



8:00AM Wednesday, Sep 6, 2023
City Hall Conference Room
23600 Liberty Street
Farmington, MI 48335

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Todd Craft at 8:01am.

1. Roll Call

Present: Todd Craft, Linda Deskins, James McLaughlin, Tom Pascaris, Sara Bowman, Donovan Singleton, Chris Halas, Claire Perko

Absent: Heather Lyon

Others Present: Knight, Westendorf

2. Approval of Consent Agenda

a. Minutes: August 2, 2023 Regular Meeting

b. Minutes: August 3, 2023 DDA Design Committee Meeting

c. Minutes: May 24, 2023 DDA Design Committee Meeting

d. Minutes: November 29, 2023 DDA Organization Committee Meeting

Motion by Halas, second by Deskins to approve the items on the regular agenda. Motion passes unanimously.

3. Approval of Regular Agenda

Motion by Pascaris, Second by Singleton to approve the items on the regular agenda.

4. Public Comment

Opened and closed at 8:02am

5. Executive Director Update

Harvest Moon- All hands on deck, with more than 150 volunteers and managing the event in its 18th year. Repeated challenge from 2022, in that maintenance contractor and longtime volunteer is offline for the event. DPW and volunteers, including Farmers Market, have helped immensely. DDA is hosting a Grow with Google live coaching workshop on 9/21, at Farmington Co-Work. Additional professional development is coming to downtown businesses: DDA is applying a matching In Your Town grant to bring in POW Strategies for two social media workshop(s) in October, same Co-Work venue.

The district has new businesses opening- La Pecora Nera, Cannelle, signed lease for Apricot Lane, women's boutique retail in Sunflour Bakehaus building, Blueberry Brunch coming to former Shish location at Glen Una east endcap at Main and Grove. Massage Luxe, Taques Bar & Grill will open in the next few weeks, as will the long-anticipated Heights Brewing.

Developer meeting today with new owners/development team for Castle Dental Lab property. Pocket Park in progress. Challenges with Consumers Energy scheduling service have impacted property timeline. We are fielding continued inquiries for donating toward the pocket park as construction proceeds, including a generous donation from Mark and Amy Accetura last week. The \$100K Oakland County Parks grant has been recorded, and staff is engaging Design and Public Art committees in working on a piece of public art with Nordin Brothers.

6. Consideration to approve façade grant for 33312 Grand River Avenue

Historic restoration of Steve Chang's Edward Jones Building.

Motion by McLaughlin, second by Singleton to allocate \$1,980 from 248-000.00-970.000 Capital Outlay to Steve Chang for building restoration services for 33312 Grand River Avenue. Motion passes unanimously via roll call.

Ayes 8

Nays 0

Absent 1

7. Consideration to approve ROW improvement reimbursement ratification 33304 Grand River Avenue

Motion by Pascaris, second by Halas, to ratify allocation of \$6,920 from the DDA FY 2022/23 Budget to Cannelle for ROW improvement costs matching downtown design standards. Motion passes unanimously via roll call.

Ayes 8

Nays 0

Absent 1

8. Committee Updates:

a. Organization Committee

Update by Deskins: Org Committee met, identified walkability as a theme within our work plan that would be a fitting for a transformation/catalyst strategy plan. We'll identify initiatives within walkability at the next meeting, October 11, for Executive Committee at Farmington Co-Work.

We are nearing 100 downtown residents. Discussion of hosting a meet and greet for the residents in our district.

b. Harvest Moon Committee

Update by Deskins and Westendorf: Woo! NEXT WEEK! New swag, new POS system.

c. Promotions Committee

Excellent Metromode stories rolling in. Photo Essay for Farmers Market Week.

d. Business Development Committee

No Updates

e. Design Committee

Façade improvement grant review and recommended. Approved and recommended Loft Cigar Lounge outdoor seating area. Received Flagstar grant from Mi.Mosa outdoor seating.

f. Public Art Committee

Sub-committee has been meeting for Heart the Art, February 10th
Art in Dinan Park is underway

9. Other Business

Halas: Presented plan for Bicentennial Campaign. Farmington is celebrating the 200th year, 1824 – 2024. The Bicentennial will kick off on NYE and run the entire year of 2024. Celebration, Appreciation, Awareness. Welcoming... Since 1824

10. Board Comment

Halas: Thanks to Kate and Jess and everybody here for continued energy.

McLaughlin: Appreciates having Chris Halas, who worked on PURE Michigan campaign working on our Bicentennial campaign.

Craft: Appreciation for DDA staff and board.

11. Adjournment 9:18am

Motion to adjourn by Singleton, Second by Craft. Motion passes unanimously.