



May 12, 2021
MINUTES

A meeting of the Downtown Development Authority was held Wednesday, May 12, 2021, via zoom.

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Laurie Dixon, Chair.

Members Present: Steven Rzeppa, David Patz, Kelly Rinne, Laurie Dixon, Cindy Ames, Angel Boisture

Members Absent: Katie Mans, John Martenson, Linda Schulman, Luann Deziel, Jim Schropp

Others Present: Dean Creech, John Laub, Wendy Pate

Approval of Minutes: N/A

Correspondence: None

Old Business
Project updates

- City Hall Steps currently being designed and replacement will take place this summer
- Paver Project – repairing the concrete surrounding pavers using internal employees to reduce cost

New Business

Budget

Proposed 2021-2022 Budget transfer to GL \$250,000. This transfer will end in 2033. Bonded debt of \$170,000 will come off in the next couple of years

DDA has approximately \$405,000 that will need to be spent

DDA Liquor License applications

- Restaurant at M&M camping center (owners of Captains in Wyandotte)
- Beauty Bar – next to Methodist church

Request for Social District Support

- The City would create an area downtown where businesses can offer drinks to-go during street fair and throughout the year.
- DDA funds would go towards signage that limits where people can go with open containers along with perhaps additional trash cans.
- There is interest from Liquor License holders downtown.
- The City would like to have this in place before Summer Festival. Declare a zone and hours on W. Jefferson between Walnut and Atwood. With a cost of \$15,000-\$20,000. Rules will be similar to Wyandotte which can be found on their website. Wyandotte spent \$20,000 – Trenton's will be smaller

Rinne – disruption to the neighborhood. Compared it to issues with beer tent during Summer festival

Creech- beer tent can't happen this year due to covid restrictions. Other social districts have not had problems in neighborhoods. During festival there might be some enforcement issues but does not expect the same festival atmosphere year round. Restaurants hit hard by covid – this would help them to get back in business. If they have liquor license they can participate within the district. No temporary vendors

Ames - not in favor due to neighborhood disruption

Creech – the decision is not irrevocable. If the Social District becomes a disruption or law enforcement issue, it can be discontinued.

Moved by Dixon supported by Ames to recommend supporting the creation of a proposed social district Atwood-Walnut on W Jefferson during the hours of 11am-9pm with an expenditure of up to \$20,000

Boisture – yes

Rinne – no

Ames – no

Patz – yes

Rzeppa – yes

Dixon – no

Downriver Linked Greenways

Wendy Pate presented the plan for DLG (Downriver Linked Greenways) and the work that has been done by Trail Town as the partnering committee in Trenton.

She asked that the DDA consider providing funds for new signage including an arch welcoming people to Trenton – DLG will be ready for this in September

Moved by Rinne, supported by Ames that the DDA provide nonfinancial support at this time

Motion carried unanimously

Other projects to be considered

Animal Crackers angled parking lot – Elm is being redone

Maple and W. Jefferson – would become public parking to help address downtown parking problems.

Christmas lights downtown that can be used year round. Rinne pointed out that Scarecrow Festival donated money for downtown Christmas lights. Mr. Laub will check into it.

Misc Business

Dixon suggested looking into a display of military veterans on flags on streetlights. Laub will look at cost. Dixon and Ames will ask other towns.

Rzeppa – Property at West and West Jefferson is close to closing and being developed

McLouth – 2 more stoves to come down – focus will still be remediation – no development plans

DTE – current timeline – 1 year decommissioning of plant May 2022. It will take until 2025 to get it cleaned up.

Rinne suggested money for maintenance in DDA area – streetlights need replacing – east on St. Joes

Graffiti on King Rd. RR overpass –property is owned by Conrail. Pate is meeting with a muralist that might be able to help.

Meeting Adjourned: 2:48 p.m.

Next Meetings: June 17, 2021, 7:00 p.m. – notice to go out June 3rd.