



Approved Meeting Minutes

Ecorse Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Informational Meeting and Board Regular Meeting Tuesday, October 8, 2024, at 6:00 pm in Ecorse City Council Chambers, 3869 West Jefferson, Ecorse, Michigan 48229

1. **Informational Meeting**

2. **Call to Order** at 6:00 PM by Gus Callais

3. **Roll Call**

X Gus Callis, Chair	X Gerry Hall
E Jackie Brown, Vice-Chair	A Joe Hunter
E Kelly Rose, Secretary	X Paul Rakecky
X Lamar Tidwell, Mayor	X Kimberly Alexander, City Council

Also present: Timothy Sadowski, City of Ecorse Administrator and Controller

4. **Information**

5. **Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed.

6. **Approval of the Minutes of the September 10, 2024 Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.

7. **New Business**

- 1) **Collaborating with the 5 communities along W. Jefferson to create a flyer showcasing each communities assets to attract visitors, showcase local businesses, events, and activities happening in each area**

(See attached Example - Breezeway Flier)

Motion by Mayor Tidwell, Second by Kimberly Alexander. Approved by all present to reach out to the cities of Trenton, River Rouge, Wyandotte, and Riverview to explore the possibility of all five communities coming together starting with support for a Motorcycle or Car Cruise, on Jefferson to create the Downriver Communities version of our own "Breezeway".

- 2) **City Banners - Creating banners with new images showcasing annual city events**

Motion by Paul Rakecky, Support by Jerry Hall to support continuing to utilize the same vendor to make the City banners, keeping cost at \$200.00 which includes the banner and bracket. All present were in favor of the holiday banners reading "Happy Holidays".



Downtown Development Authority

City of Ecorse, Michigan

Mayor Tidwell advised that permission is not needed to hang the banners up, and all members approved the idea for incorporating banners showcasing annual citywide events.

3) City Beautification - Tree planting on W. Jefferson, Art Murals showcasing images depicting the City motto, "City of Friendship" on viaducts

Kimberly Alexander suggested eliminating concrete and replace it with greenery to help with water runoff. Gus Callis suggested to plant clover in place of grass as it is low maintenance and environmentally friendly. Jerry Hall mentioned that the trees were overgrown on Jefferson Trail and use DDA grant money for cleanup efforts. Motion by Mayor Tidwell to prioritize clean up of the overgrown trees on the Jefferson trail, seconded by Jerry Hall, and passed.

Motion by Mayor Tidwell, Supported by Kimberly Alexander to look into the Railroad Beautification Grant to cover the costs for Art Murals.

4) Soofa - Digital Signage for Dingell Park

Jerry Hall stated the City would not benefit from the signage, and cost would be too expensive, and recommended against it. His motion to dismiss this proposal was seconded and passed.

5) Replacement of Joe Hunter on DDA Board

Mayor Tidwell stated that he had appointed Joe Hunter to be on the DDA Board. He will need to appoint a replacement. Kimberly Alexander made a motion to move and Mayor Tidwell Supported.

8. Public Comments

No public comments

9. Board Member Comments

Jerry Hall said it is important that Ecorse finds a way to increase the overall population. Ecorse needs affordable housing, the City needs to consider giving a Builder city owned lots and if a house is built in a specific time frame give the builder a tax credit and find a way to fast track permitting.

Gus Callis mentioned that Ecorse needs to offer more schooling choices for children in the community. There has been an ongoing problem with staffing issues at Ecorse Schools. He also said that Ecorse would benefit from the creation of affordable, smaller home communities.

10. Adjournment at 6:50 PM

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 12, 2024 at 6:00 pm