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DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, June 12th, 5:30 pm
3131 Biddle Avenue, Wyandotte, Michigan 48192

1. **MEMBERS PRESENT** – Norm Walker, Gerry Lucas, Peter Rose, Greg Gilbert, John Jarjosa, Leo Stevenson, Patt Slack
2. **MEMBERS EXCUSED** – Leo Stevenson
3. **OTHERS PRESENT** – Natalie Rankine, Tom Woodruff, Diane Woodruff, Jay Styffensky, Jeremy Slavodnik
4. **ATTENTION TO THE AUDIENCE**
 - a. Tom Woodruff mentioned that he had re-joined the WBA and hadn't yet heard about his membership.
 - b. Jeremy Slavodnik came forward and offered positions for 1 or 2 cooks that were displaced as a result of the fire at Lions, Tigers and Beers. The DDA Board thanked him.
5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES & AGENDA**
 - a. N. Rankine requested the addition of item number 10d (Downtown Fire) and 10e (2013 Budget) to the agenda.

Motion by Mayor Peterson, supported by G. Lucas to approve the previous DDA meeting minutes and the current agenda, as amended. All in favor, motion carries.

6. MONTHLY REVENUE/EXPENDITURE REPORT

- a. N. Rankine explained that the line items for the Sears Building are currently illustrated as negative, but the report should be corrected once the budget amendment goes to council. This should be resolved before the next DDA meeting.

7. ONGOING PROJECTS AND BUSINESS

- a. **Wyandotte Farmers Market-** N. Rankine reminded the board that the Farmers Market begins on Thursday. The market currently has 21 committed vendors and we expect that it will be a successful year for the market.
- b. **3061 & 3063 Biddle Avenue** – N. Rankine indicated that she is working with the Engineering and Building Department on the "Sears Building" RFP and that it will be ready for the board to review at the

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next DDA meeting.

- c. **Marina Minutes** - N. Rankine indicated that the committee has met several times and that the report of their findings will go to Mayor and Council the 23rd of July. The committee has been tasked to find out what it would cost to operate a transient marina 'in-house', marketing costs and what the projected revenue for operating a marina would be.
- d. **Tax Fairness of Internet Sales** – N. Rankine prepared a draft letter to Mayor and Council regarding the tax fairness of internet sales. P. Rose explained that this is a lost revenue source for the State of Michigan and that it gives companies that sell over the internet an unfair advantage over our independent businesses. He is requesting that the DDA draft a letter to show their support for closing the tax loophole that allows out-of-state companies to ship to Michigan without collecting sales tax.

Motion by Mayor Peterson supported by N. Walker to draft a letter to council showing our support for closing the tax loophole. All in favor.

- e. **Hold Harmless** – N. Rankine sent a draft Hold Harmless to the City Attorney's office for review and asked for the board's comments regarding the document. P. Rose suggested that the document might have a yearly renewal. N. Rankine indicated that she would consult with Mr. Look and report back to the board next month.
- f. **Design & Promotion** –Friday after 5 event on June 29th, 2012. N. Rankine indicated that they were collaborating with Wyandotte Patch for this month's Friday after 5 event. The theme would be Comics and Coneys. The event will feature comic book artist Tony Miello and other artists and help to further promote the 2012 Wyandotte Street Art Fair.
- g. **WBA Year-End Report** – The Wyandotte Business Association submitted their year-end report. It was noted that in addition to the funding that we provide, it appears that they have a healthy income. G. Gilbert asked about who prepared the report, as it was not noted on the document. N. Rankine stated that she would find out.
- h. **Pocket Park submission** – N. Rankine noted that Wyandotte's submission for the Pocket Park, the space between Franks Pizza and 3152 Studio placed 2nd in the online voting and made the first cut for the grant. She will keep the board posted when the grant nominees are announced.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Hornby Promissory Note** - N. Rankine gave information from Todd Drysdale regarding the offer from Greg Hornby for the DDA to pay off the Hornby Promissory note early. It was decided that given the recent purchase of the Sears Building that this isn't something that the DDA wanted to pursue right now.
- b. **Cigarette Receptacles** – Mayor Peterson brought up the need for additional cigarette receptacles throughout the DDA District, given the new smoking law. The board members agreed and noted that

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additional trash cans and pet waste receptacles are possibly needed. N. Rankine and Patt Slack will obtain pricing for these items and bring them to the next DDA meeting.

- c. **Park in the Art** – N. Rankine presented an idea for additional bicycle racks and public art. Other downtowns host a custom bike rack contest, whereby artists design custom metal bike racks for downtown that also become a public piece of art. Other DDA’s offer a prize of around \$1000.00 to \$1500.00 for each custom rack that wins the competition. The DDA then has two new bike racks placed each year. The board agreed that this would be a nice project to take on in the upcoming year if the funds are available.
- d. **Downtown Fire** – N. Rankine and Mayor Peterson expressed their concern and sympathies for those affected by the fire at Lions and Tigers and Beers on Sunday evening. N. Rankine stated that she had contacted all of the business owners to see what the DDA might do to help them. She is working to connect the owners with temporary spaces for them to operate out of. Currently, Bella Donna’s is working from The Willow Tree and River’s Edge Gallery. These two businesses are fielding phone calls for them as well. The board thanked these businesses for stepping forward in their time of need. N. Rankine stated that she would remain in contact with these businesses to see if the city can help them in any way.
- e. **2013 Budget** – N. Rankine stated that the DDA’s expected revenue has been cut again from \$500,000.00 to \$480,000.00 for the 2013 fiscal year. She indicated that the finance committee will meet next Tuesday at 5:30 pm to start to developing the 2013 budget and that it is due to Mayor and Council in August.

9. NEXT REGULAR MEETING – August 14th, 2012

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mayor Peterson, supported by G. Lucas to adjourn the meeting at 6:45. All in favor, motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Natalie Rankine, RA

DDA Director