

Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2023, 3:00 p.m. | Community Room, Kalamazoo City Hall

PRESENT: Mayor David Anderson, Jeff Breneman, Carl Brown, Grant Fletcher, Matt Hollander, Susan Lindemann

ABSENT: Stephanie Hinman

STAFF: Rebekah Kik, Paul Thuringer, Steve Vicenzi, Jaime Marsman

A. CALL TO ORDER

DIRECTOR FLETCHER CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 3:39 P.M

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor David Anderson
Jeff Breneman
Carl Brown
Grant Fletcher
Matt Hollander
Susan Lindemann

ABSENT: Stephanie Hinman

EXCUSED: Stephanie Hinman

THE MARCH 20, 2023, ATTENDANCE INCLUDING EXCUSED AND UNEXCUSED ABSENCES ARE RECORDED.

B. ADOPTION OF FORMAL AGENDA

DIRECTOR HOLLANDER MOVED TO ADOPT THE MARCH 20, 2023 AGENDA. DIRECTOR BRENEMAN SECONDED. NO OBJECTIONS. MOTION CARRIED.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was noted that Clarence Lloyd was listed as staff on the January 17, 2023 Minutes and it was clarified that he was attending on behalf of staff. His name will be removed from the list of staff.

DIRECTOR LINDEMANN MOVED TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 17, 2023 MINUTES WITH THE CORRECTION AS NOTED ABOVE. DIRECTOR HOLLANDER SECONDED. NO OBJECTIONS. MOTION CARRIED.

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D. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Financial Report

Mr. Vicenzi shared the financial reports. Additional notes have been added to the reports, as requested, for further explanation.

A Budget Breakdown by Contract report was shared in the packet.

Mr. Vicenzi provided clarification regarding DEGA maintenance and DDA maintenance. Ms. Kik noted that the Big Belly contract in the DEGA was also closely tied to the Social District and the disposal of cups.

Director Fletcher stated that last year, a 6-month agreement was signed with the City of Kalamazoo. A new proposal is being considered.

DIRECTOR HOLLANDER MOVED TO ACCEPT THE FINANCIAL REPORT AS PRESENTED. MAYOR ANDERSON SECONDED. NO OBJECTIONS. MOTION CARRIED.

E. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. Recommendation of DDA Board Member Nomination to Mayor/City Commission

- i. Curt Aardema
- ii. Clarence Lloyd
- iii. Reappointment of Jeff Breneman

Director Fletcher shared information regarding both nominees for the two vacant board seats. Both are very active and engaged participants in the downtown area and were also very active in the planning work with Yard & Co last year. The Appointee Nomination report was included with the packet.

MAYOR ANDERSON MOTIONED TO RECOMMEND THE DDA BOARD APPOINTMENT OF CURT AARDEMA AND CLARENCE LLOYD AND THE REAPPOINTMENT OF JEFF BRENEMAN TO THE MAYOR/CITY COMMISSION. DIRECTOR HOLLANDER SECONDED.

Director Breneman abstained from the recommendation.

NO OBJECTIONS. MOTION CARRIED. ONE ABSTENTION: DIRECTOR BRENEMAN.

2. Committee Updates

Projects and Finance

Ms. Kik stated that there were many positive comments regarding the white lights on trees at the March 7 Town Hall meeting.

The mall lighting project is waiting for one final piece and will be installed after that comes in.

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Events & Marketing

None.

Policy

None.

F. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kathleen Widener, Spirit of Kalamazoo: Ms. Widener expressed concern regarding business recruitment & retention. She asked if there was anything that the DDA could do to assist with the multiple vacancies downtown.

G. DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

1. Director Breneman stated that he also attended the Town Meeting and thanked the City for their assistance with more engagement with Kalamazoo Public Safety and the downtown area. He stated that he hopes that Southwest Michigan First continues to make downtown economic vitality a priority.
2. Director Fletcher affirmed that Mr. Lloyd will be an excellent asset to the Board, especially in regard to his role with Southwest Michigan First. Director Fletcher stated that there are people working on assisting with the vacancies.
3. Director Lindemann thanked Mr. Vicenzi for the changes to the financial report. She thanked the Marketing Committee for the great work that they are doing.
4. Mayor Anderson thanked everyone who attended the meeting today. He affirmed their participation as the way to continue to be involved in the downtown area and communication.

H. ADJOURNMENT

DIRECTOR FLETCHER ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 3:57 P.M.