



**CITY OF WALLED LAKE
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Tuesday, April 11, 2023**

The Meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance led by DDA Chairman Blair

ROLL CALL: Ackley, Amin, Blair, Johnston, Lublin, Marshal, Millen,
McDonald

ABSENT: Allen, Mechigan, Millen

There being a quorum present, the meeting was declared in session.

OTHERS PRESENT: DDA Managing Director Jaquays, DDA Executive Director Whitt
Finance Director Pesta, HR Director/Deputy City Clerk Gross,
Police Chief Shakinis, Deputy Chief of Police Kolke, DPW
Superintendent Ladd, Council Member Owsinek, Assistant City
Manager Schrader

**DDA 04-01-23 MOTION TO EXCUSE DDA BOARD MEMBER ALLEN, DDA
BOARD MEMBER MECHIGAN, DDA BOARD MEMBER
MILLEN**

Motion by Blair, supported by Ackley: CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To excuse DDA
Board Member Allen, DDA Board Member Mechigan, DDA Board Member Millen

REQUESTS FOR AGENDA CHANGES: NONE

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

1. Regular DDA Meeting of March 14, 2023

**DDA 04-02-23 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 14, 2023
MEETING**

Motion by Blair, supported by Amin: CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To approve the
minutes from the February 14, 2023 meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE: NONE

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: NONE

Council Member Owsinek, 1197 Quinif – Mr. Owsinek said the Spring Egg Hunt was well-attended. Mr. Owsinek said the Walled Lake Beach looks nicer and credited Mr. Casey J. Ambrose for being instrumental in the enhancements that took place. Mr. Owsinek suggested the DDA Board consider renaming the Walled Lake Beach as Casey J. Ambrose beach in honor and remembrance of past-DDA Chairman Ambrose.

DDA Board Member Ackley provided a brief history of the Walled Lake Beach and how it was acquired.

DDA Chairman Blair asked if it was possible to rename the beach?

DDA Executive Director Whitt said yes, the DDA Board can recommend renaming the beach. Mr. Whitt said Mayor and City Council have the authority to rename the beach. Mr. Whitt said however, there may be ramifications.

DDA Board Member Ackley suggested the board review different locations throughout the City. Ms. Ackley suggested the Public Safety Campus or the pedestrian bridge be named after Casey J. Ambrose as he spearheaded many of the developments on the site.

DDA Board Member Lublin suggested the board review different items that could be renamed in honor of Casey J. Ambrose

**DDA 04-03-23 MOTION TO REFER TO CITY COUNCIL REVIEW OF
POTENTIAL LOCATIONS AND STRUCTURES TO RENAME IN
HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF PAST- DDA CHAIRMAN AND
MAYOR PRO-TEM CASEY J. AMBROSE**

Motion by Ackley, supported by Lublin: CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To refer to City Council review of potential locations and structures to rename in honor and remembrance of past- DDA Chairman and Mayor Pro-Tem Casey J. Ambrose

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Proposed Resolution 2023-01 Oakland County Parks- Park and Trail Capital Grant Program

Managing Director Jaquays presented proposed resolution 2023-01. Ms. Jaquays said the deadline for the application is April 21, 2023.

Discussion was held on budget.

DDA Executive Director Whitt advised that because the grant application is still being completed, the DDA board should commit funds ‘up to’ a certain amount. Mr. Whitt said if the City is not awarded the grant, the funds will not be spent.

DDA Board Member Blair asked DPW Superintendent Ladd how much the project is estimated to cost?

DPW Superintendent Ladd said for the asphalt base, it is approximately \$57,000. Mr. Ladd said there are additional costs for fencing, amenities, and striping.

DDA Board Member Ackley asked if the work that was being proposed for the two grants that the DDA applied for will still happen?

Mr. Schrader said the Mercer Beach Phase II Improvements were mostly cosmetic upgrades. Mr. Schrader described some of the work that was proposed. Mr. Schrader said the price for bids were exorbitant and therefore the City was unable to do the work. Mr. Schrader said E. Walled Lake Drive does need attention within the next few years. Mr. Schrader said the intent was to repave Pontiac Trail in conjunction with E. Walled Lake Drive and that the State would find it amenable to get both projects done simultaneously. Mr. Schrader said the State decided to allocate those funds elsewhere. Mr. Schrader said the City does intend to reapply for the grant.

DDA Board Member Amin asked for clarification on the grant amount and the match amount. Ms. Amin asked for clarification on the proposed beach improvements and an update on downtown storm sewer system.

DPW Superintendent Ladd said Phase I of Mercer Beach included the installation of a stormceptor that removes debris before storm water enters the lake. Mr. Ladd said the proposed beach improvements was to include a wall for sand control.

**DDA 04-04-23 MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2023-01 IN SUPPORT OF
THE CITY OF WALLED LAKE GRANT APPLICATION FOR
THE 2023 OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION
PARK IMPROVEMENT AND TRAILWAYS GRANT UP TO
\$50,000 IN MATCH FUNDING**

Motion by Lublin, supported by Blair: CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: Motion to adopt resolution 2023-01 in support of the City of Walled Lake grant application for the 2023 Oakland County Parks and Recreation Park Improvement and Trailways grant up to \$50,000 in match funding

EXECUTIVE & MANAGING DIRECTOR REPORT:

1. Code Violations- Salvation Army Plaza

Managing Director Jaquays said Salvation Army has been cited for blight over concerns with their drop-off area. Ms. Jaquays said the City's code enforcement officer has been in communication with their team to address fixing the drop-off area. Ms. Jaquays said a proposal has been made.

Chief Shakinas said the issue that Salvation Army is experiencing is happening after-hours and on Sunday where people drop off their donations without a staff member present to collect. Mr. Shakinas said they are working with the management. Mr. Shakinas said Salvation Army is

designing a solution for after-hours drop off that is out of the view of the public and in an enclosed space.

Executive Director Whitt said the plaza is poorly managed. Mr. Whitt said the maintenance of the plaza has resulted in a mess in the back. Mr. Whitt reported another concern for Code Enforcement are exposed dumpsters and donation boxes.

Chief Shakinas reported that the old school site is no longer a truck stop and that the City was able to work with the school on figuring out a solution.

2. Proposed Development “Kum n Go”

Managing Director Jaquays said she met with ‘Kum n Go’ regional manager for a proposed ‘Kum n Go’ site in Walled Lake at the corner of EW Maple and Decker. Ms. Jaquays shared the informational presentation that was given at the meeting

DDA Board Member Lublin said he is interested to see what is submitted. Mr. Lublin asked if there are any located in Michigan?

Ms. Jaquays said there are a few in Grand Rapids.

Mr. Whitt said once we have definite idea of what they’re trying to do, then we can better know what the gateway into the downtown and Walled Lake area will look like.

3. City Events

a. Spring Egg Hunt After-Action Report

Ms. Jaquays reported that the City held its annual Spring Egg Hunt over the weekend on April 8 at Hiram Sims Park. Ms. Jaquays thanked the Parks and Recreation Board Members for their assistance stuffing the eggs and being on-site at the event. Ms. Jaquays thanked Parks and Recreation Director Gross for her leadership in organizing the event. Ms. Jaquays thanked the Walled Lake Central National Art Honor Society students for providing face painting and crafts at the event. Ms. Jaquays shared a slideshow of photos from the event.

b. Farmers Market

Ms. Jaquays said that opening day is scheduled for May 3, 2023. Ms. Jaquays talked about the festivities that will be happening on opening day. Ms. Jaquays noted that the hours of operation has changed from 7AM to 1PM, to 8AM to 2PM. Ms. Jaquays thanked Ms. Hall for her help in organizing the market. Ms. Jaquays said Ms. Hall will be graduating from the Police Academy this weekend.

c. Memorial Day

Ms. Jaquays said the Memorial Day parade participant application is available on the City's website and included in the packet, Ms. Jaquays said the City will be accepting applications for the next few weeks. Ms. Jaquays said similar to last year, the staging area will be at 850 Ladd.

DDA Chairman Blair said he has been receiving calls regarding the route and some people want it changed to how it used to be.

DDA Board Member Ackley said she has been receiving additional calls as well.

Mr. Whitt said the City proceeds with the idea that the Memorial Day parade is to honor those who gave their all, not to support businesses or cater to personal politics. Mr. Whitt said it would be inconvenient to change the staging area this late in the process. Mr. Whitt said the City does not operate to improve liquor sales of businesses.

d. Summer Festival

Ms. Jaquays said the Summer Festival is scheduled for June 24, 2023 in conjunction with the Walled Lake Civic Fund firework show. Ms. Jaquays said discussion is beginning with business owners on designing a plan for offering entertainment for the event.

Mr. Whitt announced that the "Inspired Acting Company" will be having a ribbon cutting ceremony on April 13, 2023 at 1124 EW Maple. Mr. Whitt said the studio will include performances and acting classes. Mr. Whitt welcomed the new business to the area.

4. Budget

Finance Director Pesta said the DDA applied for two grants; one was for repaving E. Walled Lake Drive and the second was for Mercer Beach Phase II Improvements, both of which were not awarded. Ms. Pesta said approximately \$250,000 was budgeted for Mercer Beach Phase II.

Assistant City Manager Schrader said approximately \$250,000 was allocated to Mercer Beach Phase II and approximately \$80,000 was allocated to E. Walled Lake Drive. Mr. Schrader said the City was not awarded those grants. Mr. Schrader said according to last year's audit, the fund balance will be approximately 1.3 Million dollars.

5. Beach Improvements

Managing Director Jaquays said while the bids for Mercer Beach Phase II Improvements were exorbitantly high, the City still plans on moving forward with aesthetic enhancements to the beach. Ms. Jaquays said the City is reviewing the trash receptacles to get a more uniform look across all the City's parks. Ms. Jaquays said her and City Manager Whitt noticed patio furniture that was left on the beach; DPW Superintendent Ladd was able to remove the furniture.

Mr. Whitt said his concern with an increase in outdoor furniture is that the beach will become a homeless site. Mr. Whitt said the beach looks very good with the removal of the fencing; the beach is open for people to view the lake.

WARRANT REPORT:

**DDA 04-05- 23 APPROVAL TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE WARRANT FOR
MARCH 2023**

Motion by Lublin, supported by Ackley: CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To receive and file the warrant for March 2023

DDA BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

DDA Board Member Johnston said the Walled Lake Civic Fund is considering the idea of including drones in the firework show. Mr. Johnston said he is interested in getting the board's feedback.

ADJOURNMENT:

DDA 04-06- 23 ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Blair, seconded by Ackley; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To adjourn the meeting at 5:05 PM.



Hana Jaquays
DDA Managing Director



Steve Blair
DDA Chairman