



CITY OF WALLED LAKE
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 2018

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

ROLL CALL: Allen, Ambrose, Fernandes, Lublin, Marshal, Wlodarczyk

ABSENT: Ackley, Blair, Easter, Maurer, Shuman

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Executive Director Whitt, Finance Director Coogan, Treasurer Barlass, Police Chief Shakinas, Council Member Costanzo

REQUESTS FOR AGENDA CHANGES: None

DDA 06-01-18 MOTION TO EXCUSE BOARD MEMBERS ACKLEY, BLAIR, EASTER, MAURER AND SHUMAN

Motion by Allen, seconded by Fernandes, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To excuse DDA Board Members Ackley, Blair, Easter, Maurer and Shuman.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

DDA 06-02-18 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MAY 8, 2018 MEETING

Motion by Lublin, supported by Fernandes: CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To approve the minutes from the May 8, 2018 meeting.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Council Member Costanzo – said he is a City Council Member but said he is at the DDA meeting as a private citizen. Mr. Costanzo explained that the Trailway will be part of Pure Michigan initiative. Mr. Costanzo opined the trail would bring people to Walled Lake with the trail head being a main point and the trail impacts the community because people are going to move to the City. Mr. Costanzo said the Trail would increase property values and help the tax structure and uncap taxes and that the trail is expensive but is for the long-term. Mr. Costanzo opined that cost is important but there are ways to offset the cost. Mr. Costanzo said there is money from the state and that Home Depot offers a program. Mr. Costanzo said he is thinking globally long-term there is a new industry coming in starting on April 2nd and it will transform our community quite a bit, the trail would be a game changer and be everlasting.

DDA Chairman Ambrose said he hopes the City gets a good bump from the trail because the DDA Board and City Council were sold that the trail was a “no cost to the taxpayers” and get all these grants. Chairman Ambrose said there was discussion from some residents about the cost of the trail and the number of residents that may or may not want the trail. Mr. Ambrose said the discussion was to put the trail on the ballot and let the residents vote if they want to vote for a half million-dollar increase. Mr. Ambrose said this is an opportunity to see which residents want to spend that kind of money on an existing trail as oppose to the neighboring communities and communities from afar coming into the city and running it up the pole. Mr. Ambrose said this is a change to take the temperature of the residents if they are okay spending that amount of money.

DDA Board Member Lublin said there is no doubt that there is going to be a trail, the trail is there now. Mr. Lublin said it is all about the design and where the costs go for the design, but it is not costing zero like it was peddled to the City Council.

Executive Director Whitt opined that he has been studying the trail for eight (8) years and knows as much as anyone because he sat on the trailway board and has appointed other people to sit on the Board. Mr. Whitt said when he was appointed eight years ago it was stated that the trail was a no cost to the City and the residents. Mr. Whitt said that the no cost to the residents is not true, it has cost millions to the taxpayers. Mr. Whitt stated that had the City Administration not fought the fight, Walled Lake would be paying 1/3 of the cost for Commerce Township’s bridge. Mr. Whitt said the bridge has cost so much money, it has taken money away from funding of the rehabilitation of the Walled Lake depot station. Mr. Whitt said there is a trail, but the trail’s construction cost is getting kicked up because of the neighboring communities’ demands for more. Mr. Whitt opined that the trailhead is not going to get improved by outside funding and the City taxpayers are going to spend another half-million to fix the trailhead. Mr. Whitt said this was peddled from the beginning as a no cost to the taxpayers.

Mr. Whitt explained the problem for the DDA is being truthful and transparent to the residents about what the trail is actually costing and why elected and appointed officials are not fixing South Commerce, Decker Road, purchasing the much need pumper truck, why the infrastructure for the City is not being repaired but instead making a nice trail because there was hope the other communities would send their people here to do business. Mr. Whitt said the trail was peddled wrong and the things that should be fixed are: South Commerce Road, Decker Road and a pumper truck for the residents. Mr. Whitt said as the manager he is opposed to the trail costs. Mr. Whitt said the City should be paying our share based on population. Mr. Whitt said the record needs to be clear, it does cost the taxpayer and to peddle it any other way is misleading it is not transparent it is not what should be done; the City’s infrastructure is collapsing.

1. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: 1.) Discussion on Main Street (& Presentation)

2. NEW BUSINESS:

1.) Aetna Bearings Company

DDA Chairman Ambrose said Aetna Bearings Company is interested in coming to Walled Lake. Mr. Ambrose said through conversations with the City and agreeing to help Aetna Bearings with the transition, the Company is coming to the City. Mr. Ambrose said that Aetna Bearings Company will bring jobs and development. DDA Chairman Ambrose said on behalf of the DDA he wrote the company a letter saying the DDA and the City is here to work with the Company and make the transition easy.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Update – Beach Party

DDA Managing Director Pesta said the event is a week away from the Walled Lake Civic Fund Fireworks and Beach Party. Ms. Pesta said there are 38 vendors currently, the bands are set, and the letters and map will be sent to the participants. Ms. Pesta said the road closures and parking restrictions have been mailed to the residents.

DDA Board Member Lublin said there are still Adirondack chairs are still available for \$50 and DPW will pick up the chairs.

2. Lil Nels 20th Anniversary

DDA Managing Director Pesta said last weekend Lil Nels celebrated their 20th anniversary at Sims Park. Ms. Pesta said the park was full of people and pets. Ms. Pesta said the event was a huge success.

DDA Board Member Marshal said there was a minister there that did a blessing of the pets. Mr. Marshal said Shelly the skunk was there.

Executive Director Whitt said it was like a City event. Mr. Whitt said it was full and he had to move his car, so people could come in.

Executive Director Whitt said for planning commission tonight there is a PUD proposal that will be discussed again at the meeting. Mr. Whitt said to expect opposition, the applicant has made a lot of changes to meet the concerns of the residents and has presented more than 1 sheet to go before the planning commission tonight. Mr. Whitt said some of the opposition has been unreasonable with their demands. Mr. Whitt said the case is up for some serious discussion.

3. CORRESPONDENCE: None

4. CONSIDERATION OF WARRANT:

**DDA 06-03-18 APPROVAL TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE WARRANT FOR MAY
2018:**

Motion by Lublin, supported by Wlodarczyk: CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To approve the warrant for May2018.

5. ADJOURNMENT:

DDA 06-04-18 ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Lublin, seconded by Fernandes; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To adjourn the meeting at 4:34 p.m.

Chelsea Pesta
DDA Managing Director

Casey Ambrose
DDA Chairman