

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF HIGHLAND
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Record of the July 18, 2018 Regular Board Meeting**

APPROVED

Members Present: Chris Hamill, Supervisor Hamill, Dale Feigley, Matt Barnes, Cassie Blascyk, Roscoe Smith

Members Absent: Mike Zurek, Trevor VonBuskirk

Staff Present: Melissa Dashevich, Executive Director

Visitors Present: Mark Hamlin, Iverson's
Sellon Patterson

Mr. Smith called the meeting to order at 6:21 p.m.

Mr. Feigley MOVED TO APPROVE the amendment of tonight's agenda to include the Iverson property acquisition under 'New Business'. Mrs. Hamill SUPPORTED THE MOTION and THE MOTION CARRIED with a unanimous voice vote (6 yes votes).

Approve Regular Board Meeting Minutes of June 20, 2018.

Mrs. Blascyk MOVED TO APPROVE the Regular Board Meeting minutes of June 20, 2018, as presented. Mr. Feigley SUPPORTED THE MOTION and THE MOTION CARRIED with a unanimous voice vote (6 yes votes).

Director's Report

Mrs. Dashevich reviewed her Director's Report and a copy is attached for review. It was agreed that the Red, White and Blues Festival was a huge success as far as attendance.

Treasurer's Report

Mrs. Hamill reviewed the Treasurer's Report and a copy is attached for review. Briefly, TIF projections are a little less than shown on the budget, but actual TIF dollars may come in higher, as well as we are under budget for expenses to date.

NEW BUSINESS

- Mainstreet Tech Visit

Mrs. Dashevich, along with Tim Colbeck, thought using our annual Tech Visit to begin discussions on our long anticipated 'Gateway' project.

- Flagstar Bank Grant Opportunity

Mrs. Dashevich shared that she and Mrs. Blascyk have discussed the possibility of this \$2,500 matching grant being used for interpretive signage.

- Iverson's Property Acquisition

Approximately 39 acres on south side of 59, directly across from LaFontaine's, owned by Iverson's went into foreclosure and they did not realize this had happened. Oakland County was not willing to work with Highland Township to get it back into Iverson's hands. Supervisor Hamill would like the HDDA to purchase the property and work with

Iverson's to get it back to them, without trying to make a large profit. It would be more of a helping hand from the community that Iverson's has supported for many years.

Supervisor Hamill MOVED TO APPROVE the purchase of this property by the HDDA for \$15,046.86 from Highland Township. After the purchase, the details of the sale back to Iverson's will be decided. Mr. Feigley SUPPORTED THE MOTION and the MOTION CARRIED with a roll call vote: Supervisor Hamill-yes; C. Hamill-yes; Feigley-yes; Blascyk-yes; Barnes-yes; Smith-yes.

OLD BUSINESS

- New website is live. Please visit and look around.
- Gardens Update - Mrs. Dashevich and Mrs. Blascyk have contacted a Sustainable Gardens Consultant. He will come out last Monday in July and give opinions on color balance, maintenance schedules. Lloyd's will be invited.

DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT / NEW BUSINESS

DBG (Detroit Business Graphics) is a new and large scale graphics company moving into the same plaza as D's Café, and has done lots of previous work for the City of Detroit. Their ribbon cutting ceremony will be on August 1st.

Also a company called Rainbow is moving into same plaza. Mrs. Dashevich will obtain more information about them for next month.

House next to Steve's Locksmith is now for sale again; apparently plans to open a store fell through.

COMMUNITY REPORTS

Concerts have begun. Attendance is strong. Mrs. Dashevich is looking for volunteers to help set up before and clean up after the concerts. Light work, but is definitely looking for more hands!

Sidewalk Sales will be this weekend in downtown Highland, July 20 & 21.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Mrs. Dashevich introduced Sellon Patterson. He volunteered to help at the concerts as his coaching schedule would allow. He also stated his interest in becoming an HDDA Board Member. The HDDA currently has eight board members and could use a few more. Mr. Patterson answered a call for board members he saw on HDDA's website. It was suggested that Mr. Patterson write a letter of interest to the HDDA and if approved, it will be recommended to the Township.

STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

Issues that need to be addressed:

- * TIF - Tim Colbeck from Mainstreet Oakland County felt that this did not need to be a #1 priority item, since our renewal isn't until 2029. We should definitely keep it in our rotation of things to work on, but did not require immediate attention.
- * Simplifying Mission Statement
- * Discuss what to be done with branding for HDDA specifically.
- * Sewers - Oakland County meeting with Mrs. Dashevich and Supervisor Hamill in the coming month.
- * Historic District Commission - Mrs. Blascyk stated that she felt the need for this to be in place, in some degree, to protect Highland's historic buildings once sewers arrive.
- * A Streetscape item should also be added since additions/maintenance should be ongoing.
- * Crosswalk - Supervisor Hamill stated that Oakland County will not allow a crosswalk over Milford Road.
- * Wayfinding signage - Mrs. Blascyk feels that this is important and can be a way to show cohesiveness throughout our district.
- * Welcome/Gateway Arch - this will happen during the upcoming Mainstreet Tech Visit.
- * Façade Grants - This needs to be promoted. Paperwork needs to be developed.
- * Painting, Murals and Train Bridge Repair - Repairs are being done on the train bridge currently. Possible painting on the train bridge would be a worthwhile project to pursue. However, many approvals would be needed.

The next Strategic Planning will be for prioritizing the above tasks. The results can then be used for the Mainstreet workplans. Several will be overlapping and ongoing.

Supervisor Hamill spoke about asking for assistance from Oakland County, Health Department, Water Resource Commission on promoting and reasoning for new sewer systems in Highland, when the time is appropriate. He felt the project could be better received if the conversations came from higher up than our township and supervisor.

Mr. Smith adjourned the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roscoe Smith

RS:kb