

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

January 20, 2011

Present – Chair Feigley, Vice-Chair Dierkes, Board members Armstrong, Goodnough, Heyn, Lamb, Nichols, Niebauer, Rusas, Weinbaum

Excused – Board member Horsley, Tyler

Absent – Board member Rivera

Also present – DDA Director Barnette, Village Manager Shufflebarger, Nancy Scott

Approval of Minutes:

Ms. Lamb said she was excused at the last meeting, not both present and absent.

Under the stone church on page 1-2, a spelling correction on the last line should be “first” not “fist”, referring to the Council agenda in January.

Lamb moved, Nichols seconded, to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 16, 2010 as corrected. Motion **Carried**.

Treasurer’s Report:

Nichols moved, Lamb seconded, to accept the Treasurer’s Report as presented. Motion **Carried**.

The \$6,000 for public relations includes two month at \$3,000 each. We spent about \$3,000 for Thursday’s Unwrapped. Paid Brien’s Lawn Service \$4,606 for the completed Irrigation Replacement.

Call to the Public:

Garrett Steele was here to talk about using the Tony Ray property for a community sign. He has talked to Tony, and he seemed receptive to the idea. Julie Rucker owns the Burger Joint building. Mr. Goodnough and Mr. Heyn will work with Mr. Steele to see if other communities have done this and bring the information back to this board.

Unfinished Business:

1. Marketing.

Provided the projects Franco worked on for the calendar year.

Franco will help with the public awareness campaign for the Sharrows starting in April.

Will differentiate Christmas Open House from the Thursday’s Unwrapped promotion through all of December.

Franco will do a give-away for some of the merchants for Valentines Day using Chris Meredith from Your Nesting Place.

And there will be a Face Book contest for a gift certificate for downtown.

New Business:

1. DDA District vacancies.

Ms. Barnette discussed the map she made which shows a vacancy percent of 3.93 for downtown.

The Farmer Jack’s Center is 80%. Village Commons East has a 47% vacancy. The village is in really good shape overall.

Director’s Report:

The stone church, “The Gathering Place” was approved for parking. There is a lot of work to be done on the building.

The information for the downtown map is about complete. Ms. Dierkes asked if we are selling advertising for it; Ms. Barnette said our map is much nicer than others she has seen with advertising.

The sign variance was granted for Karate, located in the Agnew Building.

Mr. Weinbaum asked if there is anything happening to combine the village and the township. And if there are any areas which could be combined. The village offers water and sewer. The village and township did a combined master plan.

Upcoming Events:

February 14 is Valentines Day!

Board member Comments:

Ms. Lamb asked about new stationery; she will send them out. Has heard Ruggles is a great place; it is where the coney island was. They are looking for a liquor license.

Mr. Armstrong said the MLK march on Main Street was successful.

Mr. Heyn said Celestial Derma is in the lower level. Demaria at Home will open the first of February. It has a demonstration kitchen. The Nail place is moving to the Red Dog center. He will have two spaces available.

Mr. Weinbaum said perhaps G.M. would have use for office or whatever in Farmer Jack. He took his children to Chicago and they have downtown ice rinks which are wonderful. Can we do it? Where?

Mr. Niebauer said Grand Rapids also has one. Mr. Heyn could fill in one corner of the Mill Pond.....

Adjourn:

Nichols moved, Niebauer seconded, to adjourn at 9:00 a.m. Motion **Carried**

Respectfully submitted,

Phyllis Motley, Recording Secretary