

**CITY OF LAPEER
MINUTES OF A REGULAR
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MEETING
JUNE 25, 2014**

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, June 25, 2014 at 8:00 a.m.

Members Present: Mr. Mike Robinet, Mr. Tom Benton, Mr. Bruce Cady, Mr. Ray Davis, Mr. John Matonich, Mr. Tim Roodvoets and Mr. Dan Sharkey.

Members Absent: Chairman Dan Gerlach, Vice Chairman Tony Macksoud, Mr. Jason Rogers, Mr. Doug Hodge, Ms. Jolane Grossbauer and Mr. Bill Sprague.

Also Present: Ms. Janine Saputo, Executive Director, and Ms. Linda Jackman, Planning Director.

Mr. Robinet called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Jim Alt, Gallery 194 Director, presented a proposed downtown public art project for the DDA board's approval and reviewed the project which will entail artists painting the 22 downtown benches with bright, colorful and unique art; distributed photos of other similarly painted benches he observed in Iowa and stated no other Michigan community has a similar project. Mr. Alt stated the benches would be primed, stained and varnished to protect the art for up to 2 years and then either the art would be repainted or the benches could be sanded and stained to their original condition. Mr. Alt also stated crowd funding will be utilized to fund the project, that he anticipates the benches would be painted in September and that himself and Nate Scramlin will be overseeing the designs to ensure they are appropriate for downtown.

Ms. Saputo reported she reviewed the proposed downtown bench art project with City Manager Dale Kerbyson who has expressed his support of the project in writing.

It was moved by Mr. Matonich and supported by Mr. Cady to support the downtown bench public art project. **MOTION CARRIED.**

CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Mr. Cady and supported by Mr. Benton to approve the Consent Agenda for June 25, 2014 as follows:

1. Minutes of the regular meeting held May 28, 2014;
2. Treasurer Report and Bill Listing; and
3. Budget Amendment as proposed for carry-over of grant funds to FY 2014-15 DDA Budget.

MOTION CARRIED.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee

Executive Director Employment Agreement

Discussion was held regarding the Executive Committee's recommendation to renew the Executive Director's Employment Agreement for the period of July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 at the same rate with minor changes to personal time off wording. Ms. Saputo reviewed the status of renewing the required bond with Cadillac Insurance at a cost of \$139. After discussion, it was moved by Mr. Cady and supported by Mr. Benton to approve renewal of the Executive Director's Employment Agreement as presented for the term of July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Design Committee

Ms. Saputo reported sign assistance reimbursement to the Center for the Arts has been approved and reimbursement to Pieces of LaPierre remains on hold.

Lapeer Main Street, Inc.

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

Property Maintenance/Beautification Committee

Ms. Saputo expressed thanks to Doug Hodge for his \$100 donation to the 2014 downtown flowers and stated the flowers are in and thriving.

Development Committee

Mr. Cady updated the board on the recent meeting held to review the status of the DDA's Main Street Program stating the purpose of establishing the program is to leverage funding from MSHDA for downtown improvements. Mr. Cady stated the committee determined there is a need for recruitment of additional interested parties to be involved and enthusiastic about promoting downtown, that Ms. Saputo will regularly update the City Commission and DDA Board on the status of the Main Street Program and the need to develop a tag line providing a brief description of the Main Street Program. Mr. Cady reported the next training session will be held in Saline in July.

Center for the Arts Council Liaison

Ms. Jackman stated the Pix Theatre is currently in the off-season and updated the board on recent and upcoming events at the Center for the Arts including the current Julia Kay Portrait Party and closing events scheduled for the exhibit on July 19th, Youth Art Saturday's scheduled to begin July 12th, current art classes being offered, the fundraiser at Buffalo Wild Wings on June 25th and distributed the Center for the Arts 2014-15 Season Sponsorship Brochure.

DBA Liaison

Ms. Jeanne McCorkle, DBA President, updated the board on the Farmers' Market which has a new interim Market Manager stating the Davison and Flint Farmers' Market are pulling vendors away. Ms. McCorkle also updated the board on the Made in Michigan Festival to be held in September with the goal to establish incubator businesses in downtown.

Chamber of Commerce Liaison

Ms. Saputo reported the Chamber recently held a networking session at the new Woodchip's restaurant downtown.

STAFF REPORT

Executive Director

Ms. Saputo reported all required approvals have been completed for renewal of the DDA Development Plan for 10 years, updated the board on the recent bus trips to the Detroit Institute of Arts and stated she will be attending the Michigan Main Street Program training in Saline which is a Select Main Street Community. Ms. Saputo reported she visited other area Farmers' Markets which are competing with Lapeer's markets for vendors.

Discussion was held regarding the status of the Food Truck ordinance and ongoing downtown events including the Monday Night Cruise, the recent Ice Cream Social and the Thursday Summer Concert Series.

NEW BUSINESS

County Road Commission – Special Millage Capture

Mr. Ryan Doyle, Lapeer County Road Commission Highway Engineer, was present and reviewed the proposed road millage to be placed on the November election ballot stating the commission is requesting all DDA's in Lapeer County to agree not to capture any of the millage funds if passed. Mr. Doyle stated all taxes captured by the Road Commission will be spent in the cities, villages and townships in which they were captured and reviewed requirements for the ballot language.

Mr. Doyle stated no issues have been expressed from the other DDA's addressed to date and that a 1.85 mill is proposed which would potentially raise \$420,000 to be spent on improvements to existing roads in the City.

Discussion was held on the lack of support for additional road funding in Lansing, the Lapeer City Commission's recent vote of approval not to capture the special millage funds and similar road funding millages which have been in place and successful in Tuscola and Huron counties for several years.

After discussion, it was moved by Mr. Matonich and supported by Mr. Cady to confirm the City Commission's decision and not capture funds from the Lapeer County Road Commission Special Millage on the November election ballot. **MOTION CARRIED.**

OLD BUSINESS

Michigan Main Street Program

Ms. Saputo reported a group plans to attend the training in Saline on July 9th and that she will continue to work with the DBA on the Main Street Program.

OTHER BUSINESS

Discussion was held regarding the plan for street closings required during the Made in Michigan Festival which will be determined at the time of the event.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, it was the consensus of the board to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 a.m.

Mr. Mike Robinet
Secretary