



**DDA Meeting Minutes
Held Via Zoom
4-14-2021**

Members Present: Steinhauer, Rhaesa, White-Jenkins, Walker, Law and Demmer

Members Absent: Bender Gocaj

Also Present: Lori Guoin, Lisa Nocerini and Tom Porter

Chairman Steinhauer called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

A motion was made Demmer, supported by Law to approve the agenda with the following amendments; add Item 5A. Revenue and Expenditure Report, 7A. Wayne Rotary Concerts in the Park Sponsorship request. Motion carried with a 6-0 roll call vote.

A motion was made by Gocaj, supported by Law to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2021 regular meeting removing Chahrour from the members present. Motion carried with a 6-0 roll call vote.

A motion was made by Demmer, supported by Walker to approve the ratification of the following bills; Newegg Business- \$229.99, \$1,499.99, \$70.40 and \$170.00 National Pen- \$171.66 City of Wayne Water- (3) @ \$39.48, \$88.84, \$112.94, (2) @ \$98.19, (2) @ \$157.92, (2) @ \$46.08. Motion carried with a 6-0 roll call vote.

A motion was made by White-Jenkins, supported by Demmer to pay the following bills; City of Wayne DPW -\$1,123.12 and Wayne Dispatch - \$1,000.00. Motion carried with a 5-0 Roll call vote with Rhaesa abstaining.

The Revenue and Expenditure report with an end date of 3/31/2021 was presented.

A motion was made by Demmer, supported by Rhaesa to approve the bid from the low bidder, WT Stevens Construction in an amount not to exceed \$65,000.00. Motion carried with a 6-0 roll call vote.

A motion was made by Demmer, supported by Rhaesa to approve the transfer of \$65,000.00 from the 2020 unrestricted fund balance into the current budget. Motion carried with a 6-0 roll call vote.

Guoin reported that the Knights of Columbus have committed to maintaining Veterans Plaza next to the Library. Guoin requested that the DDA cover the cost of the removal of the grass and plantings around the Peace memorial.

A motion was made White-Jenkins, supported by Walker to approve the removal of all plantings and grass around the Peace Memorial and the placement of weed barrier and mulch in it's place in the amount of \$2,550.00. Highland Lawn and Landscape will perform the work. Motion carried with a 6-0 roll call vote.

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Gouin requested the approval of the Board to move forward with getting a price to remove all of the plantings next to the brick walls throughout the downtown. Demmer suggested that we look at the cost of mulch and rock to put down. White-Jenkins also suggested that we get a price to clean the salt off of the walls on Wayne Rd.

Kubany gave a very detailed update on all of her accomplishments to date.

Gouin reported that there is an opportunity for the DDA to partner with the Knights of Columbus in creating another outdoor gathering space. The City owned vacant land next to them is a perfect spot on Wayne Rd. to do this. Gouin will be taking a blanket request to the City Council in the near future for the K of C to program the space. They have indicated that they would like to create some outdoor dining space. Gouin would like to see a nice black metal fence put up on the front property line. She will be getting a cost estimate in the near future for that to be done. Members of the Board were not opposed to funding the project. Creating another outdoor gathering place in downtown is in line with the amended DDA Plan.

Lengthy discussion took place in regards to a letter sent out to the business community by Wayne Main Street Recently. The following is a summary of the comments made by members of the Board;

Demmer: Jim was not surprised to receive the letter announcing the potential end of the program. He indicated that when Lindsay and Maxwell were in place the Organization was thriving. He feels that over the last year they have faded away. He is very disappointed that no one from WMS has been visible over the past year. There was no plan and no updates, therefore he does not feel that they are worthy of any funding from the DDA.

White-Jenkins: Kim commented on how misleading the comments were on Social Media in regards to what she perceives as happening with WMS. She reference the minutes of the January 8, 2020 DDA meeting. WMS Board Chair was to set up a strategy session with Michigan Main Street (MMS), including discussion of placing WMS under the DDA. While the strategy session was facilitated by MMS, with WMS and DDA participating, WMS did not demonstrate an interest in discussing this opportunity. White-Jenkins also feels that there were many missed opportunities to help our businesses last year by WMS. Other Main Street Programs across the state and nation were up and running, as evidenced by achievements posted on social media sites like Main Street America. White-Jenkins indicated that she served on the WMS Fundraising Committee that designed (along with the Executive director at the time) the Paint by Number donor cultivation event at the Museum. There was never any follow-up to that event and the committee never met again. White-Jenkins also feels it's very unfortunate that any nonprofit should rely so heavily on one funding source. White-Jenkins also acknowledged the past achievements of WMS, which directly supported the launch and growth of her business.

Rhaesa: John expressed his sadness in regards to the failure of WMS. He indicated that he felt the DDA had gone above and beyond trying to help them succeed last year. He has finally realized that he was trying harder than they were last year to save their program. He thanked the members of the Board for their commitment and contribution of funds over the years to WMS. He indicated that we have a very healthy DDA and knows the future is very bright.

Steinhauer: David shared the comments he made at the City Council meeting in regards to his personal feelings about WMS.

A motion was made by Law, supported by Demmer to adjourn at 7:56 p.m.

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