

Manistee DDA Meeting Minutes - May 18, 2016 at Noon

Present: Mayor Colleen Kenny, Sarah Spore, Rachel Brooks, Jeff Reau, Barry Lind, Valarie Bergstrom and Todd Mohr

Absent: Jackie G. and Brandon Ball

In Attendance: Jim Smith, Reporter from News Advocate, Denise Blakeslee

Agenda Item	Discussion	Decision/Recommendation
Call to Order	Reau called the meeting to order at 12:03 pm	
Approval of Agenda	Mohr moved; Kenny seconded	Approved
Public Comment	None	
Approval of Consent Agenda	Brooks made the motion to approve the consent agenda as presented, Kenny seconded	Approved
Hiring Committee	Received 7 applications for the ED position but due to the refocus of the new job description most applicants did not qualify; looking for economic developer	
Transition Update	Committee identified entities that have a common focus including County, City, DDA, CVB, AES and Chamber with discussion on how the DDA can save money and provide a higher level of service. Recommendation is to suspend DDA ED search and form two committees to look at agreements with the Chamber and AES; Chamber for events and administrative and AES to hire Economic Developer	
	Motion made by Reau to suspend ED search and have two sub committees one look at AES and one look at Chamber, details and allocating costs forthcoming, Mohr seconded, all in favor besides Brooks. Brooks is in favor of furthering the ongoing process of collaboration but disagrees with suspending the DDA ED search	Approved
	Committees: Reau, Bergstrom, Brooks on AES committee, Kenny, Barry, Spore and Mohr on Chamber committee	
	Outsourcing only phone calls and emails to the Chamber until decision has been made	
	Lind sending out update to river street Google groups	
Communication	Brooks asked why Board members are representing the DDA but not sharing information with the entire Board. Brooks also suggested if City Council Members are going to ask downtown businesses their opinions/suggestions in regard to the DDA Council Members should share their findings with the DDA Board of Directors; Lind said he will send out talking points for Board members when they are approached as a DDA Board member	
Other Business	Sarah Spore will not be renewing her Board term in June	

Public Comment

Jim Smith said he talks to community organizations and if he finds something significant he shares with the organizations Board of Directors. He looks at fiscal expenditures and voted no on the DDA budget because the DDA did not give the City \$30,000, however, he finds value in the DDA. He does not like road closures in front of the Elks because members are elderly and can't park in front. Brooks stated parking is for all downtown businesses and activities and would like to see community members support businesses that all residents and visitors can patronage. Jim said he has asked other organizations questions because it is his responsibility as a council member to get information to make responsible decisions.

Denise Blakeslee said City Council approved Master Plan and is having a meeting on August 4, 2016 at 7 pm.

Adjournment

Reau made motion, Brooks seconded at 1:36 pm

Adjourned