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NATALIE RANKINE
DIRECTOR
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

MEETING MINUTES
January 22nd, 2013 . 4:00 pm
Municipal Board Room, 3200 Biddle Avenue, Wyandotte MI. 48192

1. **MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor Joseph Peterson, Gregory Gilbert, John Jarjosa, Gerry Lucas, Peter Rose
2. **MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Leo Stevenson, Dr. Patrick Van De Hey, Norm Walker
3. **OTHERS PRESENT:** Natalie Rankine

4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion by Mayor Peterson, supported by G. Lucas to approve the agenda. All in favor, motion carried.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** No members of the public were present at the meeting.

6. **NEW BUSINESS:**

a. **Merle Norman: Request to transfer grant to 3122 Biddle Avenue.**

1. Rankine explained that Kim Phillips of Merle Norman is requesting that her grant be moved from the property that she originally applied for (3111 Biddle Avenue) to 3122 Biddle Avenue. The lease agreement with the original property owner did not work out. The design and square footage of the space will remain the same.
2. Rose indicated that although he thought that we should request that Merle Norman submit revised paperwork for the new space. Mayor Peterson and Gilbert agreed.

Motion by Mayor Peterson, supported by G. Lucas to approve the transfer of the grant pending the submission of revised paperwork. Roll called. All in favor. Motion carried.

b. **Tom Bidari: Request for grant extension.**

1. Rankine explained that Mr. Bidari has requested an extension for the grant he applied for. He is requesting an extension due to the weather. Work on the project will be able to resume once the weather is warmer.

Motion by Rose, supported by Slack to grant a 6 month extension to Mr. Bidari for his grant. Roll called. All in favor. Motion carried.

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c. New grant requests: Bella Donna's & Nanna's Kitchen

1. Rankine explained that Bella Donna's has applied for a \$5,000.00 grant to expand their business to the space located directly north (once occupied by Raymond James). They were temporarily displaced due to the fire at Lions, Tigers and Beers. Rankine said that she is thrilled that they are coming back home to Wyandotte. Peterson agreed that this was a good business to have back in the City.

Motion by Rose, supported by Mayor Peterson to award Bella Donna's Bridal Salon a \$5,000.00 grant for expansion of their salon. Roll called. All in favor. Motion carried.

2. Rankine explained that Nanna's Kitchen is applying for a grant for \$15,000.00 to expand their business. The proposed expansion would add another 60 seats to the existing restaurant, additional landscaping and a fountain. Construction costs are estimated at \$200,000.00. Nanna's Kitchen was working with the Engineering and Building Department to negotiate a purchase agreement. Mayor Peterson indicated that this would be a wonderful addition to downtown and that Nanna's was an established business. He also said that this would also give the restaurant an opportunity to offer banquet facilities on site. Gilbert indicated that \$15,000.00 is a significant investment to give to an existing business and proposed reducing the grant amount. Rankine suggested breaking the grant up over the course of a number of years. Rose inquired about the amount left in the grant fund. Rankine indicated that if the DDA split the grant that \$11,000.00 would be remaining in the grant account for the remainder of the year. Gilbert indicated that he would like to see an official policy for grants larger than \$5,000.00. Mayor Peterson indicated that we do give grants in a larger amount, but that they are in the form of incentives, as with the sale of the Sears Building (3061 & 3063) Biddle Avenue. Gilbert agreed that it would be best to give this grant out over the course of a number of years.

Motion by Mayor Peterson, supported by Lucas to award Nanna's Kitchen a \$15,000.00 grant toward their \$200,000.00 expansion, landscaping and fountain project, payable over the course of two fiscal years: \$7,500.00 of the grant payable from the fiscal year 2013 budget and \$7,500.00 payable from the 2014 Fiscal year after October 1st, 2013. Roll called. All in favor, Motion carried.

3. Rose excused himself from the meeting, for another appointment.

7. NEXT REGULAR MEETING: The next DDA meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 12th, 2013 at 5:30 pm at 3200 Biddle Avenue in Council Chambers.

8. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 4:25 pm.

Motion by Gilbert, supported by Lucas to adjourn. All in favor. Motion carried.