

**City of Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority
Board of Directors Meeting Agenda
Virtual Meeting
Thursday, May 21st, 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.

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

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

- **Introductions**

- **Approval of Agenda (X*)**

*Motion to approve the agenda by Dieter Otto, and supported by Paul Ajlouny.
Motion passed – unanimous.*

- **Approval of April 16th, 2020 Minutes (X*)**

Motion to approve the April 16th, 2020 minutes by Beth Bashert, and supported by Jen Eastridge. Motion passed – unanimous.

- **Public Comment (3 minutes each)**

John Newman- Back Office Studios – supports the Washington Street closures.

- **Staff Report/Financial Report (X)**

Staff reported updates about the RAC sale and the MEDC. There are grant agreement extensions for 101 W. Michigan.

- **Standing Committee Reports**

- **Operations and Finance Committee**

Andy French reported the that op/fin discussed the movie series, approved the recommendation of the landscaping proposal as written, and spoke about the COVID-19 DDA Survey results.

- **New Business**

- **COVID-19 Business Survey Results (X)**

So far, there have been 42 survey responses. 150 surveys were sent out via email and direct facebook reach-outs. Staff encouraged any business owner that hasn't responded yet, to do so. 86% of the survey responses were located in DDA. Downtown provided most responses. 80% expected to reopen immediately or a few weeks after the stay at home order is lifted. 17 of 42 have received state or federal aid so far. PPP funding has been expanded since the survey went out.

- **COVID-19 Street Closure and Parking Space Proposal (X*)**

City Council spoke about a closure at their meeting earlier this week and had cautious consensus for the closure. Businesses are looking to expand the footprint of usable space. The closure as of now would be from Rice to River Street, N. Washington and S. Washington. The closure would last until September 8th.

Staff asked DDA board to sign the permit for closure.

The DDA would cover the cost of parking space revenue taken by the closures.

Ylondia Portis reported on the feedback from DAY. They would like seating to be communal. There is concern with panhandling. Will there be security? Is there going to be a COVID cleaning from the city? Can we tent the street?

Andy French stated that communal seating is a major liability to the businesses. If we allow it, what business is on the hook if someone gets sick? Also, it is not legal yet to move freely with an alcoholic beverage. He would be cautious about expecting sanitation from the city. It should be the responsibility of the business owner.

Ylondia Portis stated that if the DDA closes Washington St. and controlled sanitation, there is an opportunity to take more of a leadership role

Beth Bashert is not sure if it is legally possible to have communal seating. Decisions should be made based on health concerns and legalities.

Brian Jones-Change brought up some concerns with occupancy and spaces that would have to be delineated.

Andy French talked about up north. The governor has no occupancy limit outside just social distancing requirements. Indoor occupancy is 50%. There is lobbying to rid of 50% and stick to 6 ft distancing.

Questions about deliveries were discussed.

What about animals? This needs to be checked in on with the health department.

Andy French motioned to support the E. Cross, Washington Street, and parking space closures for expanded seating areas. Dieter Otto supported the motion. Motion passed- unanimous.

- **COVID-19 Peer Outreach (X)**

Patton Doyle spoke about the peer outreach program that encourages business owners and DDA members to reach out and provide resources with other business owners. He is looking for members from E. Cross and W. Cross to participate.

- **Match on Main (X*)**

Op/fin committee considered a covid 19 grant relief program, but this opportunity came after the meeting.

There is funding from the MEDC to give COVID-19 relief money to DDA businesses.

Staff is asking for a motion for the DDA to apply for to the \$50,000 program.

The board discussed eligibility, number of employees, and conflict of interest.

Jen Eastridge motioned to apply for \$50,000 from the Match on Main Street Grant, and Patton Doyle supported the motion. Motion passed – unanimous.

- **Landscaping Contract (X*)**

The contract is identical to last years contract. The DDA pays WhCannon \$32,870 annually.

Brian Jones-Chance motioned that the landscaping contract from WHCannon for 2020 be approved. Paul Ajlouny supported the motion. Motion passed- unanimous.

- **Maple St Lot Intergovernmental Agreement (X*)**

Andy French stated that if parking enforcement is not enforcing, the DDA should be paying less.

Christopher Jacobs replied that the DDA is only paying once kiosks are in, and we hope for end of summer installation and enforcement.

Patton Doyle motioned to execute the Intergovernmental Agreement for the Maple Street Lot.

A friendly amendment by Danielle Milner- that enforcement not start until September 8th.

Andy French would not support the friendly amendment.

Patton Doyle motioned to execute the Intergovernmental Agreement for the Maple Street Lot contingent on the date that enforcement resumes and parking equipment is fully installed. Andy French supported the motion. Motion passed- unanimous.

YDDA Summer Movie Series (X*)

Staff presented the movie series. We have the budget to do a few films drive-in style over the summer.

Brian Jones-Chance suggested the movies wait until August or September.

Andy French would like to see a contract where the DDA can back out at no cost. We don't know when or if the stay-at-home order will be changed or put back into place.

Beth Bashert would like to consider the first film in July.

Richard Paul from the equipment rental company confirmed that postponement is possible for equipment but not necessarily for movie rights.

Brian Jones-Chance motioned to approve two movies for \$3,000 for the summer movie series. Dieter Otto supported the motion. Motion passed- unanimous.

- **Old Business**
- **Staff Updates**
- **Public Comment (3 minutes each)**

John Newman is impressed with the landscapers. Would like the pollinator garden to get cleaned up.

Todd Girtis also supported the work of the landscaping company.

- **Announcements/Comments**

Next Meeting: June 18th, 8:30 a.m., VIRTUAL MEETING

Key: (*) = items requiring Board action

(X) = documents attached in board packet

