

**City of Ypsilanti
Downtown Development Authority**

**Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, February 15, 2018 – 8:30 a.m.
SPARK East
215 W. Michigan Ave.**

Agenda

The **Mission** of the Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority (YDDA) is to undertake district-wide improvements that have the greatest impact in strengthening the downtown areas and attracting new business. The primary goal of the YDDA is to implement positive economic, physical, aesthetic, and community changes in each of our four districts.

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

Amanda Edmonds	P	Jelani McGadney	A
Jessica French	P	Andrew O’Neal	P
Adam Gainsley	P	Diana Wong	P
Martha Cleary	P	Mark Teachout (C)	P
Ben Harrington	P	Dieter Otto	P

III. Introductions

Joe Meyers introduced the new DDA Coordinator, Elize Jekabson

IV. Approval of Agenda (X)*

Motion by Mark Teachout, supported by Andrew O’Neal to approve February 15 2018 agenda as presented. Motion carried – Unanimous.

V. Approval of January 18, 2018 Minutes (X)*

Motion by Jessica French, supported by Mark Teachout to approve December 21, 2017 minutes as presented. Motion carried – Unanimous.

VI. Audience Participation (3 minutes each)

n/a

VII. Staff Report/Financial Report (X)

Message mechanics moved location from 13 E. Cross to 7 S. Washington.

Tinker Tech opening at

2 Jerks closed the location in depot town but is still operating online.

Michigan Legal Services in the old Smith Furniture Building is targeting to open in June 2018.

Herbal Solutions construction in the old Ypsi Bicycle Shop is underway.

VIII. Standing Committee Reports

IX. Old Business

Staff indicated that the legal services RFQ went out and we should have more updates next meeting

X. New Business

- N. Washington street lights have been out – original wiring from installation 20 years ago was done correctly and it has since rusted. To repair broken street lights, sidewalks need torn up to run wiring through underground (approx. \$40,000 project). In the meantime, solar panels on those lights do work, and could be used temporarily, proper bulbs for solar energy lights need to be installed for approx. \$1000.

If the sidewalk needs to be torn up, could use opportunity to look at constructing the pedestrian plaza that is on the city master plan. Discussion ensued about sidewalk improvements.

Beth Ernat asks for the DDA consider supporting a pedestrian plaza on N. Washington, and create a maintenance plan.

The board asks for comparison pricing for between the long term street light repair, and construction of a pedestrian plaza.

- Motion by Adam Gainsley, supported by Diana Wong to recommend the city temporarily repair street lights on N. Washington St until a longtime solution is reached. Motion carried- unanimous
- Motion by Adam Gainsley, supported by Ben Harrington, to research and explore turning N. Washington into a pedestrian plaza. Motion carried – Unanimous

XI. Proposed Business

- Depot Town Recycling Center Discussion
Discussion ensued about the benefits of moving the Depot Town Recycling Center.
The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member Jessica French and supported by Member Ben Harrington

WHEREAS, the Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority (YDDA) approved the current Tax Increment Financing Plan in 2015; and

WHEREAS, the YDDA's Depot Town TIF Plan calls for assisting the city to explore alternative locations for the recycling drop-off center to maximize recreation use and image of Frog Island Park; and

WHEREAS, the YDDA Board supports and actively encourages recycling; and

WHEREAS, the YDDA Board has also identified the need for additional parking as a need in all of our districts;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The YDDA formally requests the city council move the recycling center at Frog Island Park on Rice Street and assist with process.

AYES: Amanda Edmonds, Jessica French, Adam Gainsley, Martha Cleary, Ben Harrington, Andrew O'Neal, Diana Wong, Mark Teachout, Dieter Otto

NAYS: None

YES: 9 NO: 0 ABSENT: 1 VOTE: Passed

- Ypsilanti Freighthouse Discussion
Mark Teachout suggests revisiting the parking contract with the Freight House. Discussion ensued about usage of Maple Lot.
Board to table revisiting MOU for the Freight House and request the executive committee bring back a recommendation.
- Black Historical Signage Project Request
The city is requesting a Civil War sign be placed in Depot Town near bus stop near Aubree's
Motion by Adam Gainsley, Supported by Martha Cleary, support the city placing a Black Historical Sign regarding the Civil War in Depot Town. Motion carried – Unanimous.
- Amanda Edmonds asks for DDA support to activate and utilize emergency snow removal service we have in place
Motion by Adam Gainsley, supported by Andrew O'Neal to recommend the city activate and utilize the emergency snow removal service. Motion Carried – Unanimous.

XII. Staff Updates

XIII. Announcements/Comments

College of Business to be closed May through August.

XIV. Public Participation

Emily Tuesday, Director of Riverside Arts Center updates DDA Board on new RAC façade.

XV. Next Meeting: February 15, 8:30 a.m., SPARK East, 215 W. Michigan Ave.

Key: (*) = items requiring Board action (X) = documents attached in board packet