

**City of Ypsilanti
Downtown Development Authority
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Virtual Meeting Thursday, September 17, 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

Patton Doyle	P	Ylondia Portis	P
Kayia Hinton	P	Athena Johnson	A
Andy French	P	Danielle Milner (C)	P
Dieter Otto	P	Jen Eastridge	A
Paul Ajlouny	P	Alex Merz	P
Lois Allen Richardson	P		

• Approval of Agenda (X*)

Andy French motioned to approve the agenda, and Alex Merz supported the motion. Motion passed - unanimous.

• Approval of Minutes (X*)

Andy French motioned to approve the August 20, 2020 minutes and Lois Allen Richardson supported the motion. Motion passed - unanimous.

• Public Comment (3 minutes each) n/a

• Staff Report/Financial Report

Business closings this month include Ypsi Studio and Enchanted Florist.

• Standing Committee Reports

o Operations and Finance Committee

West Cross Alley Reconstruction Project (X)

Andy French is very happy about the W. Cross alley, and reiterated that it is a core function of a DDA to focus on these sorts of improvements.

Michigan Main Street Program

Staff gave an update on the Main Street Program. New rule changes allow our unique DDA to participate. Next steps are a communications plan, budget plan, and a training series

(X) • New Business:

o Election of Officers

Election of officers will take place next month. Electing a Chair, Vice Chair, and a Treasurer. There will be a strategic visioning session as well.

o 100 W Michigan Grant Extension (*)

Andy French motioned to extend 100 W. Michigan facade grant deadline to a hard deadline on March 1, 2021. Dieter Otto supported the motion. Motion passed- unanimous.

o Special Event Sponsorship- 734 Brewery (X*)

734 is hosting an event organized by an outside organization. Heather Weilnau of 734 presented.

They are asking for support to pay musical performances, sound engineer, patio canopy, and video equipment.

Andy French would like to see the items purchased by the DDA to lease to different businesses instead of paying for rentals.

Andy French motioned to recommend approval of \$1050 for the event sponsorship for specific items listed in the proposal. Kayia Hinton supported the motion. Alex Merz abstained from the vote. Motion passed- unanimous.

o Parking Validation (X)

Parking Manager Bonnie Wessler presented information regarding parking validation using QR Codes with the new system the city will be incorporating with the new parking kiosks.

This is for when paid parking comes back online projected mid-October.

Any business owner can get ahead and look into the system, the system is active.

There is a communication plan using mail and social media announcements. September 28th is the current date that tickets will be issued for new posted time limits.

There was a request for signage for businesses that say “hey we’re starting parking enforcement”.

Permit parking pass purchase has been shifted online. Bonnie Wessler asked that business owners please try the system by buying passes online.

o Holiday Lighting in the Districts (X*)

The prices listed are high, but over time, it will save the DDA money. The lights stay up and are maintained by the company, instead of yearly reinstallation which ends up being most of the cost.

Staff wants the board to look over the proposals, but focus on the Depot Town tree lighting for this vote. The rest of the holiday lights this year can be worked into our current IGA, but the IGA does not cover the Depot Town Tree lighting.

Patton Doyle motioned to approve \$3328 for the lighting of the Depot Town Tree By Holiday Light Express. Andy French supported the motion. Motion passed- unanimous.

o Maple Street Parking Lot (X*)

Christopher Jacobs explained that we bought the Maple Street Lot by a quick claim deed in the 90s. We are looking to do title work and survey work for due diligence. The sidewalks need to be extended.

Patton Doyle motioned to approve \$2,500 for survey work on the Maple Street lot. Lois Allen Richardson supported the motion. Motion passed- unanimous.

- **Proposed Business:** n/a

- **Audience Participation:**

Lamar Weir from Congresswoman Dingle's office. Asked for a clarification of the Maple Street and Holiday lighting votes.

- **Adjourn**

Key: * = items requiring Committee action (X) = documents attached in packet