

**City of Ypsilanti**  
**Downtown Development Authority**  
**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**Virtual Meeting June 23, 2020 - 8:30 a.m.**

The Mission of the Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority (YDDA) is to undertake district-wide improvements that have the greatest impact in strengthening the downtown areas and attracting new business. The primary goal of the YDDA is to implement positive economic, physical, aesthetic, and community changes in each of our four districts.

- Call to Order

- Roll Call

Beth Bashert	A	Ylondia Portis	P (8:35)
Kayia Robinson	P	Athena Johnson	A
Andy French	P	Danielle Milner (C)	P
Dieter Otto	A	Ben Harrington	A
Paul Ajlouny	P	Jen Eastridge	P
Patton Doyle	P	Brian Jones Chance	P

- Introductions

- Approval of Agenda (X\*)

*Motion to approve the agenda by Andy French. Jen Eastridge supported the motion. Motion passed - unanimous.*

- Approval of June 18th, 2020 Minutes (X\*)

The motion to approve the minutes was delayed to the end of the meeting. (Minutes were not voted on).

- Public Comment (3 minutes each) n/a

- Staff Report/Financial Report (X) n/a

Washington Street has closed as of noon yesterday for the patio extensions.

- Standing Committee Reports

- Grants Committee Recommendations

The DDA board reviewed the recommendations from the Grants Committee.

Expansions 25%-75% match depending on the applicants ask.

An additional \$1,400 from fund balance will need to be used to cover the downtown grants, after the 2021 facade and rehab grant is used.

Grant Projects Outstanding:

101 W Michigan

100 W Michigan

Ypsilanti Food Cooperative

Michigan Heritage

All have had delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff will be working with the MEDC on ensuring the funding will be available.

*Jen Eastridge motioned to approve grant extensions to September 1st, 2020 for 101 W. Michigan, 100 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti Food Cooperative, and Michigan Heritage. Brian Jones-Chance supported the motion. Motion passed- unanimous.*

- New Business

- FY 2020-2021 Grant Approvals

*Ylondia Portis motioned to approve approve the grants as recommended by the grants committee as follows*

*217 W Michigan Ave- \$6,750 (facade grant).*

*Ypsi Alehouse - \$6,468*

*Ziggys- \$4,592*

*Encuentro Latino Restaurante- \$900*

*Back Office Studio- \$1500*

*Red Rock - \$1,529.25*

*Tower Inn- \$12,735*

*Supported by Jen Eastridge. Motion passed- unanimous.*

*Andy French motioned to approve the outdoor seating expansion grant to Sweetwaters Cafe for \$4,376.25 and Patton Doyle supported the motion.*

*Paul Ajlouny recused himself from the vote.*

*Motion passed - unanimous.*

- Special Event Funding Approvals

Depot Town Street expansion funding - Jessica French presented a plan to enhance the closed streets by enhancing ambiance and to help fund programming for entertainment. Depot Town is requesting \$3,200 from the DDA.

A social distancing plan was discussed.

*Ylondia Portis motioned to approve the \$3,200 sponsorship for Depot Town street expansion programming.*

*Andy French recused himself from the vote.*

*Jen Eastridge supported the motion. Motion passed- unanimous.*

Riverside Arts Center-

Elisa Guyton and Gina Thompspon made their second presentation. They are looking to host a few nights of entertainment on Washington street, and help bring their staff back to work. They plan to provide a local Food truck and other activities as well at the RAC parking lot.

Staff reminded the applicant that permitted parking needs to be honored until 6pm. Andy French stated concerns about bringing in a food truck and the DDA funding it. They are asking for \$5,000.

*Ylondia Portis motioned to approve a \$5,000 sponsorship for Riverside Arts Center. The money is not be used for a food truck. Brian Jones-Chance supported the motion.*

Andy French asked about the DDA's budget. Is there more money available for special events Downtown and who misses out?

Staff confirmed that this would be the entire 2020/21 budget for special events. First Fridays Ypsilanti was ready to ask for sponsorship in April, but were discouraged in doing so because of the pandemic, and will be coming to the DDA in July. Ziggys as well as others may also apply for funding.

*The motion has been removed from the table until more sponsorship requests are heard, and a solution is made.*

The board wants to see a breakdown of costs.

- Old Business n/a
- Public Comment (3 minutes each) n/a

Next Meeting: TBD

Key: (\*) = items requiring Board action (X) = documents attached in board packet