

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF HIGHLAND  
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
Record of the August 16, 2017 Regular Board Meeting**

**APPROVED**

**Members Present:** Supervisor Hamill (arrived at 6:40 pm), Dale Feigley, Mike Maher, Mike Zurek, Cassie Blascyk, Matt Barnes, Roscoe Smith

**Members Absent:** Trevor VonBuskirk

**Staff Present:** Karen Beardsley, Recording Secretary

**Staff Absent:** Melissa Dashevich, Executive Director

**Visitors Present:** Christine Hamill (arrived at 6:40 pm)  
Jake Lloyd

**Mr. Smith called the meeting to order at 6:20 PM.**

**Approve Regular Board Meeting Minutes of July 19, 2017.**

**Mr. Maher MOVED TO APPROVE** the Regular Board Meeting minutes of July 19, 2017 as presented.

**Mr. Zurek SUPPORTED** the MOTION and **THE MOTION CARRIED** with a unanimous voice vote (6 yes votes).

Director's Report

Mrs. Dashevich has been out of town planning to return for tonight's meeting but was delayed and in transit. She did call in to participate by phone but due to signal problems was unsuccessful. There was no Director's Report this evening.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Christine Hamill, volunteer and recommended by HDDA Board to be Treasurer at last meeting, will speak to the financial statements when she arrives later in the meeting. She has been delayed this evening.

**NEW BUSINESS**

We will begin working on our 2018 work plans and budget over the next few months. Mrs. Dashevich stated she would like to increase the budget for the façade grant program.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Native Landscaping Update

Jake Lloyd was present this evening to discuss the status of the gardens. He stated native landscaping typically take over three years to balance and the gardens are in their second year. They are thriving more than anticipated; this is a learning experience for everyone. Because the beds were so well prepared and spacing was allowed for growth, the plants took advantage of that open space and they

took over as opposed to nature. Currently we will adjust, such as remove the yarrow, move some plants to other locations. The goal is the plants will eventually intermix and balance.

We have one very unhappy, vocal business owner and a couple of people who have called in to express their concern.

Roscoe would like all the yarrow removed at his corner. He would like some annuals added to give color during the native plants are not blooming.

Let's remember the intent of the native landscaping. It will be low maintenance eventually and will require little watering. Let's remember we do have a lack of volunteers as well.

Plan of Action for Native Landscaping:

Karen suggested temporary (similar to event) signage be present stating something like, "Be Patient We Are Growing", along with a website or FB page where more information can be found. Discussion took place that more education is need for the public including proper interpretive signage, which is in the plan and a press release for the paper. A plan is being formulated to thin and weed the gardens by the Lloyds and other volunteers who may be willing to give their time. This will take place throughout the season. Also, remember this is a unique project and the result will be beautiful.

#### Photos and Website Update

We have the photos that were taken by Matthew LaVere on a hard drive and in Dropbox. There are 300 photographs and the website committee is very pleased with the pictures. These photos will be used throughout the coming years to keep our website and social media posting fresh. The committee will be meeting soon to choose photos for the initial roll out of the website.

The committee is working closely with the Julie Braun from Accunet on finalizing color, fonts, placement, etc.

#### Branding and Project Update

As discussed earlier, the Township Community Round Table (CRT) and the Highland DDA share the same goal of establishing a brand for our community. The idea is that we work together. The DDA receives a Tech Visit every year and requested that a branding initiative be our Tech Visit. Main Street has agreed. What we are doing however, is the CRT will be matching the MSOC Tech Visit's contribution. The MSOC contribution is considered the HDDA contribution.

Main Street Oakland County has hired a consultant for the Branding Project. As discussed earlier this is our Tech Visit. This project will result in a greater outcome because we are sharing the expense and resources.

The tentative timeline from the consultant was well received from the Board.

Mr. Smith invited those who want to be involved in the process work groups. It was also stated that Main Street Oakland County has favorably commented on how well the Township and DDA work together in Highland.

### Fall Festival Support

MR. MAHER MOVED TO APPROVE \$500 to the Highland Fall Festival. MR. HAMILL SUPPORTED and the MOTION CARRIED with a roll call vote: Feigley-yes; Maher-yes; Zurek-yes; Blascyk-yes; Hamill-yes; Barnes-yes; Smith-yes

The Highland DDA should form a team for the Highland Games, which is an event of the festival. This will be discussed further.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### Promotions

This year's concerts were very well attended, weather was perfect and the music was very good. It was felt the digital sign and banners contributed to the success.

#### **MSOC**

Fundraising and Volunteer Development Training being offered by MSOC in Franklin on August 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.

There will be a Planners Gathering on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Information was provided in Board Packets.

#### **DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT / NEW BUSINESS**

A new Physical Therapist has located in the Dairy Queen Plaza called Kiwi PT. It appeared as if API Renovations was locating near the Iron Pride Gym. Prezio Health, located near Tuffy's Auto, left Highland as they needed more room.

#### **COMMUNITY REPORTS**

The Haven Fall Festival, organized by FOHA, will take place on August 26<sup>th</sup> at Highland Recreation.

#### **CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

Mr. Hamill reported water will be brought across from the north side of M59. The sidewalks on Milford Road will be removed from M59 to Ruggles but will be replaced. Mr. Hamill asked that the sidewalks be cut at the breaks so those portions can be used on parts of sidewalk that need to be replaced. There will also be three large maple trees removed on a resident's property.

Mr. Smith extended condolences on behalf of the DDA to Dale Feigley in the passing of his mother.

Mr. Smith also commented on the DIA Inside/Out Outdoor Exhibit and that people are strolling the exhibit.

Mr. Barnes asked about the status of the property that is located behind his store, Fragments. It was mentioned at a prior meeting that Mr. Hamill approached the home owners about selling the property. Mr. Hamill stated the owner has not yet replied.

Mr. Maher asked about the article in the paper regarding sewers. Mr. Hamill replied the Highland Township Board authorized a feasibility study to possibly connect to White Lake and ultimately Commerce. This feasibility study will present five different options. This would include sewers for Highland Station.

Mrs. Hamill reviewed the financial reports with the Board.

Mr. Smith adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Roscoe Smith  
RS:kb

APPROVED