michigan Beautiful Presidents Award.

b) Horticulture Report

Szostak reported that the Main/Cronkright park is completed. Main Street plantings, hanging baskets, and portable planters are planted and the flowers should fill out in the next few weeks. Thank you to Dow Gardens for donating extra plants.

Szostak reported that upcoming projects include deadheading of plants and weeding.

Hayes asked about the un-level portable planters. O'Callaghan responded that some locations are still temporary, but once the committee decides on permanent locations for the planters a more level area will be made for them.

c) Organization Committee

Wallin mentioned that the Vision 2016, including goals for 2007 for each committee has been printed. This Vision is the result of the Strategic Planning sessions held in the spring. The folder is available to the public. Contact Christin O'Callaghan for more information.

Wallin reported that there have been complaints of skateboarding on downtown sidewalks causing damage to railings, steps, and sidewalk. Also, the issue of pedestrian safety was discussed. Wallin proposes a request to the City Council for an ordinance prohibited skateboarding downtown (Trilogy Skate Board Park to be excluded).

Lynch opened discussion that before an ordinance is requested more research should be done to look into alternates to an ordinance.

Brian McFadden of Molly's Restaurant would like to add bicycles to a possible ordinance as they can be a hazard on sidewalks. More discussions ensued. Most would like to prohibit dangerous activity while remaining friendly and welcoming to downtown guests.

Wallin will take comments back to committee and research the issue further.

d) Economic Restructuring Committee

Hayes noted there are six (6) downtown properties available for rent (2 on first floor and 4 on second floor) and two (2) properties for purchase in the D zoning category. Currently have a 96% occupancy rate downtown. Hayes reported that the Business recruitment document is waiting for new DDA Board members and will then be completed. Hayes will compile a list of targeted businesses. Committee has a goal of 4 new retailers in 2007.

e) Creating Cool Promotions Committee

Wallin reported that the 2007 Art Project "daBenchi – Hot Seats in a Cool City" includes 19 benches that have been installed along Main Street. The Kick-Off event, titled Summer Seats & Beats, was June 1st, a family friendly ice cream social

sponsored by Pizza Sam's and Daddy O's. Thank you to all the artists and sponsors with a special thank you to Northwood University for their support of this event. Thank you also to Interlude Magazine who did a wonderful job with the daBenchi issue. The public auction of the benches will be September 13 at Ashman Court Hotel.

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 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, sponsored by Red Road Media.

Wallin reported that Tunes by the Tridge is a 10-week free concert series on Thursday nights from 7-9 pm.

Wallin reported that the new downtown brochure will be available at the Summer Solstice event on June 21.

Wallin reported that website design RFPs have been sent out and are also available on the downtown website. June 25th the committee will interview candidates.

f) Michigan Main Street

O'Callaghan noted that board self-assessments need to be completed by early August to be included in the annual report. A mandatory board training session will be held in late fall or early winter. More details to come.

The next Michigan Main Street conference is August 12 in Iron Mountain, Michigan. Please let O'Callaghan know if you would like to attend.

g) Midland Downtown Business Association Report

Joe Garrison, MDBA President, reported that the first ever Midland Highland Festival will be held this Saturday, June 16 from 8 am- 5 pm in Chippewassee Park.

Summer Solstice will be held on Thursday, June 21 from 5-9 pm with lots of activities. An after-party will be held from 9-11 pm featuring LA Singer/Songwriter Jay Nash. Summer Solstice is sponsored by MCV and the after party is sponsored by Red Road Media.

The Artist Market is every Thursday in the summer from 5-9 pm at the Farmer's Market.

Other events include: 4th of July celebration, Riverdays, and Sidewalk Sales.

The MDBA Annual Dinner was held June 12 at Riverside. Todd Gambrell (Lambert Leser Isackson Cook & Giunta) was named Business Person of the Year.

Joe Garrison (CMU) and Lauri Ireland (Chemical Bank) were both named Volunteer Person of the Year.

4. Public Comments

Steve Bush suggested that when discussing sidewalk safety and the skateboarding issue that maybe a sidewalk speed limit should be considered.

5. Old Business

None.

6. New Business

Nominations Committee Chair, Beck, nominated Wallin for Chair of the DDA Board and Brines as Vice-Chair of the DDA Board for 2007/2008. Seconded by Hayes. Approved unanimously.

Wallin wished Father Bessert good bye and good luck and thanked him for his years of service to the downtown.

7. Adjourn

There was no further business to come before the Board. Beck moved that the meeting be adjourned. Stamas seconded. Approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.