



**CITY OF WALLED LAKE
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2015**

The Meeting was called to order at 4:08 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Ambrose, Lublin, Marshall, Shuman, Wlodarczyk, Allen, Blair

ABSENT: Kimmel, Ramsey, Ackley

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Executive Director Whitt, DDA Deputy Managing Director Rodgers, Finance Director Coogan, Council Member Robertson

REQUESTS FOR AGENDA CHANGES: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

DDA 10-01-15 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 11, 2015 MEETING SUBJECT TO CHANGES

Motion by Allen, supported by Blair: **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:** To approve the Minutes from the August 11, 2015 meeting subject to changes

DDA Board Member Lublin asked to make changes to roll call to the August 11, 2015 minutes, he was absent that meeting.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Sue Helke said in 1999 the City Council established the Walled Lake Historical Commission and for the last 16 years there has been nothing done. She stated a year ago the Historical Commission made Darlene Williams, from the library, a Commissioner and since then she has been trying to get on the City Council agenda. She said she really likes history and knows that Walled Lake has a lot of interesting history and the City is losing it. She said the City has the Foster Farmhouse sitting there basically doing nothing. She said the Commerce area Historical Commission has lost their 503-C status. She said Sharon Welch Gardener who Welch Road is named after and her dad use to collect a lot of things having to do with Walled Lake history and she had to move and did not have a lot of space and gave Sue two boxes of stuff because she had no one else to give it to. She said she went to Darlene and attending the last few Historical Commission meetings. She said her vision and Darlene's vision is to link up with the Walled Lake Historical Commission, the Commerce area Historical Society, the Foster Farmhouse people, and the DDA. She said she thinks they all have a vested interest on what is going on. She said the Walled Lake Historical Commission is hosting a meeting with Linda Ackley on October 20th, next Tuesday here at Council Chambers and would like to invite anyone who is interested in attending and would like to see this thing get off the ground. She said the Foster Farmhouse had

a fundraiser on Sunday at Stonecrest and hardly anyone came. She said they have been asking to be put on the marquee. She said she doesn't see where their things can be posted.

DDA Board Member Blair asked where the Historical stuff from the DDA office and where it is.

Sue Helke said a lot of stuff is stored at the library. She said that Darlene some day would like to use the upstairs of the Foster Farmhouse to store artifacts. She said they just went in last week and looked at it and raccoons are in it and a great hole in the roof. She said it is going to disappear. She said they can see daylight through it and raccoons. She said Darlene is having a hard time getting people to the meetings. She said she thinks the more people that show up we can get something off the ground.

DDA Board Member Blair asked what she plans on doing with the Historical Commission.

Sue Helke said she is going to talk to as many people she can at the Commerce Historical Society there are still people who would like to see some activity with that. She said she has reached out to people at Foster Farmhouse and if we all join hands and share resources we can protect what is left of Walled Lake's history.

DDA Board Member Allen said there is a fellow who lives on the lake and he lives in the purple gang old house and he has so much stuff on Walled Lake.

Executive Director Whitt said he has listened to Sue Helke talk about the progress of the Foster Farmhouse and he has been here for five (5) years and the only people he saw work on the Farmhouse, who tried to fix it, were Council Members and that was Owsinek, the Mayor, and Robertson. He said all the people who wanted to get involved with the warm and fuzzies they did not show up and get their hands dirty. He said it is a slow process and a lot of money has come and gone. He said the Historical Commission is an independent organization which was created from his reading of the history it was created to keep it away. He said the Historic Commission is not what you think it is suppose to be and it is not a Historical Society; it was never created for the sole purpose of collecting documents. He stated if the City wants to create a Historical Society and fund it in some way then they can do that but that was never the 1977 law that was adopted from Farmington and it was created to preserve some of the homes. He said the Historical Commission does not have the legal authority to have a budget and to administer their own budget because they are not an independent board, like the library.

Sue Helke said the Historical Commission is waiting for some direction from the Mayor. She said if the Mayor makes it clear of what we are thinking is not allowed to be done, then the Historical Commission can form a private society and we don't have to wait for the City.

Chairman Ambrose said that might be their best direction.

Executive Director Whitt said the meeting with the Mayor is not a City meeting. He stated the Mayor agreed to meet with some people. He said the Mayor makes nomination to the Board and Commissions and the Boards and Commission do not get to tell the Mayor who to appoint or when.

I. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

II. NEW BUSINESS:

III. OTHER BUSINESS:

A. Planning and Development Report

B. Promotion Committee Report – Co-Chair E. Marshall and Wlodarczyk

C. Executive Director Report

Executive Director Whitt said in the old Salvation Army Plaza and Harbor Freight is going in there. He said that Club Inferno was knocked down yesterday and the other building will be demoed on Friday. He said for Planning Commission has Shuman garage addition to his original site at 1111 S. Commerce. He said the City is still losing tax dollars on the Walled Lake Plaza but the City is fighting the appeal to Oakland County. He said Bayside for the first time has paid off their taxes. He said Bayside did pay part of their water bill as well. He said what the new council will have to decide is how many times the City warns people for not paying their bills. He said CAYA Restaurant has not paid their sewer bill and owe \$17,000. He said the problem in Walled Lake is the tax reductions and because of the ceiling that is in and the City does not get that back any time soon. He said some people have said the City Council have raised taxes and that is not true, they have never raised taxes but Council did offer the residents an opportunity to maintain public safety and Council put that on the ballot. He stated again that City Council has never raised taxes and in fact the City is losing tax dollars because of the devaluation, he stated many homes have dropped in value. He said it will be hard to get that money back.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE: None

V. CONSIDERATION OF WARRANT:

DDA 10-02-15 APPROVAL OF THE WARRANT FOR AUGUST 2015

Motion by Lublin, supported by Shuman: CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To approve the warrant for August 2015

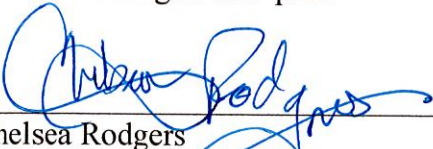
DDA 10-03-15 APPROVAL OF THE WARRANT FOR SEPTEMBER 2015

Motion by Lublin, supported by Blair: CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To approve the warrant for September 2015

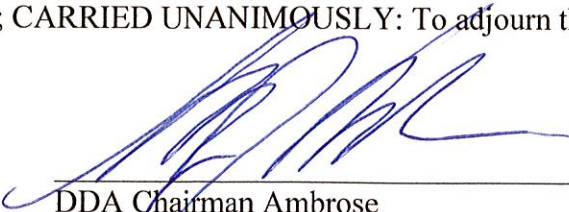
VI. ADJOURNMENT:

DDA 10-04-15 ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Lublin, seconded by Shuman; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To adjourn the meeting at 4:39 p.m.



Chelsea Rodgers
Deputy Managing Director



DDA Chairman Ambrose