

MEETING MINUTES

Cascade Charter Township
Downtown Development Authority Board of Directors
Tuesday, March 20, 2012
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: Rob Beahan, David Huhn, Julie Johnson,
Tom McDonald, Kirt Ojala, Jennifer Puplava,
Members Absent: Joann Noto, excused Rick Siegle, unexcused
Others Present: Assistant to the Manager Sandra Korhorn, Planning Director Steve Peterson, Fire Chief John Sigg, Township Engineer Mike Berrevoets

Member Kingsland arrived at 5:35 PM

ARTICLE 2. Approve the Agenda

Motion was made by Member Ojala to approve the Agenda. Support by Member McDonald. Motion carried.

ARTICLE 3. Approve the Minutes of the January 17, 2012 Meeting

Motion was made by Member Beahan to approve the Minutes. Support by Member McDonald. Motion carried.

Audience Comments:

Doug Lee and Paul Lee of 6860 Cascade Rd, representing Cascade on the Boardwalk

Doug and Paul are in the process of converting a building at 6860 Cascade Road into both their computer company and also a hangout for Forest Hills Central High School band members. A coffee shop will be opened where students can be employed and a portion of the profits will go for supporting band activities. Kids could also work to raise money to pay the cost of band camp each summer. There are plans for a sound stage where students can perform. Doug and Paul feel it will help create a downtown gathering location environment. They are asking the DDA and Township if there is any interest in public restrooms on their property.

Positive discussion followed.

ARTICLE 4. Discussion with Tim Haagsma, Kent County Road Commission re: Speed Limits

Tim is the Director of Traffic and Safety at the KCRC. Sandra Korhorn had requested that he come to talk about the Cascade Road speed limit. Tim said that state law gives the authority of setting speed limits to the State Police. The Road Commission and the

Township are participants in the study and basically have veto powers in speed limits. The State Police set the speed limit close to the 85th percentile speed. Member McDonald asked if there was any data which injects pedestrians into this. He would like to see some way to slow down traffic for the sake of pedestrians.

Tim reported that per the State Police, motorists take that into account as they're driving and they will adjust their speed. He believes that changing the speed limit does not change the speed motorists' drive.

Discussion followed with Members also expressing concerns for those riding bicycles.

Korhorn asked if placing garland on the Cascade Road Bridge is acceptable. Tim answered as to where on the bridge it is and isn't acceptable.

ARTICLE 5. Discussion re: Strategic Plan & Burying Power Lines

Planner Steve Peterson and Fire Chief John Sigg were present to talk about Goal Area 2 of the Strategic Plan, which talks about burying power lines. Peterson reported that Leslie of Consumers Energy had talked with him. She told him that in order to determine the cost to bury wires, we would need to determine some type of phasing; and then let her know exactly what we want to bury. Chief Sigg, Tony Kultz from FTCH, and Korhorn had walked Cascade Road in the village area to try to come up with some ideas.

DDA members took a short break so they could walk to the Jacksmith and 28th Street area to look at some power lines.

When they returned, Fire Chief Sigg explained some of the areas where power lines could be buried. He said however, that not everything can be.

Planner Peterson talked about wires that have been buried in Wyoming and also in Grandville and had photo's to share. Discussion followed.

Member Kingsland made a Motion to get a cost study completed for the Village area, and also 28th Street to Thornhills to bury some wires. Support by Member Johnson. Motion carried.

ARTICLE 6. Discussion re: DDA Projects for 2012

Korhorn opened the discussion by saying that she had attended a meeting with representatives from the library, Bill Bos, and Pat Cornelisse regarding the sound garden and children's garden. Everyone is interested, but the projects won't get done in 2012 due to some issues that will need to be worked out first.

Another project to consider is Centennial Park. After the last meeting the DDA Board had asked Korhorn to check on some costs for the Lucerne/Tahoe stretch. Costs came in around \$733,000 with sidewalks on both sides of the streets, streetlights, landscaping, and a few other things. This would probably be a fall project if approved.

Discussion followed.

Member McDonald made a Motion to approve going forward with this project as proposed. Support by Member Ojala. Motion carried.

Korhorn continued with a couple other possible project suggestions, first being a pathway to Tassell Park starting from the library. Secondly, some type of marketing plan for the district that would be prepared by a consultant.

Discussion followed.

Member Beahan suggested that it might be a good time to pursue the pathway.

Member McDonald suggested that the Township look into public restrooms suggested by the Lees earlier in the meeting.

Member McDonald made a Motion to pursue both the pathway and restrooms as two separate projects. Support by Member Puplava. Motion carried.

ARTICLE 7. Discussion re: 28th St. Reconstruction Project & Sidewalks

Assistant to the Manager Korhorn stated that she and Mike had met with MDOT officials to talk about the reconstruction project on 28th Street, which will happen in 2013. The project will take place from Patterson to just east of the interchange. If sidewalks are constructed during the project, MDOT would like to know if sidewalks are desired by the DDA on just one side of the street (south) or on both sides. Preliminary cost for the south side construction is about \$250,000. The sidewalk would start near Arby's and would extend to Patterson. Preliminary cost for the north side is about \$317,000. That sidewalk would start at Hotel Ave. and extend to Patterson. It would be more cost effective to piggy-back with the MDOT project than to complete the sidewalks at a separate time.

Discussion followed.

Member Beahan made a Motion to consider doing sidewalks and lighting on both sides of 28th street. Support by Member McDonald.

Member Johnson said she could vote for the south side, but not for both. Member Kingsland agreed. Discussion followed.

Motion carried, 5 to 2.

ARTICLE 8. Discussion re: Christmas Decorations

Korhorn, Member Johnson, Amy Waugh, and Tony Kutzt had met with Christine from Michigan Decorations in regards to Christmas decorations. It was determined that if

additional snowflakes were desired, there is room on our circuits. Member Johnson described the additional decorations being considered and their locations.

Korhorn stated that the cost to add the desired additional decorations will be \$5,575.00. Discussion followed.

Motion was made by Member Beahan to purchase additional decorations for the DDA district as presented. Support by Member Kingsland. Motion carried.

ARTICLE 9. Proposed Rules for Agenda

Korhorn explained that the Township wants our agendas to include a section where we can acknowledge visitors and give time to those wishing to speak about non-agenda items.

ARTICLE 10. Any Other Business

a. Cascade Rd. Bridge

b. MDOT Meeting

There will be a meeting Monday April 2. There are two meeting times being offered; one at 9:30 am and one at 5:30 pm at the Wisner Center. The purpose for the meeting is to talk about the 28th Street reconstruction project.

ARTICLE 11. Adjournment

Member McDonald made a Motion to adjourn the meeting. Support by Member Kingsland. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Kingsland, Secretary

Carol M. Meyer, Planning Administrative Assistant