

For Approval
July 15, 2014

DRAFT
City of Walker
Walker/Standale Downtown Development Authority
Tuesday, June 17, 2014
1:00PM – DDA Board Room
Fire Station #2 – 4101 Lake Michigan Drive

Thanks to Pat Goodale for supplying a pizza lunch and cake to recognize J. Cornell and C. Vander Meulen's retirements.

1. Call Meeting to Order and Record Attendance: The meeting was called to order by Chairman J. Cornell at 1:00PM. Attendance was recorded as follows:

Present: J. Cornell, C. Vander Meulen, P. Goodale, D. Cramer, L. Adams, J. Veldheer, and J. DeGroot

Absent: G. Hicks, M. Neal, B. Berg, R. Smith

Also Present: Scott Connors - City Engineer, Frank Wash - Community Development Director, Jeromie Winsor - URS, Nicholas Monoyios - The RAPID, Amber Kniebel, and Julia Kozminski – Recording Secretary.

2. Approval of Minutes: Following review by DDA members, a motion was made by D. Cramer with support by J. Veldheer to approve the May 27, 2014 Downtown Development Authority minutes as presented. Motion carried.

3. Introduction of New Staff Member, Amber Kneibel: Amber was introduced to the DDA Board. She has been selected as the new Marketing and Promotions Coordinator. Amber's position will be jointly shared between the DDA and the City of Walker. Amber updated the board on the summer concert series and shared details of other projects she is working on.

4. Resignation of Chairman J. William Cornell - DDA members received a letter of resignation (effective today) submitted by J. Cornell. Chairman Cornell was one of two remaining *original* DDA board members. City Manager Vander Meulen presented Chairman Cornell with a framed letter of appreciation on behalf of the board. Member Cornell will be greatly missed. We wish him all the best in his future endeavors and thank him for his twenty eight years of service to the City of Walker DDA Board. Mr.

Cornell turned the meeting over to Vice Chairman D. Cramer, who is now assuming the role of DDA Board Chairman.

5. The RAPID Laker Line Bus Rapid Transit Update: Nicholas Monoyios (The Rapid) and Jeromie Winsor (URS) presented information to the DDA board regarding progress for the future of the Laker Line/Bus Rapids Transit. A Laker Line study is underway that is funded by a federal transit planning grant received by The Rapid in October 2012. The study will evaluate the potential for a number of Bus Rapid Transit options in the Lake Michigan Drive corridor from downtown Grand Rapids, through Walker and to Allendale's GVSU campus. Due to a dramatic increase in ridership, the need to develop bus transit services is necessary, especially on Route #50 which connects the two GVSU campuses. In 2002, the route transported 179,000 riders. In 2012, it increased to more than 2 million. Some benefits of improving public transit throughout the corridor are economic development, reduction in traffic congestion, and transportation to jobs and schools.

Upon completion of the study, data will be compiled in order to move to the next stage of the study. Engineer Connors and Planning Director Wash are members of the BRT subcommittee and have been working with The Rapid, URS and MDOT on this potential project. A map of possible BRT locations and corridor configurations was presented to members. Many questions arose regarding placement and portability of the stations, potential development, and expenses involved. Mr. Monoyios will be sending out examples of what a typical platform station may look like. URS will be providing a traffic analysis to the board, possibly at the July meeting.

6. Standale Summer Concert Series: Amber has been very busy creating brochures, banners, door hangers, securing sponsors and vendors for the concert series, updating the Facebook page and several additional social media outlets, and the DDA site. She is also working on a marketing plan for next year as well as additional family/kid friendly activities. Per an endorsement by the DDA in May, Community Development Director Wash will place an information board at Community Park one hour prior to the first concert on June 19. The purpose of the display board is to obtain public comment regarding ideas and possible improvements to the park. \$5,000.00 has been secured through sponsorships for the concert. City Manager Vander Meulen thanked DDA members that helped sponsor this event.

7. Fred Meijer Standale Trail/M-45 Tunnel Discussion: Engineer Connors discussed the project with DDA members. The City of Walker has received a conditional grant award from MDOT in the amount of 1.12 million dollars. \$80,000 has been included in the city budget for tunnel design work. The project is still in need of approximately \$700,000 - \$850,000. Additional funding will be needed through private donors. Scott Connors and Amber Kneibel have discussed possible fund raising activities/ideas. Construction could begin as early as fall 2015. Engineer Connors distributed renderings that indicate what the project will look like. Greenville has a very good example of what our tunnel could look like. City Manager Vander Meulen, Asst. City Manager Schmalzel and Engineer Connors will be visiting the City of Greenville on June 20 to view their tunnel.

8. Resolution/Amendment to the By-Laws: As a general housekeeping item, the original resolution amending the DDA ordinance could not be located. In order to have this document on record, a duplicate resolution has been prepared. A motion was made by T. Bart with support by J. Degroot to approve a resolution to ratify and approve an amendment to the bylaws of the DDA. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

YEAS: T. Bart P. Goodale C. Vander Meulen L. Adams
 J. Veldheer J. DeGroot D. Cramer
NAYES: None

The motion was approved unanimously.

9. Any Other Business – Engineer Connors stated that the resurfacing project on Lake Michigan Drive continues. Most of the work is taking place at night.

10. Next Meeting Date and Time – **Tuesday, July 15, 2014 at 1:00PM.**

11. Adjournment – A motion was made by D. Cramer with support by B. Berg to adjourn the meeting at 2:15 PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julia Kozminski, Recording Secretary

If you have any questions or are unable to attend a meeting, please contact Cathy Vander Meulen at (616) 791-6859. Thank you.