

**MANISTEE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 9, 2022  
8:30 A.M., WSCC EDUCATION CENTER  
400 RIVER STREET, MEETING ROOM B**

PRESENT: Kyle Mosher, Bill Gambill, Jodi Walter, Karen Goodman, Annie Jacobson, Kelly Greve

EXCUSED ABSENCE: Tamara DePonio, Bruce Allen, Deanna Marsh

ALSO PRESENT: Kristina Bajtko, Jeff Mikula, Marc Miller, Councilmember Grabowski

1.) **CALL TO ORDER.**

Meeting called to order by the Chair at 8:31 a.m.

2.) **APPROVAL OF AGENDA.**

*MOTION* by Bill Gambill, second by Jodi Walter to adopt the agenda as amended.  
Voice vote—Motion approved.

Added: 7.) Economic Development Quarterly Report – Marc Miller, following Director’s Report.

3.) **PUBLIC COMMENT.**

None

4.) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES.**

*MOTION* by Karen Goodman, second by Kelly Greve to approve the minutes from the January 12, 2022, regular meeting.  
Voice vote—Motion approved.

5.) **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE** – Jeff Mikula.

6.) **APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS.**

*MOTION* by Annie Jacobson, second by Karen Goodman to approve the January 2022 financials.

Voice vote—Motion approved.

a. Approval of Expenses - \$8,170.00

- 7.) **DIRECTOR’S REPORTS** – Kristina Bajtko – Preparing proposed budget for discussion. Updating and adding required documents to the DDA website to modernize and bring into compliance. Linked the website to the Economic Development page of the Chamber’s website. Will be mailing out the downtown newsletter in the next couple of weeks – will include information on dumpsters, outdoor seating permits, planters and upcoming event dates. Quotes for insurance and website design coming in.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** – Marc Miller – Since City Council approved the final steps for the Hampton Inn, he has been fielding calls from business owners interested in the downtown and the entire region. Gateway project continues to progress – participating in phone meetings at least twice a month. Gateway brownfield is a long process but has been positive. Fricano’s moving forward – delays have been due to supply chain backorders. Expecting a May 2022 opening. New round of MEDC Match on Main grant opportunity – will be promoting to businesses. This grant is possible for our community because we are a Redevelopment Ready Community. Blue Fish applied for this grant during the last round and was awarded in December 2021.

Miscellaneous discussion of current projects and possibilities for vacant locations.

- 8.) **2022/2023 BUDGET DISCUSSION** – Chair Mosher.  
Kristina will schedule a budget work session sometime within the next two weeks.

- 9.) **PUBLIC COMMENT.**  
Libby and Mickey, 84 Cypress Street – two of the three sisters/owners of Three Peas in a Pod. Introduced themselves and their store, which sells Michigan made products, most from Manistee. Thanked the community for their support.

Barry Lind, 532 Fourth Street – suggested the downtown newsletter include information to organizations that adopt planters along the Riverwalk. Expressed surprise that there was no mention of any bond projects at this meeting. Informed the Board that the County Visitors Bureau (CVB) has been functioning without a director and the CVB Board has recently engaged with a national recruiting firm to help with the search – process has just started. There will also be a press release soon about tourism industry, especially hotels, had a record year last year – good news.

- 10.) **BOARD COMMENT.**  
Karen Goodman – asked for an update on the blighted downtown buildings.

Chair Mosher – Reminded the Board of the Chamber Untapped at the North Channel Brewery tomorrow from 5:00-7:00 p.m., sponsored by six downtown businesses.

Kristina Bajtka – Informed the Board that she has added them to the list for ribbon cutting ceremonies.

11.) **ADJOURN.**

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 9, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. in the WSCC Education Center, 400 River Street.

*MOTION* by Karen Goodman **to adjourn at 9:20 a.m.**

Kelly McColl  
Acting Recording Secretary