



6:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 27, 2020
Virtual Zoom Conference Room
23600 Liberty Street
Farmington, MI 48335

Minutes

The Meeting was called to order by Chris Halas at 6:03PM

1. Roll Call

Present: Sara Bowman, Tom Buck, Rachel Gallagher, Chris Halas, Micki Skrzycki, Sean Murphy, Todd Craft (6:17 arrival)

Absent: Tom Pascaris

Others Present: Kate Knight, Jess Westendorf

2. Approval of Items on Consent Agenda

a. **Financial Report**

b. **Minutes: May 6, 2020 DDA Regular Meeting**

c. **Minutes: May 13, 2020 DDA Regular Meeting**

d. **Minutes: Design Committee, March 10, 2020**

e. **Minutes: Design Committee, May 20, 2020**

f. **Minutes: Promo Committee, May 5, 2020**

Motion to approve the items on the consent agenda Bowman, removed D, Skrzycki , passes unanimously

3. Approval of Regular Agenda

Motion to approve the special meeting agenda Buck, Gallagher, passes unanimously

4. Public Comment

Opened and closed by Halas at 6:07pm

5. Consideration of Public Space and Ordinance Flexibility During Pandemic

Goal to most as much of indoor footprint outdoors as much as possible in anticipation of limited seating during re-opening during pandemic.

DDA staff has had multiple conversations with city administration, restaurant bar crew, met with Design Committee and walked downtown, met with BrownDog, Basement Burger Bar, Kevin Christiansen, Ken Crutcher on site today. Present to city council on Monday with the general statement to expand seating outdoor.

Keep up with peer downtowns.

Buck: Are we raising seating capacity limit by doing this. Knight: goal to reach usual capacity if possible by giving more seating space outside. Making general ask for right now to create space and then have the restaurants and businesses open it up and maintain space.

Gallagher: Question regarding if Pages would be included in this. Knight: Yes, planning to open alley near pages to provide seating.

Mi.Mosa would plan to take over additional parking spaces.

Bowman: In support of the idea, but in fear of the pushback that could occur for those not wearing a mask in an outdoor seating area. Make certain that we are taking this into consideration that some folks aren't ready to see the world reopen yet.

Buck: Questioned if Sara is thinking we will need to start following through on those not wearing masks.

Knight: Merchants have the right to refuse entrance to their shop if a patron is not wearing a mask.

Craft: We can't control who is going to walk by without a mask... fill in more details

Halas: Feels like there are many variables to work through, but in general that we want to bring this to council with a general idea.

Knight: Asking board to draft a resolution to take to council on Monday including support from restaurants and peer downtowns and

Bowman: Very helpful to show that we are following other downtowns in this, not the trend setter. Following the Oakland County guidelines. Don't necessarily need a resolution, but focus on information from surrounding neighbors.

Motion by Buck, second Gallagher by that the DDA resolve to support the safe expansion of restaurant, retail, and service activities into outdoor areas near their locations, within reason and with safe practices for the months of June through October in accordance with Oakland County Guidelines. We ask executive director Kate Knight to represent the DDA board's considerations in moving this forward.

Passes unanimously.

6. Brownfield Update

Knight, **AKT**, Chris Weber, and others looked at best options for brownfield. County route-removing parcel from the tax roll and DDA. No-go.

Run through local city of Farmington Brownfield agreement rather than have it exit the DDA.

Craft: Asking when the board will be able to understand it better.

Buck: Wants to learn more about a balance between TIF and Brownfield. WE rely on projects like this to build TIF and be able to gain more for to reinvest in Downtown. Goal to understand the best balance between the two authorities.

Knight will ask AKT for a board presentation to understand project in general and in specific context of this project.

7. Committee Updates:

a. Design Committee

Overview by Knight: Committee selected palette for the pavilion to be painted in June. Black Bean for trim, Folkstone for field, and Harvest Gold for interior ceiling.

Committee walked around through town and Ben Ridderbos (Design committee member and architect) will be creating a schematic drawing.

Halas: Understanding that this is an emotionally charge project ensure transparency and share the schematic when it's ready.

Gallagher: Noted that previously the North Lot had outdoor seating in the parking lot. It's been done before.

b. Public Art Committee

Gallagher has reached out to pull together the committee in June.

The Vines is moving forward with stripping and duct pointing the building- looking great and will be primed for a mural.

Cathi Waun is applying for a GMAR grant that could apply to both the Vines and Sunflour Bakehaus.

c. Promotions Committee

Suspending promotion committee update.

d. Business Development Committee

Awarded small businesses stabilization fund. 27 businesses received \$5K grants.

Move migration grants have been distributed.

e. City Parking Committee

No updates

8. Other Business

Knight: receiving 9 pallets of PPE kits tomorrow! 187 kits are ready that will be stored in the Theater. Merchants will have a link on their phone. Asking for volunteers- Bowman, Skrzycki are available. Frank Demers and public safety officers will be helping to facilitate.

Halas: Are we able to get a time-lapse or other form, good photography to capture content.

Craft: Verified that there was a check in there a recap of what happened with business owners last week

Murphy: Asked for update on Patronicity campaign- Knight: just over \$2,100 so far and Oakland County is cutting us a check for \$2,100 right now so we can begin to spend it.

9. Board Comment

Buck: Considering city parking requirements- should we consider relaxing those for the next few months taking the restaurant expansion into account.

10. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn, Craft second, unanimously

Dates of Interest:

June 3, DDA Board Regular Meeting