FERNDALE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2018**

**8:00 A.M.**

**FERNDALE CITY HALL**

**300 E. 9 MILE**

**FERNDALE, MI 48220**

**MINUTES**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

A**.** Roll Call 8:03 a.m.

**DDA Board Members Present**: Dean Bach, Jacki Smith, Greg Pawlica, Blake Scheer, Nathan Martin, PJ Jacokes, Chris Johnston, Jerome Raska

**DDA Board Members Absent**: Mindy Cupples, Mayor/Council

**Staff Present**: Barry Hicks, Cindy Willcock, Torri Buback

**Guests:** Joe Gacioch, Assistant City Manager, Mara Braciszewski, City Intern, Erin Quetell, City Environmental Sustainability Planner, Justin Lyons, Planner, Jordan Twardy, City of Ferndale Planning Director, Jenny Marr of Ferndale Public Area District Library, Melanie Piana, Councilwoman.

B. Dismissals: Mindy Cupples, Mayor/Council

C. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Director Raska, seconded by Director Jacokes to switch item B “Downtown Landscaping” with item A “The dot Update”, then add “Placemaking Project” as item A and approve the agenda as amended. All Ayes, motion carries.

Director Johnston arrives at 8:23 am

D. Approval of Minutes: March 2018

Motion by Director Smith, seconded by Director Martin to approve the Minutes for March 2018 as presented. All Ayes, motion carries.

**II.** Consent Agenda

1. Financial Statement

Motion by Director Scheer seconded by Director Raska to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. All Ayes, motion carries.

**III**. Community Reports

1. Chamber of Commerce Blake Scheer

Director Scheer reported the Ferndale Area Chamber of Commerce status as currently transitioning. Matt Zook is no longer with the Chamber and they are undergoing a move to Search Optics for better accessibility. Any questions or concerns related to the Chamber should be directed to Kim Hart or Dale Vigliarolo in the interim.

1. Ferndale Area District Library Jenny Marr

The library closed briefly for technology upgrades – a second print station and mobile printing. Yoga and the other events being held at the library are going very well and are bringing in crowds.

**IV.** Presentations

1. Placemaking Project Mara Braciszewski

City of Ferndale intern, Mara Braciszewski presented her ideas for creating a strengthened community connection between our residents, visitors and the places we all share. The project focus is the Troy alley.

Discussion: Director Smith asked how the porta potties would be affected for the events that utilize the Troy alley, also has concerns with attracting the wrong attention. Director Raska asked about the Build Grants and how we can do more enhancements in the downtown. Director Smith added, there are not many facades that would fall under this grant for improvement needs. Director Raska responded with his concerns around promoting the program to our downtown business community.

Motion by Director Raska, seconded by Director Jacokes to allocate $500 toward the downtown placemaking efforts. All ayes, motion carries.

B. Downtown Landscaping Michael Patrick (www.gdetroit.com)

Michael Patrick of MP Gardens presented some creative ideas for keeping Downtown Ferndale sustainable, green and lush. The plans include a long term, continual system that would essentially be more cost effective and easier to maintain in the long run. Director Raska asked if we considered utilizing the beautification commission for our landscaping project.

1. The dot Joe Gacioch

City of Ferndale Assistant Manager, Joe Gacioch presented an update on The dot, identifying a net increase of 262 parking spaces from what is currently available in the Troy parking lot.

1. DDA FY of 18-19 Budget Director Smith, ED Hicks

Director Smith and Executive Director Hicks presented the budget for fiscal year ’18-’19.

Motion by Director Raska, seconded by Director Scheer to approve the budget as presented. All ayes, motion carries.

**V.** Call to Committee Chairs & Board Members & Staff

Director Raska would like to say thank you to Director Smith and keep her on indefinitely as treasurer. Director Raska also wanted to announce the Holly Dickens Festival happening the following Friday as well as ticket sales for the Feeling Lucky Tour.

Deputy Director Willcock announced Third Thursdays are back and will kick off the series with the Downtown Bike Rodeo happening on May 17th in Schiffer Park.

**VI.** Adjournment

Motion by Director Raska, seconded by Director Scheer to adjourn the meeting. All Ayes, meeting adjourned at 9:53 a.m.