

**City of Flint Downtown Development Authority
 Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Board of Directors
 September 23, 2020
 502 Church Street, Flint, Michigan**

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

Others Attending: Gerard Burnash-Executive Director, DDA; DDA, Damion Frasier, Shedd-Frasier PLC; Sheri Sprygada, Taylor & Morgan; Khalfani Stephens, City of Flint; Joel Hurd, member of public

A. Call to Order:

Mayor Sheldon Neeley, Chairperson, declared a quorum present and called the meeting at 7:33 a.m.

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

C. Approval of Minutes:

Upon motion by Louis Hawkins, supported by John Gazall, the DDA Board unanimously approved the minutes for August 26, 2020 Monthly Board of Directors Meeting.

D. Personnel and Finance Committee:

Loyst Fletcher and Sheri Sprygada presented financial information for August and September, noting that the DDA is on budget for most items. They presented information for the year to date financial performance. After discussion on the proposed budgets, upon motion by Loyst Fletcher, supported by Louis Hawkins, the Board unanimously approved the Personnel and Finance Committee report.

E. Marketing and Promotions Committee: Jonathan Hardman reported on working with Kady Yellow to complete the "Whatsup" website, which includes information on downtown events, establishments, events, menus, etc. and now is looking for new direction for the committee. Jonathan also showed the Board the website and the different pages and information. Mayor Neely asked Jonathan to work with Kady Yellow on the drive through trick or treat event from Berston to downtown for Halloween to make sure that everyone is invited and welcome downtown.

F. Design Committee:

John Gazall commented on new trees planted and the need for fixing the intersection of Saginaw and Second Street where portions of the bricks/street are caving in. Gerard said he would contact the City to make sure it is on the list for repairs.

G. Economic Development:

Mayor Neely and Khalfani Stephens discussed projects the City is working on, including work on funding sources for owner occupied homeowner improvements not tied solely to income assistance programs. The goal of the program is to have people invest money back into their homes but existing programs are mostly tied to appraisal values which lag behind in recovering urban areas. Working with MEDC and charitable organizations for grant funding.

Mayor Neely reported on efforts to assist downtown businesses to restart after COVID-19 pandemic. He also commented that Senator Harris's visit to downtown Flint, including the Flint Farmer's Market, helped shine light on the downtown. The Mayor also urged everyone to remind Flint residents to complete their U.S. Census forms. Mayor Neely also inquired about parking meters and free parking near City Hall for the absentee ballot drop box, with the goal to eliminate any barriers to voting. Gerard Burnash said that the area near the ballot drop box would be free parking for the election.

H. Executive Director's Report:

Gerard Burnash discussed downtown events in August and early September and daily activities. Gerard also reported that the DDA started planting new trees along Saginaw Street as part of a Mott Foundation grant and that the trees were selected for diversity and soil in the area to make sure they thrived. Finally, Gerard reported that the DDA's bucket truck was recovered in Grand Blanc after it was stolen in late summer and that the DDA crew repaired the wiring that was destroyed and replaced a missing door.

I. Correspondences: Gerard Burnash reported thank you emails to the DDA for assistance with Jazz on Wheels at the Flint Farmers' Market.

J. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 a.m.

Louis A. Hawkins
Louis Hawkins, Secretary