

**CITY OF LAPEER  
MINUTES OF A REGULAR  
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MEETING  
NOVEMBER 23, 2016**

A regular meeting of the City of Lapeer Downtown Development Authority was held in the Conference Room at Lapeer City Hall, 576 Liberty Park, Lapeer, Michigan on Wednesday, November 23, 2016 at 8:00 a.m.

**Members Present:** Chairman Dan Gerlach, Mr. Doug Hodge, Mr. Dan Osentoski, Mr. Ray Davis, Mr. Pat Hingst, Mr. Tom Benton, Ms. Catherine Bostick-Tullius, Mr. Dan Sharkey, Mr. Tony Macksoud and Mr. Bill Sprague.

**Members Absent:** Vice Chairman Tim Roodvoets, Mr. Bruce Cady and Ms. Jolane Grossbauer.

**Also Present:** Mr. Jim Alt, Executive Director, Mr. Todd Alexander, Public Safety Director, and Ms. Jill Lyons, Center for the Arts Executive Director.

Chairman Gerlach called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Hodge expressed thanks to the City Manager for his help addressing issues with the new tenants opening a business in his building and reviewed concerns with various hoops new businesses have to jump through in order to open a business downtown.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

It was moved by Mr. Hodge and supported by Ms. Bostick-Tullius to approve the Consent Agenda for November 23, 2016 as follows:

1. Approval of minutes of regular DDA meeting held on October 26, 2016; and
2. Approval of Treasurer Report and Bill Listing.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Executive Committee**

Ms. Bostick-Tullius stated a committee meeting is scheduled for November 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Design Committee**

Mr. Alt reported one new Sign Assistance Program application has been distributed and that the new owners of Calvelli's may be interested in the Facade Loan Program.

It was the consensus of the board not to convene to a Lapeer Main Street, Inc. meeting.

**Property Maintenance/Beautification Committee**

Mr. Macksoud reported the holiday decorations have been installed and will be lit tonight.

**Development Committee**

There was not a report.

### **Center for the Arts Council Liaison**

Jill Lyons, CFA Executive Director, updated the board on Center for the Arts activities including the Women's Expo attended by 250 people, the Lapeer Art Association's Christmas show, recent and upcoming Pix performances, theater classes and the new toilets in the Pix Theatre. Ms. Lyons reported the Center for the Arts had 850 visitors in one week.

### **Chamber of Commerce Liaison**

Mr. Macksoud reported the Chamber of Commerce is preparing for the Christmas Parade, that Santa will be in his house starting Friday and that the Chamber is currently accepting nominations for Citizen of the Year and Student Citizen of the Year.

## **STAFF REPORT**

### **Executive Director**

Mr. Alt updated the board on the Michigan Main Street Select Level application which is due December 2<sup>nd</sup> and reviewed the benefits offered to Lapeer through Select Level program participation. Mr. Alt also updated the board on the business Meet & Greet held on November 10<sup>th</sup> at Tilted Axis Brewery, his attendance at a Street Smart workshop presented by Oakland County Main Street, a meeting with Amtrak and MDOT representatives on ways to promote Lapeer, the Lapeer Team Work gala fundraiser for their building improvement plans, the updated vacancy chart and the Lyric Mall owner's alternative use plans for the former physical therapy space.

Mr. Alt reviewed the cost breakdown for the pocket park to be located in the vacant space at 160 W. Nepeensing and stated 20 holiday banners will be installed on downtown streetlight poles, that Commissioner Atwood is holding a name the City Hall snowman contest and that Small Business Saturday is scheduled for November 26<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Alt updated the board on various WinterFest activities scheduled for December 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> including radio promotions, a pub crawl, carriage rides sponsored by Lapeer County Bank & Trust and a Seven Ponds nature photography exhibit to be hosted by Beyer's Furniture. Mr. Alt reported the Girlfriends Walk held in conjunction with the Women's Expo featured 160-200 participants and that he will be participating in Lapeer Development Corporation's networking meetings regarding development ready communities.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **M-24 Electronic Sign**

Mr. Alt reported he spoke with MDOT representatives and the City's Planning Consultant regarding replacing and raising the height of the M-24 Electronic Sign which would require a variance from the Zoning Board of Appeals and stated he will get MDOT's approval in writing and that the increased elevation of M-24 and the new fence present a practical difficulty to support the variance request.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Michigan Main Street Program**

Mr. Alt reported the Michigan Main Street Select Level application is due December 2<sup>nd</sup> and requested letters of support. Discussion was held regarding organizing a promotional event at Woodchips BBQ to include photos and video supporting the Michigan Main Street Program.

### **December Meeting Cancellation**

Discussion was held regarding the December meeting date and concerns with obtaining a quorum for the meeting. After discussion, it was the consensus of the board to cancel the December meeting.

Mayor Bill Sprague expressed thanks to the DDA on behalf of the City for the board's work which is appreciated and has been effective in the success of downtown and stated the DDA has accomplished a lot as a group.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, it was the consensus of the board to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 a.m.

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Mr. Tom Benton  
Secretary