



MINUTES
DDA BOARD MEETING
8:30 AM - Thursday, June 16, 2022
Back Office Studio - 13 N. Washington St. / Virtual Hybrid

1. CALL TO ORDER (8:35am)

2. ROLL CALL

PATTON DOYLE (C)	P	YLONDIA PORTIS	P (9:13am)
KAYIA HINTON	P (virtual/nonvoting)	ANDY FRENCH (V)	P
DIETER OTTO	P	JEN EASTRIDGE	P
PAUL AJLOUNY	P	LOIS ALLEN RICHARDSON	P
BRANDON DENT	A	BRYAN FOLEY	A
MALISSA GILLETT	P (8:37am)	JOE RITCHIE	P

3. AGENDA APPROVAL

Dieter Otto motioned to approve the agenda. Jen Eastridge supported the motion. Motion passed - unanimous.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dieter Otto motioned to approve the May 19, 2022 Board Meeting minutes and Andy French supported the motion. Motion passed - unanimous.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES EACH) - none.

6. STAFF REPORT/FINANCIAL REPORT

No meetings in July.

DDA has an opportunity to support the bicentennial celebrations this year.

Bills getting paid out for the year.

7. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

7.1. Operations and Finance Committee

\$50,000 Revolving Loan Fund

Andy French updated the board about the committee meeting. The committee had reservations about the revolving loan fund, but are excited to move forward with other budget amendments.

7.2. Ad Hoc Committee for Equitable Investment

Staff updated the board. The committee supports the revolving loan fund for capital expenses.

Both committees will be talking about the fund in the next coming months. The committee had questions about the Hello Neighbor proposal.

7.3. Grants Committee

Three facade and rehab grants were approved for consideration from the Grants Committee.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1. Hello Neighbor Proposal

Full presentation by Hello Neighbor. Formed in 2020, the organization is comprised of a diverse board. Their goal is to fill gaps of services and resources not available to marginalized individuals, and address ongoing issues in Downtown Ypsilanti by working with businesses.

The organization confirmed that they are pursuing grants, private donors and other avenues of funding to continue the pilot further than the 6 months proposed.

The organization answered many questions from the board.

Malissa Gillett confirmed that issues on Washington Street are just as bad as they were when the street closure was happening..

The board discussed the proposed drop in center.

Staff will have a formalized of the MOU in August.

8.2. \$50,000 DDA Solar Rebate Program

Dave Strenski of Solar Ypsi presented the program and fielded questions.

The program would consider solar upgrades along with new installations.

The DDA is interested in creating five grants up to \$10,000 each as a matching fund to downtown businesses.

Are group buys possible in the DDA? Dave Strenski hasn't been successful getting people on board, but it is possible.

Andy French stressed that investing in core infrastructure is why DDA's exist.

Malissa Gillett motioned to approve \$50,000 to be allocated to the Downtown DDA Solar Rebate Program. Jen Eastridge supported the motion.

Friendly amendment offered by Patton Doyle - That it does not stack with the Grace Sweeny fund unless the project total exceeds \$20,000. Friendly amendment accepted.

Motion passed - unanimous.

8.3. FY 2022-2023 Budget Amendments -

There will be a 71k surplus downtown with budget amendments.

West Cross has a surplus of 51k

The board discussed adding Depot Town and West Cross to the Solar Program.

Depot Town's priority is addressing parking.

West Cross can benefit. The board discussed allocating surplus and the unused facade and rehab grants budget in W. Cross to be applicable to the Solar Program.

Malissa Gillett motioned to approve the FY 2022-2023 Budget Amendments, including \$50,000 for a Solar Program in W. Cross district by allocating the \$20,000 Facade and Rehab program funds and \$30,000 from fund balance into that line item. Jen Eastridge supported the motion. Motion passed - unanimous.

8.4. North Huron Billboard Lease North Huron Billboard Lease 57 - 59

Jen Eastridge stated that the sign is an important landmark now, and it is a great opportunity to get our branding out there.

Jen Eastridge motioned to approve the N. Huron billboard lease for \$2340 annually for three years, not to exceed \$2,600. Lois Allen Richardson supported the motion. Motion passed - unanimous.

8.5. Landscaping Addendums

Staff is seeking funding and flexibility to address the Family Fried Chicken Garden. The quote is the landscaper to do the work, but staff is working on creating a community educational project if possible.

Jen Eastridge motioned to approve \$1150 towards cleanup and native plantings at the Family Fried Chicken garden bed. Lois Allen Richardson supported the motion. Motion passed - unanimous.

8.6. Unicorn Feed and Supply Building Facade and Rehab Grant

Dieter Otto motioned to approve the Building Facade and Rehab Grant for Unicorn Feed and Supply's roof replacement at \$7,000. Supported by Malissa Gillett. Motion passed - Yes (8), Abstained - (Eastridge)

8.7. Growing Hope Building Facade and Rehab Grant

Ylondia Portis motioned to approve the Building Facade and Rehab Grant for Growing Hopes parapet brickwork at \$3,000 . Supported by Joe Ritchie. Motion passed - Yes (7), No (French), Abstained - (Eastridge)

8.8. 406 W Michigan Earthen Jar Building Facade and Rehab Grant

Malissa Gillett motioned to approve the Building Facade and Rehab Grant for 406 W. Michigan Ave for \$10,000 of eligible costs as determined by staff. Supported by Andy French. Motion passed - Yes (8) Abstained - (Eastridge)

9. PROPOSED BUSINESS - none.

10. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION - 1 Caller from Spark East greeting the board.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 10:35 by Lois Allen Richardson. Supported by Andy French. Motion passed - unanimous.