

MINUTES
DDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING Meeting
8:30 AM - Thursday, February 18, 2021
Virtual

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

PATTON DOYLE	P	(City of Ypsilanti, Washtenaw Cty.)
YLONDIA PORTIS	P	(8:40am after roll call)
KAYIA HINTON	P	(8:52am after roll call)
ATHENA JOHNSON	A	
ANDY FRENCH	P	(Scio Township, Washtenaw Cty.)
DANIELLE MILNER (C)	P	(City of Ypsilanti, Washtenaw Cty.)
DIETER OTTO	P	(City of Ypsilanti, Washtenaw Cty.)
JEN EASTRIDGE	P	(City of Ypsilanti, Washtenaw Cty.)
PAUL AJLOUNY	P	(City of Ann Arbor, Washtenaw Cty.)
LOIS ALLEN RICHARDSON	A	
ALEX MERZ	P	(City of Ypsilanti, Washtenaw Cty.)

3. AGENDA APPROVAL

Staff added an amendment to remove item 8.1 EOS N Adams Security Camera Quote.

Dieter Otto motioned to approve the agenda as amended, and Alex Merz supported the motion. Motion passed - unanimous.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jen Eastridge motioned to approve the January 21, 2021 minutes, and Dieter Otto supported the motion. Motion passed - unanimous.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES EACH)- n/a

6. STAFF REPORT/FINANCIAL REPORT

Staff presented the staff and financial reports in the packet to the board.

7. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

7.1. Operations and Finance Committee

Andy French updated the board about the Operations and Finance Committee meeting. One item that did not come to the board is the Maple Street Lot IGA renewal. The committee was comfortable with keeping it as is.

7.2. YDDA Officer Report December

Staff read off the DDA Officer Report. We expect to see these reports monthly now.

7.3. Street Closure Update

The street closure for North and South Washington, and East Cross was approved by Council for May 15 through October 16th.

Dave Roberts of Ypsi Alehouse is petitioning for an extension of the street closure.

7.4. RAC Rental Memo

Ylondia Portis reported that the RAC board was working diligently to get back into the swing of things. Deferral is well thought out based on their strategy. They have a plan of action. Patton Doyle added that the RAC board is trying to figure out how to spend their grants. It is not clear if they can use either for rent.

Danielle Milner asked if they applied for the PPP Loan with the lease payment in mind.

Chris Jacobs stated that the DDA needs to know what they are asking for by March so that we are ready for that request.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.2. 2021-2022 FY Budget for Adoption

Jen Eastridge asked for a refresher on the Community health line item. It's from the DDA Police officer refund.

Alex Merz motioned that the DDA board approve the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year Budget. Kayia Hinton supported the motion. Ylondia Portis abstained from the vote. Motion passed- unanimous.

8.3. First Fridays Special Event Sponsorship

Mary Dettling of First Fridays Ypsilanti presented the 2021 FFY season.

Ylondia Portis asked for FFY to submit a written out diversity plan.

First Fridays Ypsilanti agreed to provide a Diversity and Inclusion statement and plan.

Jen Eastridge motioned to approve a \$10,000 sponsorship for First Fridays Ypsilanti. Friendly amendment by Patton Doyle: subject to receipt of inclusion and equity provided to staff prior to review for the next board meeting. Kayia Hinton abstained from the vote as a First Fridays Ypsilanti Board member. Motion passed- unanimous.

8.4. N Huron Parking Lot Billboard

Jen Eastridge suggested a committee be formed related to the billboard project.

Staff stated that the talks of taking over the billboard lease is still very early.

9. PROPOSED BUSINESS

Street closure extension request Downtown. Dave Roberts' letter to City Council.

Dave Roberts of Ypsi Alehouse is requesting that the DDA revisit the closure and advocate for the extension on their behalf.

Patton Doyle motioned to add the street closure extension letter to proposed business. Dieter Otto supported the motion.

Andy French proposed to amend the letter to include Depot Town.

Patton Doyle withdrew the motion.

Sidewalk dining is currently allowed.

Dave Roberts is worried about going back into extension talks including Depot Town.

Other towns are extending street closures.

Ylondia Portis motioned that the DDA sign on to a letter of support of extending the street closures if it is brought to council by a third party. Patton Doyle supported the motion.

Danielle Milner feels like we are hiding behind someone else's letter

Andy French is concerned about signing off on a letter that we haven't read yet.

Patton Doyle withdrew support for the motion. Motion fails.

David Roberts- Ypsilanti Alehouse - stated that there wasn't an advocate for business in that city council meeting. He has Washington Street merchants willing to speak to council members.

10. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Lamar weir- Debbie Dingell's office in Ypsilanti - clarifying questions.

11. ADJOURNMENT