

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Regular Meeting
January 8, 2015

CALL TO ORDER: By Chairperson Sommer on Thursday, January 8, 2015 at 7:30 a.m..

PRESENT: Mayor Burch, Bob Phillips, Mike Lahr, Jeanette Sommer, Doug Buck, Travis Silvas and Tom Hewitt.

STAFF: Community Development Director Myrkle and Deputy Clerk Dell'Acqua.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 13, 2014: Board member Lahr moved to approve the minutes of November 13, 2014 as presented. Seconded by Phillips. Carried. 6 Yeas. 0 Nays.

ABSENT: Tim Jewell

PUBLIC COMMENT: No Public Comment.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

1. DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION UPDATE:

Director Myrkle reported that he has presented his plan to many Boards and Commissions of the City, Rotary Club and more than a dozen businesses. He has had positive feedback from all. Although a formal team has not been

formed he has local retailers, restaurant owners and prospective donors interested in marketing the idea.

Julie Kimmer and the Can Do committee have committed to joining Director Myrkle in recruiting business and talent for the downtown revitalization plan. He also reported that there has been interest in funding the project through Can Do, the schools, and private donors.

Truck Rerouting: Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) has been informed of the M50 semi traffic issue and is interested in helping the city.

Additional City Events: He reported that there will be a Business Expo scheduled for April 18 & 19. He is also working on a Spring Art Event in conjunction with Celebrate Charlotte. He mentioned the Michigan Old US 27 Motor Tour, which has over 500 participants and the possibility of joining us in a city event. Myrkle has begun booking music groups for the summer series and reaching out to additional Country Western groups. He mentioned a Honky Tonk Festival and to build on that event since Country music is a popular venue.

2. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE:

Director Myrkle informed the DDA that Chuck Donaldson, from the State's Community Development Block Grant Team will be working with the city to undertake an economic view of the community in an attempt to qualify for additional land grants and resources.

He also stated that the application for the Michigan Main Street Program won't be due until November 15, 2015.

The Can Do Committee, Chamber of Commerce and Community Development will be meeting Wednesday, January 14, 2015 at 7:00 a.m. Those interested in attending are welcome.

3. IMPROVEMENTS:

401 N. Cochran - Anthony Faulkner, owner of the former Dennis Distributing is redeveloping the building to make room for new businesses and apartments.

Myrkle reported that the Farmer's Market committee is engaged and energized. He stated they are meeting twice a week. There is a plan to develop a Community Garden at 301 Horatio located at the Old School Village Apartments.

Discussion was held.

Director Myrkle stated that the MSHDA grant had been approved and plans are to go ahead in building up the downtown apartment project over the Masonic Temple.

4. TERMS OF OFFICE:

Director Myrkle informed the DDA of their expired terms of office and reappointment by Mayor Burch. Board members; Doug Buck, Tim Jewell and Tom Hewitt will need reappointment.

5. BUDGET:

Myrkle explained to the DDA that in the next few meetings the Budget will have to be discussed. He said that approximately 10 percent of the revenue goes toward watering our trees and flowers.

Discussion was held on Snow removal throughout the City.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

- Chairperson Sommer asked what renovating plans are taking place at the former Dennis Distributing building. Myrkle explained that there would be surgical demolitions, simple facelifts with a sign and it will house manufacturing type businesses and possibly 12 apartments with indoor parking. It is all being state funded.
- Board member Lahr was glad that the Farm Market would extend business days to include Thursday night. He wondered if there would be issues with parking and if Beach Market would be a possible area for the Farm Market.
Discussion was held.
- Board member Buck stated that he was glad to serve on the DDA for the past few years.

Meeting adjourned by Board member Phillips at 8:11 a.m.

Deputy Clerk, Denise Dell'Acqua