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NATALIE RANKINE
DIRECTOR
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

MEETING MINUTES
November 13th 2012, 5:30 pm
3131 Biddle Avenue Wyandotte MI. 48192

1.) MEMBERS PRESENT –Norm Walker, Mayor Joseph Peterson, Peter Rose, Gerry Lucas, Patt Slack, Greg Gilbert, Leo Stevenson, John Jarjosa

2.) MEMBERS EXCUSED – Dr. Pat Van De Hey

3.) OTHERS PRESENT –Natalie Rankine, Heather Thiede, Sue Geftos, Lynn and Jay Steffensky, Al Bates, Bob Beaudette, Tom and Diane Woodruff, Scott McBeth, Don Townsend, Sean Gillaspie, Mary Hall, Cassie Raymond, Tricia Jolliffe, Charlie Lupo, Richard Miller, Jason Alley, Mikelle Vargas, , Debbie Oeulette, Jeremy Sladovnik, Crissi Ballas and Marge Balheim.

4.) APPROVAL OF AGENDA –

Motion by M. Peterson, supported by G. Lucas to approve the agenda for April 10th 2012 with that addition. All in favor, motion carried.

5.) APPROVAL OF MINUTES –

Motion by M. Peterson, supported by G. Gilbert to approve of the October 9th 2012 DDA Meeting minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion by G. Lucas, supported by M. Peterson to approve and place on file the Beautification Commission meeting minutes from October. All in favor, motion carried.

6.) PUBLIC COMMENT –

Bob Beaudette passed out the WBA expense report to the DDA Board for July, August and September. He asked to submit payments for reimbursement. G. Gilbert stated the total of the amount to reimburse for their quarterly report was not \$29,000 and instead much lower. N. Rankine stated that the correct amount due would be \$20,500.92. N. Rankine requested receipts to support the report. B. Beaudette indicated that they would forward receipts and a revised copy of the spreadsheet to the DDA.

Motion by M. Peterson, supported by G. Gilbert to reimburse the WBA the \$7,500 payment for their Quarterly report in the amount of \$20,500.92. Roll Call, all in favor, motion carried.

N. Rankine addressed the email regarding purchase of blue lights for the downtown area to the board and committee. Mayor stated that there will not be any blue lights purchased for downtown area. She also stated that no funds were given to the Paint the Town Pink Committee by the DDA. P. Slack commented on the holiday marketing plan for the downtown

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and the thought behind the blue light suggestion was to attract business downtown from people driving down Biddle. M. Peterson stated that the holiday marketing for downtown has nothing to do with the Love Wyandotte group. B. Beaudette asked if any funds from the Love Wyandotte events go back to the DDA, P. Rose stated that all funds that have been captured by any event downtown organized by the Love Wyandotte group was distributed to non-profit groups as a very small amount was kept in an account to keep the account active.

P. Rose commented on the domain address, he stated that he made a mistake by putting the DDA's name on a website, that he has registered the site and paid for it himself. It does not belong to the DDA in any way. B. Beaudette asked if he could join the Love Wyandotte and Paint the Town Pink group, P. Rose denied his request. Sue Geftos, owner of It All Makes Scents spoke to the DDA board about not being able to participate in the Paint the Town Pink event. She stated information was only sent to a select group of people and business owners. M. Peterson stated that if the public cannot join the group then it is a private club. P. Rose stated he feels it is not appropriate to get into this topic at a DDA meeting. L. Stevenson asked what funds have been spent of the DDA's on the Paint the Town Pink events. N. Rankine stated the electrical hook up, approved by council, and a \$25 ad on the back of the shirts being sold at the event. P. Slack and L. Stevenson agreed that this would be the proper forum to discuss the Love Wyandotte and Paint the Town Pink issues because the DDA has gotten involved due to the improper use of the DDA name on the website, as well as being the board that represents the downtown businesses.

Richard Miller addressed the DDA board; he stated the Chairperson of any board should sit where the Mayor sits during meetings. He requested a Chairpersons sign for P. Slack to have at her seat. R. Miller stated that on May 15th a domain of lovewyandotte.com was registered to 2624 Biddle Avenue, Downtown Development Authority with Peter Rose being the technical contact. N. Rankine stated that she did not know about this being done. R. Miller then stated that the domain was attempted to be changed/deleted/renewed/updated four times but could not change the info. On October 16th the information was changed. He stated that every action the group took was then the responsibility of the DDA's. R. Miller stated that H. Thiede sent a request to City Council for the use of chairs and other approval. He said that over all the idea was good, and he hopes that the events continue into the future and expand. N. Rankine stated that it was H. Thiede's job to send the letter to City Council, since all event applications go through her office. R. Miller stated that the DDA needs to get a handle on the group and make sure everything is totally legal.

Marge Balheim stated that everything the Love Wyandotte group has done is wonderful, and that when she asked to participate she was told that she wasn't needed. That she as a business could participate but the WBA was not needed. N. Rankine apologized on behalf of the DDA and stated she and the DDA had no idea of the issues.

The owners of 3152 Salon spoke to the DDA; they stated that as a business it is difficult to participate in all of the events and to know who is running them. They suggested for the WBA and DDA to work together on future events.

Jay Steffensky addressed the group; he asked who the members of the promotions subcommittee are. N. Rankine stated herself, H. Thiede, P. Slack, P. Rose, Janelle Rose, Diane and Tom Woodruff and Vicki Lucas. M. Peterson stated that he would like to appoint two members of the WBA to that subcommittee.

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G. Gilbert stated he is concerned about the intent of the Love Wyandotte committee. He asked if it was to compete with the WBA. Wicks and Stones owner, Chrissy spoke to the committee and expressed her thoughts on the WBA and DDA working together. Mary Hall from Country Enchantments also spoke to the board about her feelings towards both groups not working together.

N. Walker asked P. Rose to address the DDA at the podium in regards to the Love Wyandotte group and the domain name issue. P. Rose stated that he and Janelle came across the Paint the Town Pink event idea a few years ago and had presented the idea to Doug Pettigrew, the WBA President at the time and Lynn Steffensky. He said they did nothing with the idea so he decided to move forward. P. Rose stated that there have been certain amounts of friction between him and some WBA members, that he did not want to work with those businesses and certain people. He stated that he is very sorry for putting the DDA name on the domain name and there was no intent to harm. Love Wyandotte is a company and a name, a channel to gather money. G. Gilbert questioned why P. Rose didn't go to the WBA first, if they said no to the idea then he could move forward. P. Rose stated that he felt it was counterproductive to work with some people. He stated the WBA runs the Third Fridays downtown and that the Paint the Town Pink event was not a Third Friday, it was something to add to the events downtown. P. Rose stated that he doesn't think it's appropriate to speak about the group at the DDA meeting, M. Peterson stated it is important because the DDA was involved in P. Rose naming them on the domain.

P. Slack spoke about the group and the events downtown. The committee discussed. M. Peterson stated that it was against the law to put the DDA name on that website; he understands it wasn't done on purpose but was not approved by the board. Chrissy from Wicks and Stones spoke to the DDA board; she stated that she doesn't know who to turn to when she has questions.

Scott McBeth addresses the group, he stated that he is excited to move forward as a board member of the WBA and will be working on separate events for the North end businesses.

G. Gilbert said that he feels the businesses and people are confused as to which board does what and that the WBA only wants to participate in Third Fridays, he asked if that was true. M. Peterson stated no, it was not true. L. Stevenson stated that he feels that N. Rankine should be going out and getting new businesses to come downtown, and to leave the marketing of the downtown to the WBA. The group discussed. L. Stevenson stated he would like to put together a resolution that Natalie be removed from all promotions and give them to the WBA. P. Slack requested that this item be placed on a future agenda.

Motion by M. Peterson, supported by L. Stevenson to request the President of the WBA nominate two people that would sit on the promotions subcommittee. All in favor, motion carried.

Don Townsend and Sean Gillaspie from Flat Rock spoke to the DDA board and asked for contact information for some of the artists/crafters that participated in the Wyandotte Street Art Fair. H. Theide gave them her contact information.

J. Steffensky asked P. Rose if Love Wyandotte was a company, P. Rose stated that he could not answer that question that it is just registered as a business. Diane Woodruff explained to the board.

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7.) GRANT APPLICATIONS –

Motion by P. Slack, supported by G. Lucas to approve a \$5,000 grant to Johnny Mac’s, this grant is in the budget for 2012. Roll call, J. Jarjosa abstained. All others in favor, motion carried.

8.) MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT –

Motion by M. Peterson, supported by G. Gilbert to approve of the monthly finance report. Roll call, all in favor. Motion carried.

9.) ONGOING PROJECTS AND BUSINESS –

a.) 3061 & 3063 -

N. Rankine updated the group on the progress. She is working with the MEDC to secure grant funding for the project.

b.) Downtown Fire –

N. Rankine spoke about ribbon cuttings downtown and stated that Bella Donnas will be coming back in late 2012 or early 2013.

c.) WBA Contract –

N. Rankine stated the WBA and DDA contract has been signed and they will place a copy on file at the clerk’s office.

d.) DDA Guidebook –

N. Rankine said that Paragraphics won the lowest bid again this year and that it will be complete in December.

10.) NEW BUSINESS –

a.) Small Business Saturday –

N. Rankine explained the details of Small Business Saturday, the committee discussed the collaboration with the WBA and the Wyandotte Jaycees Santa House.

b.) 3200 Move –

N. Rankine updated the group what departments were already moved over to the new city hall, she explained that her office will now be located there as well.

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11.) NEXT REGULAR MEETING –

December 11th 2012

12.) ADJOURNMENT –

Motion by M. Peterson, supported by G. Gilbert to adjourn at 7:32 pm. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather Thiede, Deputy Recording Secretary