



MINUTES
DDA BOARD MEETING
8:30 AM - Thursday, April 18, 2024
Back Office Studios - 13 N. Washington St.

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

PATTON DOYLE	P	KAYIA HINTON	A (online)
YLONDIA PORTIS (C)	P	ANDY FRENCH	P
DIETER OTTO	P	PAUL AJLOUNY (V)	P
MALISSA GILLETT	P	VALORY BROWN	P
NICOLE BROWN	A	BRIAN JONES-CHANCE	P
BRYAN FOLEY	P	GERRY KREINER	P
REX RICHIE	P		

Staff Present: DDA: Elize Jekabson, City: Katie Jones

3. AGENDA APPROVAL

Andy French motioned to approve the agenda. Bryan Foley supported the motion. Motion passed - unanimous.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Andy French motioned to approve the March 21, 2024 Board Meeting minutes and Rex Richie supported the motion. Motion passed - unanimous.

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

Steve Pierce - City Resident. Shared concerns about Growing Hope's special event application, and also the necessity of a Citizens Committee.

Cherly Farmer- City Resident. Shared concerns about Growing Hope's special event application.

Julius Buzzard- Growing Hope ED. Shared that he is available to answer any questions about their application.

6. UPDATES WITH POLICE CHIEF MOORE

YPD Police Chief Kirk Moore provided updates at the YPD. Last year they had a resource issue, and they cannot have a repeat of last year. They now have two officers per car and have more officers coming on duty in the coming months. They are building a community relations unit. His goal is to un-silo this community's resources and ensure the officers know of them. Provide the resources and not criminalize homelessness. The mission is to engage the community and focus on the root cause and prevention, and underlying issues.

Q&A - Ylondia Portis wanted to make sure that he is engaging with the Library.

Patton Doyle asked about county resources - health department, directing people towards them, harnessing those larger resources community mental health ;

Andy French asked substations and wondering if that approach will still be taken.

Chief clarified that they are called Community Policing Centers and that is still in the works. An officer will be assigned to an area and engage with that area.

Andy French asked about drug testing locations. Chief clarified that there is an advocacy group trying to organize that, and it is in its infancy.

Bryan Foley, stated that drug testing programs like that are ridiculous, and it is ignorant for the city to take that role. Chief stated that he would like to focus more on prevention.

Brian Jones-Chance stated that drug testing prevents death. Ypsi is a victim of predatory nonprofits. Groups are operating in silos and overlap, we need to identify the resources, and be deliberate, get people to the right resources. Pull together collectively and move differently.

Malissa Gillett stated that the situation in front of her shop is drug use and open every day. Her doorway is an open bathroom, and everyone will leave for 15-30 minutes if the cops show up and then are back. This affects business and also the mental health of her staff. What are we doing about the people that are not homeless, are not seeking resources, and abusing the situation Downtown? Patton Doyle confirmed Malissas description of N. Washington St.

The YPD is getting officers properly trained and increased, soon they will be able to be on their own.

They are currently in two's once fully trained, they will have double the workforce.

Kayia Hinton asked what Supreme Felons are doing in partnership with YPD? Ylondia said that the board could have a larger conversation about support of Supreme Felons. Bryan explained that the DDA has written a letter in support of them but he would be happy to explain more of what there group does to partner with YPD offline.

7. STAFF/FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Staff and Financial Reports Staff report given by DDA Director

We have received our TIF funding. Andy French asked why IGA and community mental health do not reflect any expenditures.

Staff explained that in the past, these funds would be moved around by the City Finance Department. Staff is unsure when they will be charging those accounts, but is working with the City to create a process with checks and balances between the City and the DDA. Its very rare when these financial reports truly reflect correct standings.

Andy French suggested that staff add a notation to the financial report that names inaccuracies.

Brian Jones-Chance would like to make an ad-hoc committee with staff to sit down with the City Finance Director to help sort out processes. Staff agreed that more eyes can really help sort out long standing issues.

Patton Doyle motioned that the Board create an ad-hoc committee including staff, Brian Jones-Chance, and Andy French to work with the City on DDA Finance. Andy French supported the motion. Motion passed - unanimous.

Staff will hold open coffee hours at Hyperion April 26th. Elize thanked the board for their patience as they navigated a week long hospital stay earlier in the month with their partner.

Staff has submitted Match on Main projects to the MEDC.

Staff had been meeting regularly with developer J927 regarding a brownfield redevelopment TIF request that was supposed to be on today's agenda, but has not received any TIF charts to bring to the board.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Grants Committee - Dieter Otto felt that the staff report was sufficient regarding Match on Main.

B. Operations and Finance Committee - Event sponsorships. They only had minor tweaks to the matrix, and added two additional metrics. Staff received Data for the events from the CVB. Staff is not convinced that it is good data to use for this decision.

C. Committee for Equitable Investment - Ylondia Portis spoke about the calendar of events she and Dylan Cinti presented to YEA last night; next steps get it in front other groups. The committee talked about equity and event sponsorship, and would like the board to consider setting aside funding this year for videography and possibly move to change the Special Events Sponsorship program into a full events campaign in FY 25/26. Ylondia Portis estimates that \$1,600 for videography, and \$1,200 for photography should be enough to get started.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2024 Special Event Sponsorships

Staff summarized the list of events.

Gerry Kreiner left at 9:57am.

Discussions of changing the process for next year.

IFFY - low cost ticketed event \$7-\$14

The board had questions pointed to the Downtown and Depot Town Farmers market event.

The Board reviewed and scored all the applications.

Rex Ritchie left at 10:39am.

Andy French moved to table the special events sponsorship and bring it back for a vote next month. Dieter Otto supported the motion. Motion passed - Yes 9, No 0, Absent 2 (Kreiner, Richie).

Staff will notify applicants and bring funding disbursement to be worked out in Ops and Finance.

B. Development Area Citizens Council

Staff created a resolution to put in place this group, as it was recommended through the strategic planning process by the Michigan Downtown Association Chair, and other DDA's are following suit to align with PA57. Is our DDA actually noncompliant by not having one in place? Staff is unsure, but happy to get the attorney's opinion on it.

Andy French made a motion to table the resolution until the Director finds out if it is indeed required by law. Brian Jones-Chance supported the motion. Motion passed - Yes 9, No 0, Absent 2 (Kreiner, Richie).

C. Expense Breakdown Update

Patton Doyle motioned to approve the new expense breakdown as presented, and Andy French supported the motion. Motion passed - Yes 9, No 0, Absent 2 (Kreiner, Richie).

Dieter Otto left at 10:54am.

10. PROPOSED BUSINESS

Andy French asked about the market alley drinking fountain. Staff doesn't think the fountain exists anymore, but the water is still connected. Andy suggested purchasing a new one with a dog watering station seeing as a new pet store is coming to town. Staff will look into this.

Paul Ajlouny wanted to bring up the Ballard Parking lot again. Also, the street lights are very weak on the business side of W. Cross. There is only one light between Eagles and Jimmy Johns.

North and south Washington discussion. Bryan Foley requested to bring Supreme Felons discussion to the next board meeting, and how they can support conflict resolution.

Staff updated that striping and paving for N Adams lot is scheduled for April 29th. It is scheduled for 4 days and no one will have access to it.

Patton Doyle noted that scorings for special events should be regarded as final and the board should only discuss fund distribution next month.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

Steve Pierce - Listening to Growing Hope amend their app at the table was frustrating. Taking the application at face value is important. When people are here for their applications, move them to the top of the discussion.

Freda Klassen - Thrift Depot, is working on a cease and desist of use plaza area; is worried about the DDA doing work on her property without her consent.

Staff assured that the bid that was accepted is only for concept designs, and we plan to work closely with her and other property owners for the final design.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Brian Jones-Chance motioned to adjourn and Valory Brown supported the motion at 11:11am. Motion passed - Yes 8, No 0, Absent 3 (Kreiner, Richie, Otto).