

**City of Flint Downtown Development Authority  
 Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Board of Directors  
 November 25, 2020  
 502 Church Street, Flint, Michigan**

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Mayor Sheldon Neeley, 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 7:37 a.m.

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

C. Approval of Minutes:

Upon motion by Louis Hawkins, supported by Robert Kittel, the DDA Board unanimously approved the minutes for October 28, 2020 Monthly Board of Directors Meeting.

D. Personnel and Finance Committee:

Loyst Fletcher and Sheri Sprygada presented financial information for October and November, and stated that the budget was on track as budgeted but that cash on hand was low. Sheri also reported working with the City of Flint for the tax increment financing information for the Rutherford Parking Ramp, which was needed by the City.

Upon motion by Loyst Fletcher, supported by Robert Gazall, the Board unanimously approved the Personnel and Finance Committee report.

- E. Marketing and Promotions Committee: Jonathan Hardman reported that after commencing work on the outdoor Christmas plaza on Second Street and because of COVID-19 executive orders all work was halted. The booths were constructed and ready to go but without direct sponsorship could not get vendors due to the shortened season after the COVID-19 restrictions were in place. Jonathan also reported that SBA grant for work on Farmer's Market was denied.

Khalfani Stevens reported that Kady Yellow was working on a campaign to show which businesses in the downtown are still open during COVID-19 restrictions, working with MLive, Whatsapp, and other websites.

A discussion on reopening of restaurants and other businesses after COVID-19 restrictions are removed.

- F. Design Committee:

John Gazall commented on graffiti in the downtown and issues with Saginaw Street bricks.

- G. Economic Development:

Mayor Neeley discussed reviewing work on streets that will be resurfaced in the next year before winter sets in to. Mayor Neeley also requested that the DDA add signs in the downtown covering the State's mask requirement.

Mayor Neeley reported that City revenues are low and that he is working on bridging the divide with competing interests in downtown development so that everyone is working together and not against each other.

Khalfani Stevens reported on discussions with parties interested in downtown project and how the DDA's TIF funding may be used to assist, including a developer looking at market rate housing and additional commercial space. In addition, he reported on a major regional retailer looking at space just outside the downtown for a site. Helping the City is that Flint is centrally located with lower land prices.

Mayor Neeley reported that the State of the City address will be televised and scheduled for 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm on December 8, 2020

- H. Executive Director's Report:

Gerard Burnash discussed staffing issues with COVID-19 and that the placemaking grant was moved to the Flint's Arts Council.

Mayor Neeley asked Brandi Brown to assist getting young people to work with DDA on downtown projects.

I. Correspondences: None.

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

  
Louis A. Hawkins  
Louis Hawkins, Secretary