



Downtown Development Authority

City of Ecorse, Michigan

Minutes - APPROVED

Ecorse Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Board Meeting

Thursday, June 3, 2021 – 8:30 am via Zoom

Zoom ID: 3886354369, password: 5555 or call in at 312-626-6799 ID: 3886354369

1. Meeting Called to Order at 8:44 a.m.

2. Roll Call:

Johnny Gewarges, Chairman

Darcel Brown, Mayor-Pro Tem

Kosta Callis, Vice-Chairman

Dan Brown

Jackie Brown, Secretary

Bob Reed

Lamar Tidwell, Mayor

Kelly Rose

Also present: Larry Steckelberg (Michigan Treasury); Tim Sadowski (City Manager); John Jackson (McKenna); Stephanie Peña (McKenna); Marilyn Oliver (City Treasurer)

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Member Darcel Brown and seconded by Secretary Brown to approve the agenda for the DDA Board regular meeting on June 3, 2021. Ayes all.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the May 6, 2021 DDA Meeting

Moved by Member Darcel Brown and seconded by Secretary Jackie Brown to approve the minutes for the DDA Board regular meeting on May 6, 2021. Ayes all.

5. Presentation: Proposed 2021 & 2022 Annual Calendar

Stephanie Peña presented the proposed 2021 and 2022 Annual Calendars for DDA discussion. In regards to the required joint meetings with River Rouge's DDA, Stephanie Peña indicated that she will be in contact with Karl Laub of River Rouge to determine if a July 1, 2021 8:30am joint meeting would work for them. If within a week, Karl does not confirm, the DDA will move to cancel the July 1, 2021 meeting and resume in August.

6. Discussion: Moving to In-Person Meetings or Maintaining Virtual Meetings

Stephanie Peña presented the options that DDA Board has to either continue holding meetings virtually or begin meeting in-person. Member Darcel Brown inquired how the July 1, 2021 expiration of the State of Michigan's emergency order would impact the Open Meetings Act. John Jackson and Stephanie Peña will update the group next week. It was ultimately discussed that the group will maintain virtual meetings as long as possible, with the exception of potentially hold the bi-annual Informational Meetings in person.

Member Darcel Brown asked if greater advertisement efforts could be made to garner more public participation in the DDA Board Meetings. John Jackson and Stephanie Peña will reach out to the City to see how the meetings can be posted on Facebook.

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7. Staff Report

Stephanie Peña provided an update on the Joint DDA Meetings with River Rouge, with a promise to return to the group with new information by next Thursday. Additionally, an update was provided on the Fundraising Committee's first meeting in May and efforts that will be presented to the whole DDA Board at their next regular meeting.

8. Next Meeting:

- a. Fundraising Committee Report
 - i. US Steel Letter
 - ii. Banners, Refuse Containers, & Mural Project
- b. Presentation: Ecorse Market Study - Sharon Woods, LandUseUSA

9. Public Comments

None.

10. Board Member Comments

Member Kelly Rose asked Tim Sadowski to expand on his comments made before the meeting began. Tim Sadowski discussed a recent Port Authority meeting where there is interest in developing a new port in Ecorse. Four waterfront businesses, including US Steel, Praxair, Levy, and Doc Nicholson, are being questioned about their potential interest to expand their business model to include warehousing agricultural exports.

Member Darcel Brown thanked Secretary Jackie Brown for donating paint to have the Fire Doors painted. Member Brown further inquired how individuals who make contributions, can be provided with a proof of donation or receipt. John Jackson indicated that he will talk with Tim Sadowski offline to ensure that these individuals get recognized by the City and that they receive the appropriate tax or financial documentation. Member Brown expressed that even thanking business donors on the City's Facebook page could highlight businesses and serve as a good advertisement for the DDA and other donors.

Secretary Jackie Brown indicated that she would like to begin donating \$1.00 from each gallon of paint sold for the future banner project. Secretary Brown also mentioned that she has connected with her signage person to provide a quote on the proposed banners.

11. Adjournment

Motion by Vice Chairman Kosta Callis and seconded by Secretary Jackie Brown to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 am. Ayes all.