

For Approval
July 17, 2013

DRAFT
MINUTES

City of Walker
Walker/Standale Downtown Development Authority
Wednesday, June 19, 2013
1:00PM – DDA Board Room
Fire Station #2 – 4101 Lake Michigan Drive

1. Call to Order - The meeting was called to order at 1:00PM by Chairman J. Cornell.

Members Present: J. Cornell, J. DeGroot, L. Adams, T. Bart, P. Goodale, J. Veldheer, C. Vander Meulen, G. Hicks, M. Neal, B. Berg

Also Present: Mark Koning – DPW Director

2. Approval of Minutes: Following review, a motion was made by G. Hicks with support by L. Adams to approve the DDA meeting minutes of May 21, 2013. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Interview Prospective DDA Board Members: In advance of this meeting, members received applications from interested parties to fill two vacancies on the DDA board. Randy Smith and Doug Cramer were interviewed by DDA board members. A third applicant, Buzz Holtvluwer was out of town and could not attend the meeting.

- Doug Cramer – Mr. Cramer-Optician is the owner of Michigan Optical located at 511 Wilson Avenue. He is owner/landlord of the building where his business has been located for 8 years. Mr. Cramer expressed his interest in serving on the board as a business owner in the district as well as a resident in the area. He is familiar with several projects that the DDA has facilitated and is very pleased with the changes that have taken place in the district, especially improvements that have been made at the intersection of Lake Michigan Drive and Wilson. Mr. Cramer is very interested in serving on the DDA board and he is able to meet the meeting requirements with no reservations.
- Randy Smith – Mr. Smith is a builder/developer/DDA property owner who is a long time resident in the City of Walker. Randy is currently a member of the Walker Zoning Board of Appeals, Building Code Board of Appeals, and is a former part-time Walker City Commissioner. Mr. Smith is also impressed by the many improvements that have been in the Standale area.

Following the interviews, the DDA board discussed all applicants and determined that Mr. Cramer and Mr. Smith would be excellent choices to serve as board members. A motion was made by G. Hicks with support by J. DeGroot to recommend to the City Commission that Doug Cramer and Randy Smith be appointed to the DDA Board. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Updates:

- Grand Valley Parking Lot – The project has been withdrawn by GVSU. Residents objected to the construction of a new parking lot and presented signed petitions against the project. It is unclear at this time whether or not GVSU will pursue alternative options in other areas of the DDA district.
- Demolition of Garage on DDA Property Located at 4284 Lake Michigan Drive – Following approval in May by the DDA board, M. Koning solicited bids for the project. Melching was awarded the bid at a cost of \$4,200.00. This cost includes the removal of concrete. The Walker DPW will fill the area with sand following removal of debris. Demolition is expected to be completed during the week of June 17, 2013.
- Summer Concert Series – The first concert was held on June 13 in Community Park and is considered to be a huge success! The event was very well attended! City Manager Vander Meulen expressed her thanks to the DDA businesses for their financial support as well as to those who were able to attend the concert. The next “Concert in the Park” event will take place on July 11 at 7:00PM.
- The Venue – The City of Walker City Commission did not support the renewal of a liquor license for The Venue. A hearing will be taking place next week on the State level regarding their renewal. Their license is currently in escrow.
- Joint DDA Coordinator Position with City of Grandville – City Manager Vander Meulen spoke with the City of Grandville regarding the possible shared coordinator position. The coordinator would be employed by the City of Grandville. Walker would contract with Grandville to provide that service. City Manager Vander Meulen has drafted a letter of understanding and sent it on to the City of Grandville for their review. Grandville is in the process of advertising for the coordinator position.

5. Next Meeting Date & Time – Wednesday, July 17, 2013 at 1:00PM

6. Adjournment – A motion was made by J. Veldheer with support by T. Bart to adjourn the meeting at 2:04PM. Motion carried unanimously.

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