



CITY OF WALLED LAKE
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 2019

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

ROLL CALL: Allen, Atwell, Ambrose, Blair, Fernandes, Lublin, Marshal

ABSENT: Ackley, Easter, Shuman, Wlodarczyk

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Recording Secretary Gross, Council Member Robertson, Planning Commissioner Wolfson

REQUESTS FOR AGENDA CHANGES:

DDA Member Fernandes requested to add Board Member Comments to the agenda, after Audience Participation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

DDA 06-01-19 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MAY 14, 2019 MEETING

Motion by Fernandes, supported by Lublin: CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To approve the minutes from the May 14, 2019 meeting.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Neil Wolfson, 565 Winwood Ct. – Suggested that someone give an update on Decker Road.

City Manager Whitt explained the DDA Board decided they were going to use DDA funding to match a grant to redo Decker Road. Mr. Whitt explained that the DDA Board had made a finding and had determined that Decker Road is a gateway to the City of Walled Lake's Downtown District. Mr. Whitt opined that repaving Decker Road, a gateway, will improve downtown development. Mr. Whitt stated that the gateways to the city are what keeps the City's business district alive. Mr. Whitt explained that the DDA Board had made the decision within their authority for funding the match for the Decker Road Improvement Project, and then forwarded it to the City Council for approval of a budget amendment. The city attorney approved that budget amendment for legal sufficiency.

Mr. Whitt explained that in order to decide what DDA funds are used for, one has to be a voting member of the Walled Lake DDA. Mr. Whitt explained that he was surprised a City Council member criticized the funding match for Decker Road as part of his own political agenda. Mr. Whitt explained that the DDA Board members made an appropriate finding and legal decision, that was approved by legal counsel. City Manager Whitt opined that anyone criticizing the DDA Member for making this finding is creating political fodder and that is wrong. Mr. Whitt opined that the council member knows it's wrong to make that criticism because he doesn't have the educational background to give a legal opinion. Mr. Whitt opined that the City Attorney would have advised the DDA Board and City Council if their decision was inappropriate.

DDA Member Lublin mentioned over the last 5 years the board has saved 1.8 million dollars and the board is now carefully deciding how best use DDA funds.

DDA Chairman Ambrose pointed out to the DDA Board that the school property is for sale and said he wants to paint the best picture possible to get developers to come look at the property. Chairman Ambrose said if the DDA doesn't help with the funding to fix Decker Road, he believes this will deter developers. Mr. Ambrose said roads, sidewalks, streetlights, and marketing for our website are all things the DDA are spending funding on in order to improve the DDA district.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

DDA board member Fernandes said she understands the city council has taken up the issue of some negativity in our community. She said that she has been on the board now for 2 ½ years and most of it has been dealing with the negativity and negating that. Ms. Fernandes said now that it is out of the DDA's hands and city council is dealing with it, she would like the board to be able to focus on leading positivity into the community. Ms. Fernandes said she is tired of having to re-educate because of the negativity that is out there. She said she encourages the DDA members to be the ambassador for the city. She said she wants to encourage everyone on the DDA board to be the ambassadors of our community and spread positivity. She said she would like to see people on the board saying nice things about Walled Lake because we are doing great things. Ms. Fernandes said the city is taking care of Tri-A, taking care of Decker Road, and there are construction projects downtown. She said she just wants to make sure the board is being as positive as they can. She said the board should be talking to people in the community every chance they get and say good things about what the DDA and city are doing.

DDA board member Blair said we need to publicize all the good things the DDA has accomplished. He said the community isn't aware of all the good that has been done and he said the board needs to do a better job of promoting that. Mr. Blair said the City Manager has done great things for the city since he has been here, but nobody talks about that. Mr. Blair said this is the first year the DDA has really had money to do things with and the board is planning on doing more good things for the community. Mr. Blair said all the negativity being spread is counterproductive.

DDA Chairman Ambrose said he spoke to a young man who helps with Farmington Hills website. He said he does it very economically. Mr. Ambrose said he would like to set up a meeting with him and other DDA member to help the City of Walled Lake keep the positive information out there. He said we have good things going on and we need to keep the community informed.

Mr. Whitt agreed with what board member Fernandes said. Mr. Whitt said this is the year the board gets to spend some of the money saved. Mr. Whitt said this money wasn't saved by accident, it was a tough call and now the board is going to be able to spend some money to get things done.

Mindy Fernandes asked city administration to provide the board a list of accomplishments within the last year. She said she would like to promote to the public everything the DDA has accomplished.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Update - Beach Party

Ms. Gross said the city just had the last beach party meeting on Wednesday, June 5th. She said the entertainment is booked and we have a banner on the website advertising each band. Ms. Gross said the photo booth and face painter are also booked. She said flyers have been distributed and the event is on the marquee sign. Ms. Gross said the banner went up today, above our city welcome sign and the t-shirts are in the process of being made. Ms. Gross said we have multiple businesses that have sponsored the beach party this year and a banner on our website recognizing them all. She said city administration is just finishing up last minute tasks but other than that the city is ready.

NEW BUSINESS: None

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:

1. Nonpoint Source Grant

Mr. Whitt said this is the third time we have applied for the Nonpoint Source Grant and unfortunately, the city was denied again. He said this just means other communities took higher priority. Mr. Whitt said this doesn't mean the city will quit trying for grants. He said the city is always trying and re-applying.

2. The Walled Lake Community (JET) Theater

Mr. Whitt said attended the opening night of the Walled Lake Community (JET) Theater along with 100 plus folks. Mr. Whitt said the theater is located at 1124 E. West Maple. Mr. Whitt said the building was previously empty for probably 9 years. Mr. Whitt said patrons were served

dinner and then were able to watch the show--The Odd Couple. Mr. Whitt said the JET Executive Director, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and the Director of the program were all there. Mr. Whitt explained that the Community Theater Director has been running the theater over in West Bloomfield, and the Theater has a history going back for 30 years. Mr. Whitt said everything was absolutely fantastic and recommended everyone on the board go and see a show this month.

3. CORRESPONDENCE: None

4. WARRANT REPORT:

DDA 06-02-19 APPROVAL TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE WARRANT FOR MAY 2019

Motion by Lublin, supported by Blair: CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To receive and file the warrant for May 2019.

5. ADJOURNMENT:

DDA 06-03-19 ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Lublin, seconded by Ambrose; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To adjourn the meeting at 4:42 p.m.



Miranda Gross
Deputy Clerk



Casey Ambrose
DDA Chairman