

**City of Flint Downtown Development Authority  
Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Board of Directors  
July 22, 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 7:36 a.m.

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

C. Approval of Minutes:

Upon motion by Robert Kittel, supported by John Gazall, the DDA Board unanimously approved the minutes for June 24, 2020 Monthly Board of Directors Meeting.

D. Personnel and Finance Committee:

Gerard Burnash and Sheri Sprygada presented financial information for June and July and informed the board that they were working on amended 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 budgets to present at the August meeting, with reductions in revenues and expenses required due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A discussion was held on the budget cuts to various items, inclusive of wages.

#### E. Marketing and Promotions Committee:

Jonathan Hardman inquired about the scope of the contract with Joel Rash for social media and Gerard explained that the contract is for Facebook and the DDA Newsletter.

#### F. Design Committee:

John Gazall commented that the DDA's social media presence and exposure had improved, with more and better and in-depth content. He suggested more video links be added. John also commented that he saw more trash containers and benches out and asked about the plan with the number of dead trees in the downtown. Gerard replied that the plan is to remove dead trees in the interim before the planting of trees starts under the tree grant.

#### G. Economic Development:

Khalfani Stephens discussed inquiries made to the City for new and expansion project, inclusive of inquiries about the flat lot and the need to think about incremental development versus one big project. Also, discussions about a "food incubator" in the downtown and how that would impact existing businesses.

Mayor Neely discussed issues with crowds gathering in the Kearsley Street parking lot and the need to close off access to the parking lot after downtown businesses close. Gerard reported implementing a plan to close off entrances to the parking lot at 6:00 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, with exits being blocked after 10:00 p.m. The DDA sent out information to parkers and businesses. Also, in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce, the DDA is working with Premier Security for weekend security through Labor Day.

A discussion on alternative events for downtown after business hours was held.

#### H. Executive Director's Report:

Gerard Burnash discussed downtown events, Facebook Live, and daily activities. Gerard also discussed Mott Foundation and Chamber efforts and funding to replace trees, Grand Fountain and Crim Plaza. In addition, the Chamber suggested that the DDA apply to the Mott Foundation for a grant to install bollards for the Kearsley Street entrances and exits.

Jonathan Hardman inquired about parking tickets that were issued long after the parking infraction. Gerard said that it was due to the DDA staff being off due to layoffs and returning to work in June.

Adrian Walker wanted to make sure that the DDA and City were aware that many people were planning to run The Crim course on the traditional Saturday, even

despite The Crim having adding additional routes to the 10-mile course to keep people socially distanced.

I. Correspondences: None.

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

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Louis Hawkins, Secretary