

**CITY OF LAPEER
MINUTES OF A REGULAR
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
LAPEER MAIN STREET MEETING
AUGUST 22, 2018**

A regular meeting of the City of Lapeer Downtown Development Authority and Lapeer Main Street was held at Lapeer City Hall, 576 Liberty Park, Lapeer, Michigan on Wednesday, August 22, 2018 at 8:00 a.m.

Members Present: Chairman Dan Gerlach, Vice Chairman Tim Roodvoets, Mr. Dan Osentoski, Mr. Bill Sprague, Mr. Tom Benton, Mr. Tony Stroh-Piechowski, Mr. Bruce Cady, Mr. Dan Sharkey, Ms. Jolane Grossbauer and Ms. Catherine Bostick-Tullius.

Members Absent: Mr. Patrick Hingst, Mr. Tony Macksoud and Mr. Ray Davis.

Also Present: Mr. James Alt, Executive Director, Mr. Dale Kerbyson, City Manager, Mr. Dave Frisch, 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

There were no public comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Mr. Sprague and supported by Ms. Grossbauer to approve the Consent Agenda for August 22, 2018 as follows:

1. Approval of DDA meeting minutes held on July 25, 2018; and
2. Approval of Treasurer Report and Bill Listing.

MOTION CARRIED.

Executive Committee

There was not a report.

MAIN STREET COMMITTEE REPORTS

Organization Committee

Ms. Bostick-Tullius reported the committee met and discussed the volunteer recognition event planned for September 24th at Cheers Pub which is a board driven event and stated help is needed with various activities at the event. Ms. Bostick-Tullius stated the committee also discussed the pocket park fundraising campaign and training to be conducted at the September committee meeting.

Design Committee

Mr. Alt reported a meeting is scheduled later today with various parties on the next phase of the pocket park project and plans for a local artist to display an art structure on the sidewalk area in front of the park to increase public exposure of the project.

Economic Restructuring Committee

Mr. Osentoski reported the committee is working on a business survey, developing a ribbon cutting ceremony process for new downtown businesses that are not Chamber members and discussed the need for a downtown newsletter. Ms. Bostick-Tullius reported the committee also discussed providing welcome baskets to new businesses and the possibility of hiring a part-time clerical position to enable the Executive Director to focus on the DDA and Main Street goals.

Promotion Committee

Mr. Alt updated the board on the Meet & Greet event held at Tilted Axis on August 10th which focused on social media usage and stated the committee will be working on promoting the pocket park for the next month.

OTHER REPORTS

Center for the Arts

Ms. Lyons distributed the 2018-19 Center for the Arts budget and reviewed various budget items including revenues, expenses, staff raises, revenue sources, increases in admissions and building rentals and the DDA and City funding commitments. Ms. Lyons also updated the board on current and upcoming exhibits, events and activities at Gallery 194 and the Pix Theatre and the Generation Art Committee's newspaper box painting project.

Discussion was held on continuing moisture and water leakage issues on the east basement wall of the Pix Theatre since the adjacent building fire, new options for treating and cleaning the wall surface and the fact that after the adjacent pocket pock surface is completed and sealed the leakage issue should be resolved.

STAFF REPORT

Executive Director

Mr. Alt updated the board on the meeting with Main Street representatives held on August 15th, an upcoming webinar to focus on strategic planning scheduled for September 17th, a Main Street communication plan review meeting scheduled for September 27th, a Main Street exchange day with Owosso scheduled for October 3rd and plans to have Owosso Main Street representatives visit Lapeer on October 24th.

Main Street Director Retreat

Mr. Alt updated the board on the Main Street Director Retreat to be held at the Shanty Creek Resort in Bellaire October 7th – 9th including the \$136 per night lodging costs and stated Main Street will be covering meal costs. It was moved by Ms. Bostick-Tullius and supported by Mr. Stroh-Piechowski to authorize the Executive Director to attend the retreat and the related expenses for two nights lodging and mileage. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Pocket Park Funding Commitment

Mr. Osentoski recommended the DDA contribute \$5,000 to the Pocket Park's Patronicity crowd funding campaign. Discussion was held regarding the \$10,000 budgeted in the DDA budget CBD Beautification line item intended for downtown art and the fact the pocket park plans include public art elements. After discussion, it was moved by Mr. Sprague and supported by Mr. Osentoski to contribute \$10,000 from the CBD Beautification expense line item toward the Pocket Park Patronicity crowd funding campaign. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Discussion was held regarding the process to access the online Patronicity site for the pocket park crowd funding.

Mr. Alt updated the board on new downtown business openings, exterior improvements to the Coulter Realty building at 380 W. Nepessing, M-24 sign rental income, replacement panels for the M-24 sign, potential interest by a Thai restaurant in locating downtown, interior work scheduled to begin early September on the new Vinyl Bar and Grill, a recent sign violation issue at Hello Healthy, the upcoming Stone's Throw Theater event and the 70's night theme for the August 27th cruise event. Mr. Alt also thanked Police Chief Frisch for the increased public safety patrols during the recent Monday cruise events.

Discussion was held on continuing to work with MEDC and Michigan Main Street representatives to encourage and enforce the need for assistance to install fire suppression systems in older downtown building renovation projects. Discussion was also held on plans to offer short term vacation rentals on the second floor at 240 W. Nepessing Street and whether any City ordinances are in place to regulate this type of use.

NEW BUSINESS

Lapeer Days Report

Police Chief Frisch provided a report on Public Safety Department activity during the recent Lapeer Days Festival including calls for service, fights, disorderly persons, arrests made, illegal fireworks, personnel hours worked and assistance provided by other public safety organizations during the festival. Mr. Frisch also updated and requested input from the board on increasing issues being faced by the Public Safety Department with the Chamber's practice of closing more public parking areas than originally planned during the event. Discussion was held on issues with the helicopter ride occupying available parking areas in Annrook Park, blocking of emergency access in the alley behind the Center for the Arts, timing of the parking lot and street closures, carnival staff parking areas, closing of the former drive-thru bank lot owned by St. Matthew's Church and the need for more input from the downtown businesses on addressing the issue with the Chamber.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business it was the consensus of the board to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 a.m. **MEETING ADJOURNED.**

Mr. Dan Osentoski
Secretary