

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE WYOMING DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AT ITS MEETING OF JULY 1, 2014

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 1, 2014
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
CITY OF WYOMING, MICHIGAN

MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve Harekma, Doug Kochneff, Curt Male, Mayor Jack Poll, Bernie Van der klok, Barbara VanDuren, Lillian Vanderveen (arrived at 7:37 a.m.)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Pat Cohen, Kevin VanTimmeren,

STAFF PRESENT: Jennifer Ballard, Tim Smith

OTHERS PRESENT: Rich Wadsworth from Edward Jones; Bob O'Callaghan, President-Wyoming/Kentwood Chamber of Commerce

Chairman Kochneff called the meeting to order at 7: 32 a.m.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

There were no changes to the meeting minutes from the January 7, 2014 meeting; unanimously approved.

Public Comments on Agenda Items

There were no public comments.

Treasurer's Report

Smith presented the Treasurer's report. The current fund balance is 96,650.26.

Presentations

There were no presentations.

Approval of the 2014-2015 Budget Proposals

VanDuren presented the 2014-2015 budget proposals and justifications. Poll made a motion to adopt the budget, Vanderveen seconded it; unanimously approved.

DDA Director's Report

28 West: VanDuren explained the City Council held a retreat in January that set forth strategic planning goals for 2014 – 2017. Committees have been formed to address blight, communication, and sense of place. The sense of place committee is focusing on 28 West, and the development and funding of the west end of the crescent street. The total cost of the development of the west end of the crescent street is about \$2.5 million. Public Works has committed \$1 million dollars for this project from the Capital Improvement Fund. VanDuren

recently met with a representative from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation to discuss the 28 West project. VanDuren explained the specs for the 28 West sign that will be placed on the Loeks Property as Studio 28 is being demolished. The committee unanimously approved the purchase of the sign.

Website Updates: VanDuren met with Pat Cohen regarding suggestions Cohen had for website updates. The information in the packet outlines the website changes that have been performed to date.

Wyoming Gives Back: Wyoming Gives Back letters will be mailed to Wyoming businesses in July. This year, letters will go to all businesses in Wyoming. A copy of this letter is included in the agenda packet.

Correspondence: Welcome letters were sent to Mark's Auto Sales and Lake Michigan Pawn.

Public Comments:

Bob O'Callaghan expressed the Wyoming-Kentwood Chamber of Commerce's appreciation for the DDA's continued support and funding of the Metro Cruise.

Round Table Comments:

Van der klok asked about developer interest in 28 West. VanDuren explained there have been several discussions with developers but, at this time no one has expressed interest.

Van der klok mentioned Curt Gears from Gerritt's Appliance expressed interest in becoming a member of the DDA. It was determined that Gerritt's Appliance is located outside of the DDA boundaries.

Mayor Poll explained that the City Council is preparing for the 2014-2015 budget. The Mayor has been busy with community engagement events. Construction of the new McDonalds, that will be located on Chicago drive, will begin this summer.

Vanderveen mentioned that she recently worked with the East Lee Campus of the Godfrey Lee School and noted she was very impressed with students and staff. The West 28th Street Merchants Association clean-up day is scheduled for May 3, and the Division Ave Association's is scheduled for April 12. The Rapid has committed to paying for new banners along Division Avenue. Vanderveen suggested approaching The Rapid for banners for 28th Street.

Harkema asked about getting the left hand lights within the DDA to all blink yellow to help with traffic flow. VanDuren will research this. Poll asked about the crosswalk countdown numbers being inconsistent with their colors, some turn red and some turn yellow. Harkema noted the pedestrian and street lights from Clyde Park to 131 are not working. VanDuren explained Public Works is aware of this, but due to the cold weather are unable to fix the lighting until the ground thaws.

Male: Southland Auto Wash's business is strong and continuing to grow.

Kochneff asked about the trees that were trimmed at Marge's Donut Den and also about Performance Plus wanting to pay replace their tree. VanDuren explained that she is working with Performance Plus for the replacement of the tree and Heyboer will be reevaluating Marge's trees in the spring. Applebee's on 28th Street is in the process of remodeling. There are several junk cars located at the property on Buchanan and 28th Street. Rogers Plaza is for sale again.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 a.m.

Jennifer Ballard
Administrative Assistant, City Manager's Office