



MINUTES  
DDA BOARD MEETING  
8:30 AM - Thursday, August 17, 2023  
Ypsilanti Freighthouse - 100 Market Pl.

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**1. CALL TO ORDER (8:36am)**

**2. ROLL CALL**

PATTON DOYLE (C)	P	KAYIA HINTON	P
YLONDIA PORTIS	P	ANDY FRENCH (V)	P
DIETER OTTO	P	PAUL AJLOUNY	P
MALISSA GILLETT	P	JOE RITCHIE	P
VALORY BROWN	P	NICOLE BROWN	P
BRIAN JONES-CHANCE	P		

**Staff Present:** Elize Jekabson, Katie Jones

**3. AGENDA APPROVAL**

*Andy French motioned to approve the agenda. Dieter Otto supported the motion. Motion passed - unanimous.*

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*Andy French motioned to approve the June 15th, 2023 Board Meeting minutes and Brian Jones-Chance supported the motion. Motion passed - unanimous.*

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES EACH) -**

Holli Andrews - City of Ypsilanti City Planner introduced herself.

Katie Jones - Economic Development and Equity coordinator at the City introduced herself.

Sun Chao - Back Office Studio and GameAbove - shared Downtown concerns and advocated for the ExploreYpsi program.

Angel Vanas- YEA Director and business owner - updated the DDA on YEA membership request for Downtown Water shutoff relief fund. Asked for expediency on the program.

Deb Callison - Downtown Business owner - shared Downtown Ypsi concerns.

Liz Warren - Director of Riverside Arts Center - shared safety concerns of Downtown Ypsilanti, specifically between RAC parking lot and building.

Malissa Gillett - business owner Downtown Ypsilanti- shared her experiences of crime and harassment in Downtown Ypsilanti.

Paul Ajlouny - business owner West Cross - shared crime and harassment experiences on West Cross.

**6. STAFF REPORT/FINANCIAL REPORT**

Fiscal year changed on July 1, we've paid out a lot of events, insurance and other bills.

Reviewed staff report in packet.

Staff Introduced Andrew Hellenga – Interim City Manager. Andrew Hellenga shared that his lines are open and he looks forward to working with everyone on the DDA.

**7. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT**

### **7.1. Operations and Finance Committee**

Andy French thanked City staff for attending.

Andy French updated the board on general maintenance in Depot Town. Aside from the caboose on the agenda, he is getting bids for the signal tower too, third project is trees around plaza not been pruned or kept up in years.

Downtown Water Shutoff Relief – Patton Doyle explained that at the Operation and Finance committee; they discussed water shut offs being a way to determine who gets funding. The DDA decided to remove the agenda item until September, as the County requested to work together for a more complete program, and they would be contributing funds.

The board agreed that we should start the application process ASAP.

***Dieter Otto motioned to dedicate \$50,000 towards Downtown business relief and to develop an application for the funds. Malissa Gillett supported the motion. Motion passed - unanimous.***

***Ylondia Portis offered an amendment that the Equity Committee helps develop the application criteria and moves it to Elize and the Executive Committee for final approval. Amendment accepted. Motion passed- unanimous.***

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

### **8.1. Introduction and Update with Chief of Police, Kirk Moore**

YPD Chief Moore introduced himself and shared his vision for addressing the concerns in Downtown Ypsilanti.

Lieutenant Eggenburger was introduced. They touched on housing; mental health, drugs, behavior, crime, and code enforcement.

Creating community police incentives; opposition for officer presence // gotten pushback. The department would like to create hubs for community oriented policing. – Depot Town, South Side, and at the Bus Stop to legitimately address issues facing this community. He stressed to call the police for any criminal act. It creates data points to drive the resources.

Lieutenant Anderson – legitimate data on unhoused population; chief cannot only look at this issue alone – pd restructuring; this cannot be expedited.

Homelessness issues are beyond PD. They can only deal with criminal acts taking place. Chief Moore would like to assemble a working group.

De-escalation and mental health – being in tune with this community and also how we are perceived across the country. Mental health – our biggest area for improvement. Co-respondent program – using it the most in Ypsilanti CIT and ABLE certified; very best training and when they respond in the best way possible. Use brains and mouths the most in mental health calls.

Police non-emergency line in COY – 734-483-9510 option 8

### **8.2. Depot Town Upgrades Caboose Estimate**

Ylondia Portis left at 10:08am.

The caboose in Depot Town has deferred maintenance. Andy French presented two quotes.

***Dieter Otto motioned to approve the Brushright quote and Brian Jones-Chance supported the motion. Motion passed; Yes - 9, No - 0, Absent -2 (Portis, N. Brown)***

Brian Jones-Chance left at 10:14am.

### **8.3. ExploreYpsi ExploreYpsi Program**

DDA is partnering with Engage@EMU and DDA to put gift cards in the hands of all new students - about 2,000 people. The Operations and Finance Committee had a counter proposal to GameAbove.

GameAbove approved the counter proposal.

Board members committed to help get the word out.

Sun Chao suggested that we solicit funds from other organizations. They understand the time constraints and will still support the project if it is pushed to homecoming.

***Dieter Otto motioned to approve the Yiftee Explore Ypsi Program at \$20,000 and \$1,600 for associated fees. Malissa Gillett supported the motion. Motion passed - unanimous.***

## **9. PROPOSED BUSINESS**

Growing Hope MarketPlace Letter of Support for Partnership MI Community Center: This item was uploaded by staff onto the agenda yesterday, but is not showing on the website. Patton Doyle brought it to the proposed business section instead.

Julius Buzzard – Executive Director Growing Hope – Wants a safe and vibrant downtown area. With the grant, they hope to be redoing the parking lot and bathrooms, Grant will be used to remodel the space at 16 S. Washington to a food center. They introduced fed up ministries and hope to include more services such as pay what you can café.

Andy French left at 10:30am.

***Malissa Gillett motioned to instruct staff to write a Letter of Support for Growing Hopes application for the MI Community Center Grant. Valory Brown supported the motion. Motion passed; Yes - 9, No - 0, Absent - 3 (Portis, Jones-Chance, French)***

## **10. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Andrew Hellenga - Interim City Manager - reiterated his availability to DDA Stakeholders.

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion to adjourn at 10:33am by Kayia Hinton and supported by Joe Ritchie. Motion passed - unanimous.**