

CITY OF YPSILANTI DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
APRIL 15, 2010
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINITUES

I. Call to Order

Wheeler called the meeting to order at 8:08 A.M.

II. Roll Call

Members Present: John Coleman, Darryl Daniels, Linda French, , Rene Greff, Jim Karnopp, , Karen Maurer, Peter Rinehart, Paul Schreiber, Dave Wheeler

Members Absent: John Donegan, Sandee French, Scotty James,

Others Present: Leonardo Christian; Ypsi News
Jessica de Blacam; Interim DDA Director
Tracy Lewis; DDA Community Development Coordinator
Pete Murdock; Ypsilanti City Council
Tammie Tischler; DDA Legal Counsel

III. Approval of Agenda

Greff requested that the agenda be revised moving the Executive Committee Report under standing committees and Introducing Budget under that committee, move Ad Hoc Committees in front of standing committees and move Org to the Top of the Standing Committee Reports

Greff motioned to approve the agenda as amended; Maurer supported and the motion passes unanimously.

IV. Approval of Minutes March 18, 2010

Greff requested that the following amendments be made to the minutes

Under review of draft budget Greff stated that the minutes should reflect that Lewis presented on overview of the cost of the prioritized project lists coming out of committee and their impact on the overall budget. Since the cost of proposed projects for 2010-2011 exceeded the projected revenues, Greff advised that the executive committee will meet to prioritize the projects and present a budget to the board that does not dip into reserves.

Greff motioned to approve the minutes as amended; L. French supported and the motion passes unanimously.

V. Audience Participation

Tamara Real, The Arts Alliance: Tamara Real introduced herself and gave some background regarding the Washtenaw County Cultural Master Plan and how it may enhance economic development in Ypsilanti. She stated an interest in partnering with the DDA for micro-loans, coaching and mentoring possibilities.

D. Wheeler suggested that Economic Restructuring and Promotions committees would be a good place to discuss further possibilities

VI. Reports

Staff Report

T. Lewis updated the board on the Façade grant application, 511 W. Cross and the demolition of 105 W. Cross. She also stated that a check register was included in the packet that covers expenses for March and April.

VII. Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Director Search

R. Greff updated the board on the hiring of an Executive Director, stating that the position was not reposted due to a review of previous applicants. Appropriately, the committee decided to recommend, Tim Colbeck, who was the committee second choice during the first round of applications.

On behalf of the Director Search Committee R. Greff motioned to approve the resolution hiring Tim Colbeck as the DDA executive director; P Rinehart supported the said motion.

Daniels expressed concerns that the full board has not met Tim Colbeck and was under the impression that board members would have a chance for introductions before committing to hiring.

Mayor Schreiber suggested having a special meeting before May's board meeting to meet Tim Colbeck and that all board members should feel comfortable with the decision.

R. Greff motioned to withdrawal resolution until board members could meet with Tim Colbeck; P. Rinehart stated no objections to the withdrawal.

L. French volunteered to schedule a meeting with Mr. Colbeck and the Board.

VIII. Standing Committee Reports

Organization

Resolution in Support of Downtown Farmers Market & Ferris St. Closure

On behalf of the Organizations Committee P. Reinhart presented the above resolution. He stated that the Key Bank parking lot is experiencing a lot of stress on the parking which leaves no room for the Farmer's market. He went on to state that the above resolution is in support of the

Downtown Farmers Market remaining accessible to the community. L. French supported and the motion passed unanimously.

Design Committee

Resolution in support of early planting of West Cross Hanging Baskets:

T. Lewis read and provided background on the resolution

L. French asked when the baskets would be installed.

T. Lewis replied May 25, 2010.

On behalf of the Design Committee, J. Coleman moved to approve the resolution; P. Reinhart supported and the motion passed unanimously.

Economic Restructuring

K. Maurer provided a committee update. She stated that the committee was looking into returning W. Cross into 2-way traffic. P. Murdock stated that the ELG and EMU are also interested in returning W. Cross into a 2-way.

D. Daniels stated that it seems the City's master plan may need to be updated to address this and other issues that would arise from this project.

Promotions

Resolution Approving a Funding Contribution to D.A.Y for Crossroads

L. French introduced the resolution stating that when Crossroads presented the funding request to the Promotions Committee it was for \$7,500. L. French stated that it is a worthwhile event but the Promotions budget will not allow for such a substantial request since the DDA is being fiscally conservative. She went on to state that the Promotions committee will play a more supportive role for events in the future.

J. Coleman suggested amending the resolution to state that the request would be granted only if funding would not come out of the reserves.

Board discussion does not support said amendment to the resolution

L. French moved to approve the resolution as is; P. Reinhart supported and the motion passes with Coleman and Daniels voting against the funding request

Executive

R. Greff gave update on the Budget stating that a bond commitment was left out of the budget which reduces the amount of money that the DDA has to work with. She also stated that the committees requested budgets would require dipping into reserves so the committee's discretionary fund was eliminated in order to present a balance budget.

J. Coleman asked where the City's request for funding services would be coming from

R. Greff stated that it would come from the fund balance and would like a formal request from City Council or a letter from Ed Koryzno stating what specifically is being requested.

On behalf of the Executive Committee R. Greff motioned to approve the budget as presented; L. French supported and it passed unanimously.

IX. Old Business

Board Review of Proposed Budget as prepared by the Executive Committee; discussed above

X. New Business:

Nothing Further

XI. Reports from Other Boards and Commissions

Mayor Schreiber gave an update stating of the county commissioners voted to dissolve the Landbank which was established to help with the barriers associated with foreclosed properties. Stating that only the State or the State treasurer can formally dissolve the Landbank

XII. Announcements/Comments

L. french stated that the Friends of the Freighthouse raised almost \$50,000 with a \$20,000 match with the fundraiser and auction.

XIII. Public Participation

Marquise Williams: Ground Cover New: Street Newspaper

Susan Beckett: Street Newspaper Marquise and Susan presented briefly on the street newspaper, stating that homeless people would be trained to sell newspaper for \$1.00. They receive the first batch for free and after that they pay .25 for each copy and get to keep the profit, stating that it is a great way for people to make a positive contribution to society while being productive and earning some money.

XIV. Adjourn

Daniels motioned to adjourn the meeting; L. French supports motion and it passes unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.