

MEETING MINUTES

Cascade Charter Township
Joint Meeting of the
Downtown Development Authority Board of Directors
And Planning Commission
Tuesday, August 18, 2015
5:30 P.M.
Cascade Library - Wisner Center
2870 Jacksmith Ave SE

ARTICLE 1. Call the Meeting to Order

Chairman Huhn called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
Members Present DDA: David Huhn, Diana Kingsland, Jennifer Pupilava, Kim Ridings, Paula Rowland, Steve Stephan, Rick Siegle, Matt Smith
Members Absent: Rob Beahan (excused)
Members Present Planning Commission: Al Pennington, Scott Rissi, Sue Williams, John Sperla, Jack Lewis, Jeff Hammond.
Members Absent: Planning Members: Claude Robinson (excused), Steve Waalkes (excused), Aaron Mead (excused)
Others Present: DDA/ED Director Sandra Korhorn and Community Development Director Steve Peterson

ARTICLE 2. Approve the Agenda

Motion was made by Member Rowland to approve the Agenda. Support by Member Ridings. Motion carried, 8-0.

ARTICLE 3. Approve the Minutes of the July 14, 2015 Meeting

Motion was made by Member Rowland to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2015 meeting as written. Support by Member Pupilava. Motion carried 8-0.

ARTICLE 4. Acknowledge visitors and those wishing to speak to non-agenda items. *(Comments are limited to five minutes per speaker)*

Alan Rowland, Parks Committee wants to discuss the development of the land in front of the library. He thinks that a skate park should be considered. There are not a lot of things for the teenagers to do in the parks, I think some inspiration should be considered for a skate park. It seems that with the addition of a skate park it would make the library a cool place to hang out. The more visible the skate park is, the less potential for trouble.

ARTICLE 5. Metro Cruise Warm-up Update – Presentation by Consumers Credit Union, Carmen Villahermosa de Cox

DDA/ED Director Korhorn presented. Director Korhorn introduced Carmen Villahermosa de Cox. Update on the events of the Metro Cruise Warm Up followed.

Discussion followed.

ARTICLE 6. Discuss Capital Improvement Projects

DDA/ED Director Korhorn presented the Village projects this year. After looking at our budget and with some additional issues to deal with on this project, the DDA will not have much left in the budget. Approximately \$500,000 will be left in the coffer, but there will be a bond to pay so the cash balance will be close to zero. Chairman Huhn asks for a breakdown of the current projects.

Director Korhorn stated that the Museum Garden Project has been very slow moving and had some unexpected costs. We found monitoring wells that had not been abandoned and fuel fill pipes and contaminated soil that had to be removed from the site. That work has now been completed and our contractor can now resume work on the project. With the additional charges to the project we are around \$310,000 for the park upgrade.

Director Korhorn stated the Road project is currently on schedule. The crossing to Thornapple River Drive should be completed September 12. The 28th Street intersection will begin after the completion of the Midblock crossing portion and should be completed by October 31.

Director Korhorn stated that there are some upcoming physical improvement projects for next year in the Township Capital Improvement Plan.

- Pathway extension on the south side of Cascade Road from 28th Street to the Cascade Villa Apartments. This is where the DDA District ends. The Pathway extension continuing from the Cascade Villa Apartments to Burton Street would be from the General Fund.
- Community Gathering Area –Library/28th Street. The open area in front of the library closest to 28th Street is the open space in mind for this project. There is room for Library expansion if it is needed in the future near the new Township Office location.
- Pathway extension from the Library to Tassel Park has been discussed in the past the concern being that it brings people to the back of businesses instead of in front.
- 28th Street Midblock crossing by Crowne Plaza. History has shown that pedestrians do not take the sidewalk to the marked crossings. A pedestrian island would allow pedestrians a safe resting place between the lanes of traffic.
- 28th Street Sidewalk extension from Hotel Avenue to Drury Hotel. There are currently sidewalks on the north side of 28th Street and they stop at Hotel Avenue.

- Gateway Entry Signs at the Bridge to welcome people into the Village area. Decisions would need to be made if the Township would be interested in purchasing real estate for the signage.
- Pathway extensions (non DDA projects)
 - Pathway extension north on Thornapple River Drive from Cascade Road to Hurley. The pathway currently ends at Peace Street.
 - Pathway extension on the south side of Thornapple River Drive from Cascade Road to Thornhills Avenue.
 - Pathway extension on Cascade Road from the Village to Burton Street
- Entry sign at the 36th Street interchange.

Discussion followed.

Article 7. Any Other Business

- **Village Road Projects Update**
Project is on time and should be completed by October 31st.
- **Museum Gardens Update**
Project is moving forward after site clean-up was completed.
- **Update on Planning Projects**
 - **Three Year Bussing Pilot Plan**
 - **Train from Detroit to Holland with a stop in Cascade is moving forward and is getting a lot of positive input and feedback.**

Article 11. Adjournment

Member Pupilava made a motion to adjourn. Support by Member Stephan. Motion carried 8-0. Meeting Adjourned at 7:05 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Kingsland, Secretary
Ann Seykora, Planning Administrative Assistant
Julie Kutchins, Planning Administrative Assistant