



Downtown Development Authority

City of Ecorse, Michigan

Minutes - APPROVED

Ecorse Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Board Meeting

Thursday, April 1, 2021 – 8:30 am via Zoom

Zoom ID: 3886354369, password: 5555 or call in at 312-626-6799 ID: 3886354369

1. Meeting Call to Order at 8:35 a.m.

2. Roll Call:

Johnny Gewarges, Chairman

Darcel Brown, Mayor-Pro Tem

Kosta Callis, Vice-Chairman

Dan Brown

Jackie Brown, Secretary

Bob Reed

Lamar Tidwell, Mayor

Kelly Rose

Also present: Larry Steckelberg (Michigan Treasury); John Jackson (McKenna); and Stephanie Peña (McKenna)

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Chairman Johnny Gewarges and seconded by Secretary Jackie Brown to approve the agenda, as amended to include item 5a to adopt the DDA Bylaws, for the DDA Board regular meeting on April 1, 2021. Ayes all.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the February 11, 2021 DDA Meeting

Moved by Secretary Jackie Brown and second by Member Kelly Rose to approve the minutes for the DDA Board regular meeting of March 4, 2021. Ayes all.

5. Adopt DDA Bylaws

Moved by Member Jackie Brown and seconded by Chairman Johnny Gewarges to adopt the DDA Bylaws. Ayes all.

6. Presentation of To-Do List

- a. John Jackson spoke to the upcoming tasks including the creation of a business directory and preparing to complete the required DDA reporting requirements to the State.

Chairman Johnny Gewarges asked how public meetings would be held. John Jackson clarified that the meetings would take place via Zoom.

John Jackson spoke to the need of establishing a fundraising committee, to be established at this meeting, as well as the need to establish a communication plan to keep the DDA engaged. John asked the board to send McKenna any additional items they would like added to the To Do List.

7. Consideration of creating a Fundraising Committee

- a. Chairman Johnny Gewarges nominated Secretary Jackie Brown to serve as the fundraising committee lead. Secretary Brown nominated Member Kelly Rose to also serve on the committee. Both members agreed. Secretary Brown nominated Darcel Brown to serve as the third required Board Member.
- b. **Moved by Chairman Johnny Gewarges and seconded by Member Kelly Rose to establish the DDA Fundraising Committee. Ayes all.**

8. Consideration of the DDA's participation:

- a. April 24th Detroit River Coalition's Cleanup Celebration:

- i. Member Kelly Rose discussed the opportunity to gain some exposure in the community and participate in an event hosted by a larger organization with greater resources to promote our businesses.

John Jackson expressed the need to assist Member Kelly Rose's efforts. Jackson asked if there are any expected expenditures. Member Rose clarified that the cleanup equipment and necessary tables and tents will be provided. As the President of McKenna, John Jackson offered to donate exhibition boards, copies of the plan, and a list of the businesses for the event. Jackson further expressed, if the Fundraising Committee wanted to get together for the next couple days, they could generate sponsorship for events like this. Secretary Brown agreed.

Chairman Johnny spoke to the list of businesses and a desire to support them. Secretary Brown suggested seeking donations of \$10 from each business, to start a good budget.

Member Kelly Rose asked Member Kostas Callis about any issues he ran into with the Health Department in obtaining his food truck license. Member Callis clarified that a subcommittee or invited health inspector would be required to regulate health code for the event. Member Callis further suggested reaching out to the Health Department to obtain proper guidelines and inform restaurants who are interested in participating. Member Callis also stated that the main differentiator in needed to contact the Health Department lies between preparing in a regulated kitchen or cooking food on site. John Jackson asked Stephanie Peña to can contact the Wayne County Health Department to get standards; will also need new standards regarding Covid. Member Kostas offered catered food as the easiest option as the food would be prepared off site and delivered to the event. Chairman Johnny Gewarges stressed the need to follow Covid protocols and promote social distancing guidelines during the event.

- ii. Moved by Secretary Jackie Brown and seconded by Chairman Johnny Gewarges authorizing the DDA to staff a tent on the April 24, 2021 Detroit River Coalition Earth Week Cleanup Celebration in Dingell Park. Ayes all.

9. Next Agenda Items:

- a. Guest Speaker: Dominic Romano, Community Assistance Specialist – Region 10, MEDC
 - i. Larry Steckelberg spoke to the opportunity to bring a State level team to table with hopes of eventually building relationships between MDOT, MEDC, and EAGLE with the Ecorse DDA. Steckelberg hopes to prepare the Ecorse DDA for

possible funds coming into the state by also bringing in the River Rouge DDA to maximize their regional impact.

- b. Secretary Jackie Brown brought up the DDA's past tabling of the designation of a Treasurer. John Jackson clarified that whether Tim Sadowski would be able to keep track of the funds generated by the DDA. Larry Steckelberg also added that the DDA is a major component of the City, therefore will be managed by the City's auditing process. Secretary Jackie asked, if someone wants to give a \$10 donation do they make a check to the DDA? John Jackson and Larry Steckelberg both confirmed. John Jackson will touch base with Tim Sadowski to speak further on the subject.

10. Public Comments

None.

11. Board Member Comments

None.

12. Adjournment

Moved by Secretary Jackie Brown and seconded by Chairman Johnny Gewarges to adjourn the meeting at 9:18am. Ayes all.