



**CANTON TOWNSHIP
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Minutes of the
September 18, 2019 Meeting**

The meeting was called to order at 8:01 A.M. by Chairperson, Melissa McLaughlin

Present: Steve Brock, Laura Giove, Greg Greene, Andy Hargreaves, Melissa McLaughlin, Bart Patterson, Janet Volante, Mark Waldbauer, Pat Williams

Absent: Dianne Cojei, Chuck Jones, Seth Kleinglass

Staff: Amy Hamilton, Kerri Romanko

Others: Wendy Trumbell-Canton Finance, Kristen Kolb-Canton Legal, Jason Humes-potential DDA member

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

MOTION: Bart Patterson, supported by Chuck Jones, to accept the agenda as presented.

AYES: All present

APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 21, 2019 MINUTES

MOTION by Bart Patterson, supported by Laura Giove, to approve the August 21, 2019 meeting minutes.

AYES: All present

CITIZENS' NON-AGENDA ITEMS

NONE

PAYMENT OF BILLS

MOTION: by Janet Volante supported Bart Patterson, to accept the payment of bills.

AYES: All present

DISCUSSION: POSSIBLE CHANGES TO DDA TAX CAPTURE

Amy Hamilton said that last week we learned that the DDA cannot capture Public Safety taxes that are part of an SAD (Special Assessment District).

Amy Hamilton introduced Wendy Trumbell, Canton's Finance Director and Kristen Kolb, Canton's Legal Advisor to answer questions and explain further.

Amy Hamilton pulled numbers together and found that not collecting these taxes will mean 40% hit to the 2020 DDA budget.

Bart Patterson asked if Amy would be working on a potential three to five year plan to prioritize DDA projects and if the DDA Board would see a copy of that. Amy Hamilton said yes.

Wendy Trumbell and Kristen Kolb left the meeting.

Pat Williams then introduced Jason Humes from Symmetry Management as potential future board member. Jason came to sit in on the DDA meeting to get a feel for it as it may be something he would be interested in pursuing in the future.

The DDA board members and Township staff went around the table to introduce themselves. Pat Williams said that he asked Jason Humes to join us today because in the next several months and going into next year some of the board members terms will be expiring. He felt that Jason might be a good fit for the DDA.

Jason shared a little bit about himself; he moved to Canton in 1977. He was a commercial banker for twenty years, he then left the banking industry to work with one of his long-term clients. He is now the CEO of Symmetry Management where he manages and develops

commercial real estate and is pretty active in Canton.

Melissa McLaughlin familiarized Jason with the DDA by describing the boundaries, how the DDA came to be, some of the things that the DDA has done in the past and hopes to achieve in the future.

Pat Williams and Melissa McLaughlin talked about how Canton got its name. There were three communities that were named after providences in China: Nankin, Peking and Canton. Nankin and Peking were renamed Westland and Livonia. Canton was the only one that maintained its original historic name. Westland was named because the man that built the mall said he'd build the mall if the name of the city could be changed to Westland. Pat Williams added that Canton was named in 1834 from a translation of a word meaning "rural farm area."

DISCUSSION: TIMELINE OF LED CONVERSION OF DDA STREETLIGHTS

Amy Hamilton said she was originally pushing to move forward with the LED conversion because we didn't definitely know when the boulevard construction would start. She explained that she had a conference call with MDOT and they are firm that construction will start in 2022. They strongly recommended that the DDA not do anything with the lights until the project begins. They said when they pull everything out, even new wiring and conduit will go in and it's not guaranteed to work with our current poles.

Melissa McLaughlin suggested holding the money that we budgeted for the LED conversion aside because we will need it when we are replacing everything due to the new road.

Amy said she asked Frank's Landscaping to provide a quote for putting sod in all the areas where the landscaping fails to thrive. She also got a quote for fall mums to give the DDA district a nice pop of color at the intersections. The sod quote was \$54,000 and quote for mums was \$57,000.

The board collectively agreed the quote for mums was steep. They thought it would look nice but suggested reducing the areas to only the major intersections. The board also asked if hydro seeding would be a feasible more affordable option as opposed to sod. Amy Hamilton said she would go back to Frank's Landscaping to get the quotes adjusted for less mums and hydro-seeding instead of sod.

DDA COORDINATOR'S REPORT – OCTOBER 11, 2019

- **Cross Access Update** – OHM, myself and Township Planner Jeff Goulet met with representatives from Wendy's last week. After explaining what we were trying to accomplish they are open to helping us out. Additional meetings have been scheduled with Symmetry Management (Olga's/Mod Pizza) and Block Rock on October 22.
- **Shred Event** – It's here! This Saturday we will hold our second shred event of 2019 in the parking lot of IKEA. If you plan on volunteering, please be in the IKEA parking lot no later than 7:45am. I will have safety vest for all workers!
- **MDOT Meeting** – A joint meeting between the DDA and Township Board has been planned for Wednesday, December 11 at 1:30pm in the Township Board Room. MDOT will be looking for input from both boards on the design of the boulevard.
- **New Business Update** - A Certificate of Compliance has been issued for the following businesses:

- o **Ding Tea (tea house) – 42743 Ford Road**

ADDITIONAL CITIZENS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

NONE

ADJOURN

MEETING CALLED TO ADJOURN by Janet Volante and Laura Giove at 9:07 A.M.