

DDA MEETING MINUTES

September 16, 2024

Members Present: CEO Ron Alden, President Thomas O'Brien, Treasurer Andrea Weiss, Diane Love-Suvada, Crystal Brabant, Hunter Mires, Phil Weiler, Tom Barber.

Member Absent: VP Jim Anderson(Exc), Sue Jock(Exc), Jessie Sharpe (Exc), Peggy Kish, Mike Walker

Virtual: NONE

Others Present: Jim Perialas (interim Secretary), Kim Morley, Marcie Dankert, Todd Jansen, Linda Mesler

Meeting called to order by O'Brien at 8:03 am

Motion made to accept the meeting minutes for August 19, 2024 by Barber and second Weiler, motion carried.

TREASURER's REPORT: (Thru 8-12-24)

Balance Forward (Liquidity Acct \$408,532.62 & Ckg	\$106,148.01)=	\$514,680.63
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Liquidity Account balance as of 9-11-24	\$410,341.82
Deposits	\$8,825.00
Interest	\$29.41
Checking Balance	\$115,002.42

Bills Approved Prior Month

Ck #1354 Higgins Lake Foundation (Façade grant)	\$2,000.00
Ck #1355 HLRCC (Kid's Block Party)	\$500.00
Ck #1356 701 Lake Street Holdings LLC (Façade grant)	\$5,000.00

Bills Approved This Month

Ck #1357 MDA (Annual Membership)	\$250.00
Ck #1358 Fleis & Vanderbrink (\$13,700 -\$3,600-\$2,700 = \$7,400 remaining)	\$2,700.00
Ck #1359 Village of Roscommon (Huntington-Tractor loan)	\$15,351.00
Ck #1360 Marcie Dankert	\$500.00
Checking Ending Balance	\$88,701.42
Total	\$499,043.24

Future Commitments to Date

Village of Roscommon Tractor loan-1 annual payment left	\$15,351.00
AuSable River Center	\$300 Quarterly
Hiawatha Grant	\$50,000.00 approved/no payment schedule – approved

Motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented by Alden, second by Barber, motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE & PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Village Manager: Ron Alden

- Ron updated the DDA on the Hiawatha project and let them know that the gazebo has been ordered.
- DPW Director position has been split into two positions with current employee Gary Boyle filling the role as "Field Supervisor" and new hire, Doug Schnell, will act as the "Office Supervisor".
- Alden reported that there are some inconsistencies in the growth of flowers in the different beds around the village, and attributes this to the inconsistent soil prep from the different groups that take care of the beds.
- Street Light update: Alden reports that Blanchard Electric has been working on repairs/replacement of sensors and that Lake Street is complete and they are continuing work on Shelly and Fifth St.
- Yearly sidewalk repair continues. Alden plans to spend as much as \$75,000 on sidewalk repair this year.

Farmers' Market: Marcie Dankert

- Dankert reported that vendors are happy with the current fee structure and do not have plans to make changes. Fees collected this year will go back to the DDA.
- The new food truck last week was a success and plan to continue that relationship.
- The last market of the year will be September 28th. The first winter market meeting is approaching and the dates for the winter market will be: Nov 9, Dec 14, Feb 8, and March 8. Marcie asked confirmation on the closing of Brooks St. will be one-way traffic between Fifth and Main. Alden confirmed this and mentioned that the pavilion project is slated to start immediately after the RocktoberFest celebration. Alden also reported to Dankert that an electric service box will be added to the east side of the RiverCenter before the RocktoberFest.

Economic Development:

- Director Perialas updated the DDA regarding the Social District with plans to proceed this winter.
- Rite Aid building will be vacant in October, and the owners of the building asked Perialas to reach out to the Post Office regarding any possible interest in the building. The building will be put up for sale if they cannot find a new tenant soon.
- Perialas reported that the village won a statewide CEDAM (Community Economic Development Association of Michigan) Fellowship grant that will provide the village with an "Economic Development Fellow" for 15 months starting in January of 2025. The village would receive a fully funded full-time employee \$60,00 salary plus benefits but would have to post a \$10,000 fee. Due to deadlines, the Village Council approved payment of \$10,000 and asked that Perialas request \$5,000 from the DDA to ensure that they would have "skin in the game" and would allow the fellow to work on DDA projects along with village driven development.

Motion was made to *"Support the village by sharing the cost of the administrative fee for the CEDAM Community Development fellowship in the amount of \$5,000."* Motion made by Brabant and seconded by Barber. Motion passed unanimously.

FAÇADE GRANTS:

New Applications:

- St. Vincent DePaul for painting their blue building. (\$3,250) Motion made by Weiler and seconded by Barber; motion passed unanimously.
- Roscommon Historical Society for roof repair and cedar shakes- (\$5,000) Motion made by Barber and seconded by Weiss. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Veteran Banners: None submitted.
- AuSable River Pavilion Project: Alden and Barber gave a project update.
- Chase Bank Parking: Nothing back from Fleis and Vandenbrink yet.
- Graffiti Style Storefronts: Alden reported that the village attorney is reviewing 1st amendment issues, but that the Village Council and Planning Commission have passed resolutions of support to continue to explore ways to limit this type of art, particularly outdoors on storefronts.
- Wallace Park Dock Post Caps: Motion made by Weiss and seconded by Weiler to approve payment to Tom O'Brien in the amount of \$390 for replacement dock post caps that were stolen.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Art Committee Guidelines: The proposed guidelines were emailed to the DDA members for their review. Brabant mentioned the concept of crafting the guidelines with the intent to "encourage" certain ideas and themes rather than restrict certain types of themes and artwork. Additional discussion will take place at our next meeting.

- Cherven Pocket Park Proposal: There was some concern regarding the “dog friendly” aspects of the pocket park proposal, but did not see anything else objectionable in the proposal. The board decided to table the proposal for the next meeting where more Q and A could occur.
- Alden reported that a wood carver has been hired by the village to address the unsightly- topped trees at Wallace Park.
- President O’Brien asked if Wallace/Hiawatha Park will be re-named at some point. Alden reported no plans at this time, but unofficial discussion is underway.
- Rite Aid closed: Discussion on this topic occurred in the Economic Director’s report.

FUTURE PROJECTS:

- Barber mentioned that Verizon may be in the process of buying Frontier.
- Tammy Menghini from the Christmas in the Village committee reported that their light decorating vendor has gone out of business and they are exploring options.
- Steve Reidy, a local realtor contacted Econ. Dev. Director Perialas regarding re-starting discussion of a “light up downtown” committee. Perialas put them in contact with the *Christmas in the Village* Committee to see if they have common goals.

Meeting was adjourned at: 9:25 am. Motion by Brabant and seconded by Alden. Passed unanimously.