



City of Pleasant Ridge
 23925 Woodward Avenue
 Pleasant Ridge, Michigan 48069

Regular Downtown Development Authority Meeting
Monday, January 26, 2015

Having been duly publicized, Chairman Bolach called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

Present: Bolach, Christensen, Decoster, Laidlaw, Lenko, McAuliffe, McCutcheon, O'Brien.

Also Present: City Manager Breuckman.

Absent: Schlesinger.

Chairman Bolach welcomed the two new Members Kristi McAuliffe and Lola (Lorin) Christensen.

Minutes

DDA-2015-1504

Motion by Commissioner Decoster, second by Commissioner McAuliffe that the minutes of the Regular Downtown Development Authority Meeting on Monday, December 15, 2014, be approved.

Adopted: Yeas: Decoster, McAuliffe, Bolach, Christensen, Laidlaw, Lenko, McCutcheon, O'Brien.

Nays: None.

Consideration of the 2015 Board Appointments

Chairman Bolach announced that the Board has to consider appointments to the positions of Chairman, Vice Chair, and Secretary. The positions will be filled the same as the Planning Commission.

Chairman Bolach as the Chairman.

Commissioner Laidlaw as Vice Chair.

Commissioner Lenko as Secretary.

City Manager's Update

Breuckman recommended that the Board discuss the upcoming projects for this year. The budget process will begin in March.

Chairman Bolach suggested that all the committees should be reviewed and have members assigned. Sub-committees are good for obtaining necessary information to assist in topic discussions. Laidlaw suggested that committees only be 2 or 3 members. Commissioner Lenko suggested an Outreach Committee be formed for events and rebranding the DDA, something that is ongoing throughout the year. Bolach recommended that the Budget Committee be formed due to the fact the budget process will be starting in March. Commissioner Laidlaw added that the best direction is to have the City

provide necessary information on a regular basis to the committee so that a lot of time is not wasted for those who are volunteering in these roles of the DDA to try to obtain the information. Bolach suggested that if anyone has any questions to please email them directly to Breuckman so that the information will be provided in advance of a meeting. McAuliffe and Christensen recommended that there needs to be better communication with the business owners and they are willing to serve as the ambassadors to give them a voice. A current list of business owners will be compiled. Christensen would like to see better advertisement for the business district especially when there is a vacancy. Lengthy discussion held.

Commissioner McCutcheon inquired as to the proposed signage for parking lots and Breuckman responded that it is on the list of things to be done.

Other Business

Commissioner McCutcheon addressed the accessory dwelling units proposed ordinance and inquired as to why the City Commission voted it down after there was so much work and support by the Planning Commission beforehand. Commissioner Perry indicated that the City Commissioners reached out to the public and the overall feedback was that the residents did not like the feel and vision of rentals, additional parking issues, and did not want to see the City go in this direction. Bolach suggested that in the future if there is a topic that the City Commission may know in advance that it may not support to please inform the Planning Commission/DDA so that continued efforts and time is not wasted on something that is just going to fail in the long run; and, that maybe an item should be tabled to allow the Planning Commission/DDA to inquire of the City Commission what other information or public comment is needed to remedy any concerns before an outright denial. Commissioner Perry suggested that any of the Board Members can attend the City Commission meetings and voice their opinions. Bolach added that the recommendations the Board made on the accessory dwelling units were more or less to control the requirements and have restrictions, not to necessarily approve them overall. Laidlaw expressed concern that maybe there were 20 residents who voiced their disapproval of the proposed ordinance, but does that necessarily reflect the viewpoint of all the residents in the city who did not speak up. Breuckman mentioned that a lot of meaningful work and research was done that will not be wasted for the future.

Mr. Tom Treuter, 11 Oakland Park, added that he felt the Planning Commission and the City did a great amount of research in presenting and had meaningful discussion on the proposals for accessory dwelling units.

With no further comments or discussion, Chairman Bolach adjourned the meeting at 8:16 p.m.