

MANISTEE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
WORK SESSION MINUTES OF MAY 4, 2021
3:00 P.M., VIRTUAL MEETING

PRESENT: Kyle Mosher (City of Manistee, Manistee County), Thad Taylor (City of Manistee, Manistee County), Jodi Walter (Stronach Township, Manistee County), Bruce Allen (City of Manistee, Manistee County), Ken Urban (City of Manistee, Precinct 2, Manistee County), Karen Goodman (City of Manistee, Manistee County), Annie Jacobson (City of Manistee, Manistee County), Tamara DePonio (3:28pm arrival at Filer Township, City of Manistee)

EXCUSED ABSENCE: James Beaudrie

ALSO PRESENT: Stacie Bytwork, Marc Miller, Kristina Bajtka

- 1.) **CALL TO ORDER.**
Meeting called to order by the Chair at 3:00 p.m.

- 2.) **WORK SESSION ITEMS**
DDA Bond Priorities - Capital Project Improvements Bond Priorities, Riverwalk & River Street Placemaking

- A.) **PUBLIC COMMENT.**
None

- B.) **DISCUSSION ON DDA BOND PRIORITIES.**

Discussion included:

- Goal of informal discussion to spend bond dollars but make the largest noticeable impact in the district. Could include things like turning hardscape into softscape with trees and greenery, bumpouts, and other.
- Add to Property Acquisition Account - Maybe purchase Art Park, Northern Hotel or other for rehab. Hold \$100,000 for this purpose. Staff to check if bond monies can be spent like this. (All funds must be spent in 3-years)
- River Street Streetscape to include Crosswalk bump-outs with greenery and bench (protrude out as far as a current parking space on both sides of the street). To accomplish slowing traffic and downtown aesthetics. Would be very noticeable and all the way down Riverstreet.
- Planters with Trees along River Street (slow growing, limited height). Could offer tree/planters as family memorial markers to produce income or cover expenses as was done with benches in the past.
- Clean & Repair Riverwalk (decking is a priority). Staff to obtain Spicer review of Riverwalk. Possibly add retaining walls to widen in places, provide seating, park like

spaces, and add performance area opportunities with a goal to connect businesses to Riverwalk.

- Fundraising idea “buy a board”.
- Engage community foundation, corporate sponsors, and other parties with costs/rendering.
- ADA Ramp (between Peterson McGregor Insurance Company/Dick’s Barber Shop).
- District Lighting - LED lighting upgrades to street fixtures, utilizing a lighting consultant, avoid light pollution, Riverwalk needs additional lighting at night, very dark in places and will be helpful for boat traffic.
 - Can recovery funds that the city will be receiving cover any of the items on the list? City will receive more guidelines in mid-may.
- Rental Rehab Downtown - In the past downtown owners not interested. MEDC does have an incentive program running currently to encourage more housing.
- City Marina Property buildout a deck/retaining wall to add seating for people to sit and enjoy views.
- Landscape Architect specifically for Riverwalk to provide guidance & plan to move forward. Create a 5 year plan of what we can do to improve (in stages) and plan for how to maintain.
- MSU Study Projects - Signage, maps, updating downtown bathroom area - show value with minimal funding but will make immediate difference.
- Warming Space Feature in Art Park, Marina or other downtown area to allow for people to gather.

c.) OTHER.

- Social district work is moving forward, proposal is almost complete. Goal to get to city council mid may.
- Platforms - running into a few road blocks due to inventory shortages.

12.) ADJOURN.

Next Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. which will be held virtually.

MOTION by Mrs. Goodman second by Mr. Taylor **to adjourn at 3:45 p.m.**

Jodi Walter
Secretary