

MEETING MINUTES

Cascade Charter Township
Downtown Development Authority Board of Directors
Tuesday, January 17, 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, Joann Noto, Kirt Ojala, Jennifer Puplava, Rick Siegle
Members Absent: Diana Kingsland, excused
Others Present: Assistant to the Manager Sandra Korhorn, Township Manager Bill Cousins, Members of the public

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 November 8, 2011 Meeting

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

ARTICLE 4. Discussion with Jeff Hundley re: Thornapple Centre

Assistant to the Manager Korhorn asked Jeff Hundley to talk about plans for marketing vacant space at the shopping center. Jeff explained that each building has different owners. There are plans to remodel and improve signage. Discussion followed. Board Members shared ideas on how to draw more retail and people to the shopping center.

ARTICLE 5. Discussion re: DDA Projects for 2012

Chairman Huhn asked Korhorn to discuss possible projects for 2012. Korhorn had checked into some ideas that were previously brought up in the November meeting. Suggestions were the Thornapple Center, a sound garden, a children's garden, and streetscape projects for Centennial Park. Both the sound garden and a children's garden would be near the library.

Discussion followed regarding projected projects, priorities, other ideas for projects, available funds, and a current amount still owed for projects.

Chairman Huhn asked if anyone from the public wished to speak. George Wanty was present from the Centennial Park Building Owners Assoc. Also present was Larry Fleis of 2960 Lucerne – Centennial Park.

Mr. Wanty gave appreciation to the DDA for the recent work that has been done for Centennial Park. He shared some of their goals for improvements and stated that they are requesting financial investments from all owners in the Park.

Mr. Fleis talked about the positive aspects of adding more sidewalks in the Centennial Park area. He also shared the amount of personal investment they have made in their building.

Chairman Huhn gave an overview of what had been discussed. Korhorn will have more information and estimates at the next meeting as to possible projects for 2012.

ARTICLE 6. Review and Discuss the Strategic Plan

Chairman Huhn clarified that the Strategic Plan is that of the Township and that the DDA is coordinating with the Township.

Korhorn explained that the Plan consists of Township Board ideas/goals they felt were important and needed further investigation over the next 3-5 years. The goals were divided into four areas. Township Staff was assigned to one of the four areas in order to accomplish the objectives. Korhorn and two other Township employees were assigned to Goal Area One, which consists of objectives in the Village area. They have until June, 2012 to review and investigate their objectives and present a report to the Township Board.

There are two objectives: First, develop a Town Center at 28th St. & Cascade Rd that attracts businesses, shoppers, and visitors; and readily identifies Cascade as a destination. There are various tasks to be completed.

The second objective is to develop the river front into a pedestrian friendly destination. There are tasks to be completed with this objective as well.

ARTICLE 7. Discussion re: Christmas Decorations

Korhorn, Assistant to the Manager shared with the Board that there were many positive comments in regards to the new Christmas decorations the DDA had purchased.

Member Johnson reported that many people liked the snowflakes. She would like a few more snowflakes for next year. She had concerns about the wreaths and gave her ideas on how to improve the way they look. Amy, from the Township Buildings and Grounds Dept., would like to see garland with red bows on the bridge next year.

ARTICLE 8. Election of Officers

Korhorn stated that the Officer positions are Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary.

Member McDonald made a nomination then a Motion that David Huhn remains as Chair and Diana Kingsland remains as Secretary. He also nominated and made a

Motion that Kirt Ojala serve as Vice Chair. Member Siegle supported the Motion. With no discussion, Motion carried.

ARTICLE 9. Any Other Business

- a) Contact list for Board Members
- b) Liquor License

Discussion followed in regards to the liquor license that became available to the Township since the latest census count. The Township Board would like to know if the DDA has any ideas for the license. After discussion, the Members commonly agreed that it should be granted to a local/independent restaurant as opposed to a chain restaurant. It was suggested that it be offered to Jeff Hundley to help him get a restaurant business in the Thornapple Centre.

ARTICLE 10. Adjournment

Member Beahan made a Motion to adjourn the meeting. Support by Member Noto. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Kingsland, Secretary

Carol M. Meyer, Planning Administrative Assistant