

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF HIGHLAND
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Record of the April 5, 2006 Meeting

Members Present: Susan Bennett, Dave Blossey, Sharon Greene, Paul Mecklenborg, Scott Oppmann, Gail Perrin, Keith Rhodes (Chairperson) and Roscoe Smith

Members Absent: Susan Happel, Neil Kajj, Patricia Pilchowski (Township Supervisor),

Staff Present: Jill Bahm (HDDA Director)

Visitors Present: Carol Borich, Karen Genson, Mike Genson, Sue Grissim, George Hayden, Doreen Kosieracki, Kurt Mosher and Larry Shew

Chairman Rhodes called the meeting to order 5:35 p.m.

Approve Meeting Minutes of March 1, 2006

Motion by Blossey to approve the Minutes of March 1, 2006. Supported by Mecklenborg and Motion carried (8-0).

Treasurer's Report: Mr. Blossey reported that there is currently \$135,323.86 in assets. He also reported that there is \$50,000 in TIF funds yet to come.

Director's Report:

Ms. Bahm reviewed her monthly report with the Board noting the meetings she attended including meetings with the MSOC. It was stated in her report that the HDDA has committed to the square dance activity in September; this will tie into the Barn Tour. She also stated she will inquire with the Township if East Livingston Road can be closed for the event. She is still working on feasibility regarding the summer outdoor music program in terms of costs and logistics. However it was noted that upcoming outdoor concerts are taking place on June 14th, July 12th and August the 9th at the Kensington Valley Credit Union parking lot.

Ms. Bahm also reported on the Huron Valley Business Expo that took place on March 24th and 25th. She thanked those who participated as booth hosts and also those businesses who made donations for survey giveaways. She suggested that the Board assess member interest for future participation.

She also noted that she is working with the Senior Center and Arts Council on a 120th birthday party event for the Highland Station House, to be held the last Saturday in August. This will be an old fashion ice cream social with people in vintage costume and old cars.

She stated that she attended the March 16, 2006 Planning Commission meeting and Mr. Shew's Highland Station project was on the Agenda. She also stated she attended the March 30, 2006 joint meeting with the Planning Commission and the Township Board of

Trustees; township signage and signage in Highland Station was discussed. The Planning Commission has asked for assistance in refining the Sign Ordinance for Highland Station.

It was discussed that currently a petition for a sewer assessment is circulating in and around Highland Station. An open house pertaining to sewers will take place at the Township Auditorium on April 11, 2006 from 7:30 am – 10:00am. A SAD petition will be available for signature.

Mr. George Hayden was present and stated he is working with Lakeland School in getting a historical video project prepared for Highland. Lakeland will coordinate and may even involve Specs Howard. He stated this project will present the past, present and future of Highland. He stated he has seen it done and they do a very nice job.

Old Business:

Mr. Rhodes addressed Towne Center Drive stating that discussions are taking place to modify the traffic on that drive for the safety of the public. He stated that a roundabout is being researched to handle the traffic. He also noted that landscaping irrigation is also being discussed. A resolution should be reached by the end of the year.

New Business:

It was announced that Doreen Kosieracki was recommended by Township Supervisor Pilchowski to fill Mr. Gorman's term as a HDDA Member. The Board welcomed her.

2. Committee Reports

Design

Ms. Perrin reported that she attended a Design Workshop and found it to be very informative addressing the do's and don'ts of downtown design.

Economic Restructuring

It was stated that this group will be meeting on April 6, 2006 and hopes to select a new chairperson as Mr. Gorman, their former chairperson, has resigned due to business commitments.

Organization

Mr. Oppmann spoke about the Huron Valley Business Expo stating that he prepared a survey and received positive feed back. Also, the feedback indicated that more social and cultural events are desired. Mr. Oppmann concluded that there was a struggle to keep the booth staffed. His group reported 45 hours of work for the month of March.

Promotions

Ms. Greene reported that this year they would like to create a new logo for the HDDA, one that would represent Downtown Highland Station. The Promotions group will work on the square dance. She referenced the outdoor concerts that are planned, stating that it would be nice if Highland had a park-like location large enough with good parking to accommodate the event.

Ms. Greene also reported that she attended a greenways meeting that highlights how trails have gone beyond the borders of Highland. She stated many of these trails will go beyond the state. Whether the trails are equestrian friendly and/or bike friendly will depend on the terrain. She also announced that Highland received Proclamation honoring Highland as "Michigan's First Equestrian Community". The State of Michigan also made special tribute to Highland as "Michigan First Equestrian Community".

2 Development District Reviews – (None)

3. Community Reports

Mr. Rhodes spoke about Sparks in the Park and sponsors are being sought. Mr. Rhodes suggested that the HDDA donate to the event and the Board was in agreement.

Motion by Hecklenborg to donate \$2,000 to Sparks in the Park seconded by Perrin and the motion failed (4 – 3).

Motion by Smith to donate \$1,000 to Sparks in the Park seconded by Bennett and the motion carried (6 – 1) (1 abstained).

4. Upcoming Meetings – Long Range Planning

Ms. Bahm and Chairperson Rhodes stated that long term planning is necessary to prepare for the 2007 budget, which is due to the Township Board of Trustees in October 2006. Subjects to be addressed should be what the Board would like to focus on and the desired timelines.

Ms. Bahm stated a facilitator will come in and lead the meeting.

Mr. Rhodes asked for thoughts on a date, and Ms. Perrin suggested that this special planning meeting be held on a regular meeting day.

The Board reviewed the upcoming scheduled meetings and it was decided that the Special Planning Meeting would take place on June 7, 2006. This meeting will take several hours and dinner will be provided.

Call to Public

None Offered

Adjournment: Motion by Oppmann seconded by Mecklenborg to adjourn the meeting at 6:43 p.m. Motion carried 8 –0. yes