

City of Wyandotte
Downtown Development Authority Meeting
Monday - January 12, 2009

The meeting of the members of DDA was called to order by Chairman Greg Gilbert on Monday, January 12, 2009 at 5:30 pm in the Municipal Service Meeting Room at 3005 Biddle, Wyandotte.

Members Present: Greg Gilbert, Norm Walker, Arta Chiparo, Patt Slack, Gilbert Rose, Tony Trupiano

Members Excused: Mayor DeSana

Members Absent: Heatherleigh Navarre

Others Present: Lynn Steffensky, WBA

Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve agenda by G. Gilbert, approved by T. Trupiano and seconded by A. Chiparo. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve minutes by T. Trupiano and seconded by A. Chiparo. Motion carried.

November 2008 general ledger request. The amounts brought in by the Trolley (\$1,487.50), Fort Street sign(\$60) were given (total: 1,547.50), payroll deductions, expenditures for the Masonic Temple from Rameriz Electric, Bronners regarding Christmas decorations totaled: 4,795.05. Amounts spent for restoring the museum from the Historical Commission were given (12,370.50) as well as from Beautification Committee (\$140), Dan Drotar (\$100) and the Principal and interest on the Bonds were discussed (10,125.00).

Approval of November general ledger: Roll call vote to approve, G. Rose Motioned, P. Slack seconded, six - 0 passed

December Revenue discussed: Interest on CD was \$93, Trolley \$560, Misc 22.57 total of \$675.57 payroll deductions, Masonic Temple expenditures totaled \$2237 -- Temperature Control (\$177), Ramierz Electric (\$900) and Lakin Electric (\$1160), Fort St. sign(251.48) Land purchases of \$1,295, theater lot of 1,760.98, Christmas (\$725.95), parking lot projects (behind city hall).

Approval of December: G. Rose motioned to accept w/comment: wants monthly meeting packages before meeting. A. Chipiro seconded. Roll call vote to approve, six - 0 passed.

Wyandotte Business Association - Peter Rose present to speak about Budget request. P/L statement supplied by the WBA for the year of 2008. Short break was taken to have extra copies made.

P. Rose said that the WBA spent more than what the DDA gave us. Spent it all, planned and executed 3rd Fridays, web work and the Local First Book. In May Lynn Steffensky joined us, March Michelle left, changes of treasurer from Nadalie Bosman (MBT) to Lori Coyne (Charter). Two accounts, one is for paying Lynn's salary - which comes from dues and fundraising. Things were logged into the wrong side of the equation so the accounts did not balance. Asked for the second funding for the ice rink and ice stands. Contracted with the high school to make them, helps to put money back into the school. If we don't get the money soon from T. Drysdale, we can not go forward with any of the projects. P. Rose does not have 1st quarter results. Thought he was reporting the use of the funds.

We spend more money on Local First than the DDA has given us, but the 'other side of the equation' funds the rest. G.Rose asked: we haven't given you the first quarter monies? Peter said because we didn't balance our report and that Todd is uncomfortable in giving us the money. G.Rose stated that we spent the money and even though it doesn't balance, the WBA covered it, so now our funds are in limbo. P. rose wants to know and understand the snafu. P.Slack said she only cares what happened with the money the DDA gave to the WBA. G.Gilbert asked if we have given you the last quarter of '08? P. Rose replied no. A. Chipiro is confused and wants to know if there is a bookkeeping problem. P. Rose said the negative \$12,000 is what T. Drysdale is questioning. T. Trupiano said it is deficit spending. P. Rose said that there were problems in entering figures into Quickbooks so that the numbers show the WBA equation covered the deficit. T.Trupiano wants T.Drysdale to release the money. P.Rose indicated that the WBA has been covering the First and Second quarters funding and that we are nearly out of money. Concerned about ice rink and stands. A letter request of \$20,000 was sent from Peter. T.Trupiano said they received it. P.Rose asked to have \$42,000 released. P.Slack said T. Drysdale should release money. \$12,500 per quarter is budgeted.

P. Slack made motion to release last quarter funds that were approved, IMMEDIATELY. Motion seconded by T.Trupiano. G.Gilbert called for a roll call vote. 6 - 0 motion passed.

G.Gilbert asked to make a motion for the second quarter funding of \$12,500. P.Slack motioned to have the money release, IMMEDIATELY. T.Trupiano seconded. Roll call vote taken, 6 - 0, motion passed.

G.Gilbert stated that part of our budget of \$10,000 was to fund the WBA ice fest. Pat made a resolution to release \$10,000 for ice fest IMMEDIATELY. Tony seconded. Roll call vote taken, 6 - 0, motion passed.

G.Rose said because of restraints of time, could G.Gilbert hand deliver request to T.Drysdale so that the money gets to the WBA. G.Gilbert replied yes.

G.Gilbert asked about proposal of ice rink. P. Rose explained that the subject came up from the extra money that was not spent from Christmas spending, that \$5,000 was going to be for the ice rink, \$5,000 for ice fest. The ice rink would go up year after year and would be up for ice fest and be a good way to ramp up the ice fest and 3rd Fridays. Extra money needed to use on entertainment for the Chase Bank area, to create a focal point and draw attention to that end of town.

T.Trupiano states that his business like others is down, we all need more business, invest into something that is working. T.Trupiano made motion to release \$20,000 to WBA to market Third Friday. G.Gilbert says the budgeting needs to be broken down so that council does not vote it down. Also stating that as a resident on VanAlstyne for many years he feels that the ice rink and the site on the theater lot is adding a wonderful way to preserve memories and add recreation. Adds a nice buzz to Wyandotte. In favor of spending \$5,000 on ice rink.

P.Rose explained that the rink is more like 2,900 dollars but the balance would be for paying city employees to set up the rink and other supplies.

P.Slack concerned about ice rink, Flatrock Fountain used for swimming. Design issues with ours. Add more lights, signifies entrance to town, more needs to be done on it. Simple fountain seems to be there for bathing. Are we going to use the theater lot as a town center? The little area known as the Charter Plaza, people waiting in the rain for bus service. Wants to cover it like a town center. Are we going to grow? Ice rink is movable, but wants us to consider what we do with it after the ice fest?

What do we do after the Santa house and rink go away? So we want a putt putt golf course?

G.Rose stated that the design committee has great ideas, flush them out, come back to the DDA and discuss it, fountain was never made for bathing but wanted a design so no one could get hurt. Explore possible designs.

A.Chipiro states that it is too late for a rink, N. Walker agreed. T. Trupiano disagreed. P.Rose said we would research it. We need quick answers. G.Rose said to do it. P.Rose said it makes it more of a Winter Wonderland. P. Slack added that the Santa house can be changed to a kiosk. Question raised about how much it was used during Christmas. P.Rose replied because of the weather and how cold it was kept a lot of kids away. Mentioned about the light festival in Rochester. Have a draw for people. A.Chipiro states she can get a Santa for free for 2009. P.Rose said that more businesses are going to get involved, explained the 3rd Friday signage for businesses.

G.Gilbert asked for people to get back to the budget issue. Design committee had well thought out plans, budgeted money, certain amount went to the Santa House. Rink would be a nice addition. Suggestion to bid it out. \$2,900 for a kit. A.Cipiro wanted to know if the extra \$20,000 was just for this year, or is it permanent? T.Turpiano said no, P.Rose said no. One time thing to bump things up. P.Slack said we could save the money not spent this year for next year.

N.Walker brought up a question - are we under a budget? T.Trupiano and Greg Gilbert replied yes. P.Slack said in our Fund balance we paid for the Santa house. Lights were a separate thing. G.Gilbert said to bid out the rink. P.Rose said we would do that. Also stated that he read a copy of the Mayors opinion on the ice rink and figured council would vote it down. P. Rose asked for \$10,000 more for the ice festival and \$5,000 for third Fridays.

N.Walker questioned amounts for ice festival and third Fridays. T.Trupiano states we aren't Plymouth. P.Slack wants to know if we can guarantee functionality of rink if given the money. P. Rose replied no. T.Trupiano repeats his motion to approve money for rink. G.Rose seconded motion. G.Gilbert stated that we may only be able to buy and store it for this year. Asked if there was any further discussion? Asked for a roll call vote: 6 - 0 motion passed.

P. Rose mentioned that originally he asked for \$50,000 be spent on ice fest plus 10,000 for more marketing. This years extra is for ice stands, \$5,000 and 5,000 for marketing, radio WMJC. Explained that using cinder blocks is cumbersome and metal stands are easily stored, looked professional and can be rented out. Trying to wrap cinder blocks with plastic and tape is a pain in the cold windy weather. Said Chef Teeple from Henry Ford Community College said it would be a good investment and he would let the word out there to other cities we had them to rent.

G.Gilbert made a motion for an additional \$10,000 be used for ice stands, marketing and advertising. Tony seconded. G.Rose said the budget needs to be amended. Money is in our Fund Balance and both resolutions. A.Chipiro asked if this is extra money. P.Slack said it was necessary to expand the ice fest. We need the foot traffic. G.Gilbert stated that this was not a continuing thing. Roll call vote taken: 4 - 2 passed (opposed: Arta Chipiro and Norm Walker).

Peter asked about the extra \$5,000 for Third Friday. N.Walker suggested tabling issue till T. Drysdale is here. Peter agreed and was thankful. The work that is done for the WBA is done by a small group of people and appreciates the support.

G.Rose said that like the Big Three, we need to sit down with T.Drysdale and work out the details. Peter mentioned again about the lights in Rochester and the draw it has. That it is a costly endeavor. Lynn brought up that Heather stated that there were many boxes of blue L.E.D. lights not used at Christmas. P.Slack mentioned that Heather knows where everything is stored. P.Rose stated that this years Christmas season needs to be ramped up even more to create more foot and car traffic downtown and can be done with lights. He concluded by thanking everyone for their support.

G. Gilbert said that concludes that portion of our agenda.

G.Gilbert said he had a letter dated December 30, 2008 from Doris Michael, it was a letter of resignation. She stated that there needed to be new blood on the DDA. Greg thanked her for her valuable experience and time on the board.

G.Gilbert stated that there needs to be a meeting with the design committee to discuss: Nadalie Rankine letter dated 4th of January, website and way Founding signage and design. She has been a beacon of light and her expertise of her time and design. P.Slack suggested that the design and promotion committee needs to combine and meet with Nadalie. Pat will email out a date and include Nadalie and send it out.

G.Gilbert mentioned a letter from Visit Detroit TV, new person for DDA will be here, survey person told not to do anything without new DDA person. T.Trupiano stated that the new DDA person and his approval was probably being discussed at council that evening. G.Gilbert thanked Tony and the commission for their hard work searching for a DDA director and he thinks that he will be a good fit.

G.Rose said that a letter needed to be sent to Doris Michaels. All agreed.

Motion to adjourn by N.Walker, seconded by A. Chipiro.

NOTE TO DDA COMMITTEE:

Thank you for allowing me to sit in on your meeting and take notes for you! It was an interesting and exhausting task! Excuse me if things are not as complete or overly wordy. Remember that the meeting was taped if you need to refer to anything. Thank you.

Lynn Steffensky
WBA - Office Manager