

**City of Ypsilanti
Downtown Development Authority**

**Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, February 18, 2015 – 8:30 a.m.
SPARK East
215 W. Michigan Ave.**

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order: M. Teachout called the meeting to order at 8:35 am.

II. Roll Call

Amanda Edmonds	P		Russ Olwell	P	
Jessica French		A	Andrew O’Neal	P	
Adam Gainsley	P		Richard Smith		A
Cisco Garcia	P		Mark Teachout (C)	P	
Ben Harrington*	P		RayVon Williams*	P	
Jelani McGadney		A			

*arrived at 8:40

**arrived at 8:45

Others in Attendance:

Rasheed Atwater, Ypsilanti Economic Dev.
Cheryl Farmer, Ypsilanti resident
Joe Licavoli, SPARK East
Joe Meyer, Ypsilanti Economic Dev.
Beth Ernat, Ypsilanti Economic Dev.
Mark Swanson, Terry’s Bakery
Ronald Lowe, Materials Unlimited

III. Approval of Agenda: Cisco Garcia moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Russ Olwell supported the motion and it was approved unanimously.

IV. Approval of January 21, 2016 and February 22, 2016 Minutes: Amanda Edmonds moved to approve the minutes of January 21, 2016 as submitted. Russ Olwell supported the motion and it passed unanimously.

Cisco Garcia moved to approve the February 11, 2016 special meeting minutes as submitted. Russ Olwell supported the motion and it passed unanimously.

V. Audience Participation:

- Mark Swanson noted that the DDA camera on Terry’s Bakery is inoperable and has been since December. He went on to note that he took this concern with Tim Colbeck and no action has been taken since.

VI. Downtown Sculpture Project– Mark Swanson, Cheryl Farmer, Ronald Lowe:

- Cheryl Farmer: since learning that MDOT will not allow sculptures in median they have created other ideas which include:
 1. Enhance Trellis that exist
 2. Paint the surface of the current median pots

3. Put sculptures on N. Washington

Or possibly dropping the DDA district entirely and placing sculptures in entrances of Ypsilanti.

- Beth Ernat: noted the city received CTAP Grant to assist with water plants
- Ronald Lowe: Proposed artist submit drawings and prototypes to art center where they could be sold if not used by DDA
- Cisco Garcia: stated he likes the Trellis idea, especially if students were involved. Also noted that it by enhancing the trellises that are already there the DDA could save money
- Russ Olwell: likes students being involved with the project. Also likes the idea of artist bringing sculptures to RAC
- Andrew O'Neal: likes trellis idea. Think we should start small; maybe 1 a year
- Adam Gainsley: In favor of trellises
- Mark Teachout: Would be in support of all ideas
- Ben Harrington: in favor of all ideas. Would like to start small first
- RayVon Williams: Likes all ideas. Would like to support ideas once budget is in healthier status
- Amanda Edmonds: Would like to get stake holders of N. Washington together to get their opinion on sculptures
 - Supports medians being painted and offered to assist in the labor effort
 - Would like to create long-term beautification initiatives based off these ideas

VII. Staff Report/Financial Report: N/A was as presented

VIII. Standing Committee Reports:

- **Economic Restructuring & Design:** Report as submitted.

Downtown Dumpster Discussion:

- Joe Meyers reported the letter to send to DDA about the new dumpster program has not been sent to business owners; affirmed that it will be completed and sent ASAP.
- The Dumpster Program will be on the agenda for the next meeting.
- Mark Teachout: suggested businesses coming together to form their own committee that pays for the dumpster services. In addition, stated the DDA should not have to extended the dumpster contract past June
- RayVon. Williams: agreed with Mark Teachout that business owners should pay for the dumpster services
- Russ Olwell: suggested the DDA send a clear letter to business owners detailing exactly what is going to happen, that the DDA is leaving the dumpster business, and put a time and day to discuss issues in the letter
- Amanda Edmonds: Proposed giving people dumpster information and letter, then get feedback. Also suggested making the letter and Dumpster information accessible via Facebook, DDA friend page, the city website, and other sources of social media.
- Mark Teachout: recommended Joe or Rasheed go to businesses directly and give letter directly to business owners.
- Adam Gainsley: requested to see the letter before it is sent out.
- Beth Ernat: Suggested there be a 3 day response window for business owners once they receive the letter.

Downtown Camera and WI-FI Discussion

Cameras

- Mark Teachout: Affirmed that the DDA should not be in the business of monitoring public and selling the content.

- Mark Teachout: The DDA should get out of contract with the surveillance company ASAP possibly by negotiating the current contract to a lower rate and paying it out.

Wi-Fi Discussion

- RayVon Williams: Asked if there could be a time limit on Wireless Ypsi to keep independent cameras from recording for long periods of time
- Amanda Edmonds: Asked if city halls wireless network could be expanded
- Beth Ernat: Answered that it may be a couple of weeks to research and discover how expandable city halls wireless service can be stretched.
- Board continued conversation with agreement that they want to support Wireless Ypsi, but not Steve Surveillance.

Resolution to approve YDDA Building Rehabilitation Grant Application 42 E. Cross St. /Café Ollie

- Mark Teachout was excused to petitioner at 9:37am and Adam Gainsley transitioned to head of DDA
- Mark Teachout: Work on the floor has already been completed. Went on to state that the building historically had problems with the floor and the new floor will last at least for fifty years and raise the property value.
- Adam Gainsley moved to table the resolution to approve the YDDA Building Rehabilitation Grant Application to Café Ollie. C. Garcia second his motion and the a roll call vote was taken:
Ayes: Amanda Edmonds, Russ Olwell, Jessica French, Adam Gainsley, Cisco Garcia, Ben Harrington, Andrew O’Neal, RayVon Williams
Nays: none
Abstain: Mark Teachout
The resolution passed unanimously.
- M. Teachout was called back and returned to head of DDA at 9:47am

- **Operations & Finance:** Did not meet/ Nothing to report

IX. Old Business: N/A

X. Proposed Business:

- A. Edmonds: Stated she would like to have subcommittee’s updates, especially the R.A.C.
- J. Meyers asked the board what they would like from him as the new director
- A. Gainsley: answered he would like to have the emails and packets organized
- J. Meyers: Asked if the board wanted PDF’s in the email
- The board responded with a general consensus
- M. Teachout and B. Harrington: requested PowerPoint presentations instead of psper agendas
- B. Ernat: Suggested sending the full report to Adam and Amanda then send overviews to everyone else and have links to information on DDA website so concerned members can investigate at their convenience.

XI. Announcements/Comments:

- **M. Teachout and Danielle will list their business for sale and move more towards selling real estate**
- **Growing Hope will host Grounds Management for Pollinated Protection. Official date to be terminated**

XII. Public Participation: none.

XIII. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 10:12 am.

XIV. Next Meeting: March 17, 2016, 8:30 a.m., SPARK East, 215 W. Michigan Ave.