

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

PRESENT: Tamara DePonio, Kyle Mosher, Bill Gambill, Jodi Walter, Bruce Allen,
Annie Jacobson, Kelly Greve, Deanna Marsh

ABSENT: Karen Goodman

ALSO PRESENT: Marc Miller, Stacie Bytwork, Councilmember Grabowski, Barry Lind –
PEG Commission

1. **CALL TO ORDER.**

Meeting called to order by the Chair at 8:30 a.m.

2. **PUBLIC HEARING – APPROVAL OF CITY BUDGET FOR DDA.** Opened at 8:31 a.m.

a. Public Comments
None.

b. Discussion/Approval

MOTION by Tamara DePonio, second by Annie Jacobson to approve the 2022-2023
Manistee DDA Budget.

Voice vote—Motion approved.

c. Close of Public Hearing
8:33 a.m.

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA.**

MOTION by Bill Gambill, second by Jodi Walter to adopt the agenda as presented.

Voice vote—Motion approved.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT.**

None.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES.**

MOTION by Jodi Walter, second by Kelly Greve to approve the minutes from the May 11, 2022, regular meeting.

Voice vote—Motion approved.

6. **APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS.**

MOTION by Annie Jacobson, second by Jodi Walter to approve the May 2022 financials.

Voice vote—Motion approved.

a. Approval of Expenses

7. **EXECUTIVE REPORT** – Marc Miller and Stacie Bytwork – Recent tour of three priority redevelopment sites. Three DDA members and five Council members participated in the tours. Highlighted the scope of development is necessary to bring these types of buildings back to useful life and the public/private partnerships it requires to accomplish this. Went through the Jones Dairy building, Northern Hotel and Fricano’s.

Ongoing development projects: Lakeshore Hotel, Music Vault, Fricano’s and Gateway.

New Businesses: WellNested, Mangiardi Films and My Flag.

Still working with Holesome Bites to find a location downtown – very challenging.

Chamber is still working with a team approach as the director of the DDA though Marc Miller is the main contact. Chamber recently hired Cassidy Jessup as the Marketing and Communications Specialist. Carmen Kott will be going off on maternity leave very soon. The DDA is no longer a Mainstreet organization, Chamber will be communicating this to the public.

8. **REPORTS FROM AD HOC COMMITTEE OR FOCUS AREAS.**

- a. Streetscape RFQ – Bill Gambill – Required site visit today. Posted responses to questions on the RFQ. Proposals are due on June 28, 2022, interviews will be scheduled the week of July 18, 2022, awarded in August. Goal is to find a partner to work with us to implement our vision.

- b. District Businesses – Deanna Marsh – Downtown merchant promotion: Shop Downtown Father’s Day. Gift basket includes items from many of the downtown merchants, current value is \$700.00. Next Merchant meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 21. Downtown street construction signs are confusing. DPW is installing crosswalk signs this week. Merchants are concerned about the use of the refuse corrals by general public – is keypad access an option? Merchants are so happy to welcome new businesses downtown. Congratulations to Kelly Greve for her award from the Elks – appreciates all that she does

for the community. Manistee Inn and Marina has new managers – Brandon and Jennifer Devine.

- c. Beautification – Kelly Greve – Thanked the DPW for their help with the flower planter arrangements. Would like more planters next year. Gazebo up in the art park, will be painting picnic tables for the area. Native plants were planted in the area along the Riverwalk just east of Maple Street Bridge by Gordy Heidel and Marc Qualls-Sanchez. Jane Seibert would like to plant the tree garden by Fricano’s. Discussed the planting of gardens and need for irrigation along the Riverwalk – there is no plan for irrigation along the Riverwalk. There has been a fountain donation to the City from Nunez Landscaping. Would like to organize a Board workday at the Marina to power wash, paint, trim trees, etc.

9. **OLD BUSINESS.**

West Shore Community College Riverwalk, EDA Grant Update – Bill Gambill – Hired firm to prepare SHPO letter of no adverse effect which is required. Once the study is complete that is the last step in the process. Timeframe: September awarding, RFQ process, hopefully work by spring 2023.

10. **NEW BUSINESS.**

None.

11. **PUBLIC COMMENT.**

Jeff Gordon – Asked that street barriers on Division Street be removed.

Gordy Heidel and Marc Jacob Qualls-Sanchez – planted native plant gardens along the Riverwalk, east of Maple Street Bridge. Spoke to the importance of native plants – beautiful, drought resistant, low maintenance, and benefits insects and birds. Matt LaMore from Black Cap Farms in Onekama has been very helpful. This was the first phase of the project; would like to incorporate art into the project.

Councilmember Grabowski – Spoke in favor of keeping a tree down at First Street Beach as it attracts monarch butterflies.

12. **BOARD COMMENT.**

Kelly Greve – Asked about incorporating murals downtown. Suggested having scooters located in designated areas.

Deanna Marsh – Would like to see better scooter signage.

Bruce Allen – Concerns about scooter safety.

13. **ADJOURN.**

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 13, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. in the WSCC Education Center, 400 River Street.

MOTION by Bruce Allen, second by Deanna Marsh **to adjourn at 9:38 a.m.**

Kelly McColl
Acting Recording Secretary