

**Approved
Downtown Development Authority
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 12, 2019
7:30 a.m. ~ Commerce One**

Vice Chairperson DeShano called the regular meeting of the Downtown Development Authority to order at 7:31 am. Members present were:

Jean Ann DeShano	Ashley Anderson	Don Carlyon
Jeff Cederstrom	Dan Dimitroff	Mike Bacigalupo
Terry Spencer	Trevor Keyes	Joe Wespiser

Absences: Tim Banaszak, Mike Dore, Jenifer Acosta

Also present: Terry Moulthane, City Representative
Suzanne Maxwell, Executive Director
Matthew Kowalski, Administrative/Marketing Specialist

A quorum of DDA Board of Directors was present.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

Vice Chairperson DeShano reported that Banaszak, Dore, and Acosta requested an excused absence. Motion by Anderson, supported by Keyes to approve absence. Motion unanimously approved.

ORGANIZATION

Vice Chairperson DeShano presented Consent Agenda items 1 through 4 under Organization and requested approval. Motion by Carlyon, supported by Anderson to approve the consent agenda. Motion unanimously approved. DMB Minutes of April 2019 were presented for review.

PARKING UPDATE

Maxwell reported that Parking Ambassadors continue to electronically mark vehicles, no longer touching or chalking. Maxwell shared that the public outcry in regard to parking has calmed. Ambassadors have a longer process now and the DDA is looking into ways to expedite processes with Complus. Until things stabilize, the current system will stay in place. In regard to the lawsuit against the DDA, Cincinnati Insurance is providing coverage through Directors and Officers Insurance. The point person assigned to the case is very thorough and competent, working directly with Maxwell throughout. Maxwell will keep the board updated, but asks that board members be mindful of comments regarding the class action suit.

DOWNTOWN CLEANUP EFFORTS

Vice Chairperson DeShano shared that Banaszak is looking for volunteers for another round of curb painting downtown on June 15th. Cederstrom suggests maybe choosing a day during the week, even after June 15 in the evening. Possibly have more than one more available day to volunteer, preferably a Tuesday or Thursday. Maxwell will contact Kurt Hausback, City Streets Department, in regard to more available days.

WENONAH PARK FUNDING EFFORTS TO DATE

Maxwell reported that the grant application submitted to the Bay Area Community Foundation's Community Initiative Fund was declined. She reminded the group it was for the Wenonah Park Entrance and included two welcoming arches; one across the entrance of the park and a second matching arch over Center Avenue near Madison Avenue. Partial funding for the arch over Center Avenue was going to be provided by Rod Hildebrant and Matthew Meehan, with the grant paying for the balance.

Maxwell met with Joni King of the Community Foundation to seek advice and found that the Board did not want to fund the arch over Center Avenue. Maxwell will reach out Rod Hildebrant to explain the DDA will assist with any fundraising activities, but can no longer include the project into grant requests. Maxwell shares she is still waiting to hear back from the Kantzler Foundation, as well as the Port Security grant for fencing around the park.

PA 57 SEMINAR

Maxwell shared that she attended an informational seminar at City Hall, and reports that the Downtown Development Authority is now subject to new reporting requirements. April 1, DDA have to provide currently adopted TIF plans and post specific information to website. Twice a year, the DDA is required to hold informational public meetings, which can be before/after regular meetings or during a city commission meeting.

DMB UPDATE

-Apps & Ales is scheduled for June 5, 5:00 - 9:30 pm. The ticket-based event featured beer and appetizer samples from 13 participating bars/restaurants. A total number of tickets sold has not yet been confirmed

-Tall Ship Celebration is scheduled for July 19-21. The DMB Marketing & Events Subcommittee is working with merchants to encourage event attendees to visit Downtown businesses during and after the festivities.

-Sidewalk Days is scheduled for July 25-27. The event will feature different themes for each day: Throwback Thursday, Food Truck Friday, and Sweet Saturday.

-A Taste of Downtown Bay City is scheduled for Saturday, August 24 under the Nickless Family Community Pavilion in Wenonah Park. The event is designed to highlight Downtown Bay City restaurants and specialty food shops and will feature cash bar and live entertainment.

We continue to provide Downtown information using social media: the Downtown Facebook page now has 21,600+ Followers and Instagram has 4,500+ Followers. The DMB also has over 14,275+ permission-based emails.

New businesses: Regent Floral & Mercantile will open at 924 Washington Avenue is now open and offers fresh cut flowers, unique houseplants, handmade gifts and original art. Paradise City Treasure, a new store featuring overstock Amazon items for sale will be open in the near future at 206 Center Ave in the former Suzie Q's Consignment Boutique location. Keeping Character, a store specializing in home décor, furniture, vintage items, home and event design and estate sale auctions is scheduled to open this Saturday, June 15th at 906 N. Water St. MI Table, a farm to table style restaurant will open 213 Center Ave this summer. The restaurant is located inside the

Legacy. A new restaurant/bar is opening at 708 Saginaw Street, in the former location of Rattlesnake Rick's. More details to follow.

OTHER

Maxwell shared that she attended the MDA Annual Summer Workshop in Petoskey, MI which focused on development. Information regarding Redevelopment Ready Communities and the MEDC were provided, along with success stories. Jenifer Acosta presented about her latest and upcoming projects. Overall a great seminar, information will be available for the next meeting located in Holland on November 7-8.

DeShano proposes the cancellation of the July meeting. Motion by Keyes, supported by Bacigulpo, unanimously approved.

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn by Carlyon, supported by Bacigalupo. With no further business to come before the Downtown Development Authority, meeting adjourned at 8:09 am.

Respectfully Submitted,



Suzanne Maxwell
Executive Director