

**City of Flint Downtown Development Authority  
 Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Board of Directors  
 February 26, 2020  
 502 Church Street, Flint, Michigan**

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Mayor Sheldon Neely, Chairperson	<b>X</b>	
Inez Brown		<b>X</b>
Loyst Fletcher, Jr., Vice Chairperson and Personnel & Finance Chair		<b>X</b>
John Gazall, Design Chair	<b>X</b>	
Louis Hawkins, Secretary	<b>X</b>	
Jonathan Hardman, Marketing & Promotions Chair		<b>X</b>
Glen Kelly	<b>X</b>	
Robert Kittel	<b>X</b>	
Brandee Brown	<b>X</b>	
Adrian Walker	<b>X</b>	
Greg Viener, Treasurer	<b>X</b>	

**Others Attending:** Gerard Burnash-Executive Director, DDA; DDA, Damion Frasier, Shedd-Frasier PLC; Sheri Sprygada, Taylor & Morgan; Heather Kale, Citizen; Khalfani Stephens, City of Flint

A. Call to Order:

Mayor Sheldon Neeley, Chairperson, declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order in DDA's Conference Room at 7:43 a.m.

B. Opportunity for Public to Address the Board: None.

C. Approval of Minutes:

Upon motion by Greg Viener, supported by John Gazall, the DDA Board unanimously approved the minutes for February 22, 2020 Monthly Board of Directors Meeting.

D. Personnel and Finance Committee:

Gerard Burnash provided information about actions the DDA had taken because of the Covid-19 pandemic, inclusive of employee layoffs. Damion Frasier and Gerard Burnash discussed application made to the Mott Foundation for a grant to help the DDA cover expenses during the pandemic, with the grant expected to be \$100,000.000.

Mayor Neeley inquired about signage in the DDA's Kearsley Street parking lot and sanitation stations in the downtown. Gerard reported that the sanitation stations were up and that signs for the Kearsley Street parking lot were in the process of being made.

E. Marketing and Promotions Committee:

Jonathan Hardman reported on the ad-hoc marketing committee and meetings with Kady Yellow. In addition, the Board discussed the whatsapp-downtown.com website.

F. Design Committee:

John Gazall reported on the plantings in the Kearsley Street parking lot and signs going up for the sanitation stations and social distancing.

G. Economic Development:

Khalfani Stephens discussed efforts towards changes in economic development initiatives to make the efforts more sustainable, including reduction in duplication of efforts by the City of Flint and the Chamber of Commerce. Examples being that the City of Flint is taking on small business issues, such as personal services, with the Chamber of Commerce focusing on large businesses. Mr. Stephens also reported that the City of Flint received clearance to use federal grant funds for economic development loans that provide for interest rates at 75% of the prime rate, and longer repayment periods. Finally, Mr. Stephens commented that the efforts are for "people focused" development, to make Flint be the place where people want to live and work.

H. Executive Director's Report:

Gerard Burnash discussed the reduction in services for the DDA due to the loss in parking revenues and that most events in the downtown have been canceled, including the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks. Gerard also reported that (i) Mott Foundation denied the DDA's grant request for funds to purchase and install electric vehicle charging stations in the Kearsley Street parking lot, so the DDA is looking elsewhere for the \$40,000 shortfall needed for the project, and (ii) parking meters were turned back on effective June 15<sup>th</sup>.

A discussion was held on the Kearsley Street parking lot and efforts at reducing use after downtown restaurants/bars close.

I. Correspondences: None.

J. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 a.m.

Louis Hawkins, Secretary