

REGULAR MEETING OF THE WEST BRANCH DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
HELD IN THE MEETING ROOM OF THE WEST BRANCH POLICE DEPARTMENT, 130 PAGE  
STREET, TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2019.

Chair Fabbri called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm.

Present: Joanne Bennett, Joe Clark, Samantha Fabbri, Autum Hunter, Sandy Rabidue  
(12:01), Erin Resteiner, Ken Walters, and Cathy Zimmerman.

Absent: Mike Cozad

Others present: Acting City Manager John Dantzer, Planning Vice-Chair Bob David, and PRT  
Fellow Mary Bickell.

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Chairperson Fabbri updated everyone on the downtown development plan and reminded  
everyone of the upcoming Downtown Art and Wine Walk

Member Rabidue updated everyone on the downtown flowers. The Board discussed the  
option of adding boxes or fences around the ground planters. Acting Manager Dantzer  
noted the need to make sure anything created would not create a trip hazard and that it  
could also be removed during the winter so snow removal could still take place.

Member Rabidue also asked about flag holders in the planter areas that could be a trip  
hazard. Member Clark noted they were no longer used. Acting Manager Dantzer noted the  
City will look into removing them.

Member Rabidue also asked if the City could remove a dead bush downtown.

Member Bennett discussed the possibility of having a shared spot on the internet that the  
City and the neighboring Townships could advertise vacant buildings or parcels for sale.

Member Walters updated everyone on the old laundromat demolition process. Member  
Resteiner noted that she has had several people ask her about the possibility of a splash  
pad in that location.

Member Walters also noted the deterioration of some retaining walls along Houghton Ave.  
Acting Manager Dantzer noted that those have been discussed with MDOT in the past and  
will continue to work with MDOT on getting them replaced.

Member Hunter asked about maintenance on the fountain. It was noted to reach out to Ray  
Van Goethem to consult with him on ways to improve the look of the water and on the  
replacement of the pump. Manager Dantzer noted they would reach out to Mr. Van  
Goethem.

Member Resteiner discussed a community service work project that they have started for the employees of their business.

Member Clark discussed some issues on the Riverwalk around Branhams. Acting Manager Dantzer noted the City would look into the Riverwalk and any cleanup that may be needed. Member Fabbri noted some old signs on the Riverwalk that have deteriorated.

PRT Fellow Bickell provided a branding update and updated the Board on the Consumers grant presentations.

Acting Manager Dantzer updated the Board that Ellen Pugh stopped into City Hall on behalf of Kiwanis and they have offered to share in the cost of the downtowns flags for 2019 as well as reinforce the flags.

**MOTION BY CLARK, SECOND BY FABBRI, TO APPROVE SHARING IN THE COST OF THE DOWNTOWN FLAGS WITH KIWANIS COVERING 50% OF THE COST, THE CITY COVERING 25% OF THE COST, AND THE DDA COVERING 25% OF THE COST.**

**Yes – Bennett, Clark, Fabbri, Hunter, Rabidue, Resteiner, Walters, Zimmerman**

**No – None**

**Absent – Cozad**

**Motion carried**

Acting Manager Dantzer noted the City got a new quote on banner brackets for downtown

Acting Manager noted the option of looking at using dumpsters instead of carts downtown.

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Member Rabidue gave a Treasurers report.

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The Council discussed some projects to look into for this fiscal year.

**MOTION BY RABIDUE, SECOND BY RESTEINER, TO APPROVE COVERING 50% OF THE COST OF THE BANNER BRACKETS WITH THE CITY.**

**Yes – Bennett, Clark, Fabbri, Hunter, Rabidue, Resteiner, Walters, Zimmerman, Bennett**

**No – None**

**Absent – Cozad**

**Motion carried**

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Member Zimmerman left at 12:50 pm.

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Acting Manager Dantzer went over the rough draft budget for the upcoming 2019-2020 fiscal year. The Board discussed the additional tax revenue of adding the mileage to the new district.

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Member Bennett left at 1:22 pm

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Acting Manager Dantzer updated the DDA on their new DDA email addresses.

An opportunity zone flier was shared.

Acting Manager Dantzer noted that he has discussed the put up and tear down of the showmobile with DPW Superintendent Killackey and that they are willing to charge a lump sum fee of \$300 for set up and tear down within a 15 mile radius.

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Member Rabidue updated the progress on the personal property tax reimbursement.

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Chair Fabbri adjourned the meeting at 1:32 pm.