

SPECIAL INFORMATIONAL MEETING OF THE WEST BRANCH DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY HELD AT THE WEST BRANCH CITY HALL AT 121 N. FOURTH ST. ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2021.

Chairperson Fabbri called the meeting to order at 12:15 pm.

Present: Anthony Bair (virtual-West Branch COVID), Samantha Fabbri, Sandy Rabidue, Erin Resteiner, and Ken Walters.

Absent: Joanne Bennett, Joe Clark, Autum Hunter, and Cathy Zimmerman.

Others present: City Manager John Dantzer

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Chairperson Fabbri noted the reason for the special meeting was to hold the second of the 2021 required annual informational meetings as required by the DDA Act.

The projects worked on during 2021 and the main areas of focus for the 2022 calendar year would be as follows:

1. Development of the Gathering Place.
 - The DDA was not able to proceed with the project in 2021 as grant funds were not available but they would continue to monitor the MEDC grant funds in 2022.
2. Working on subcommittees with Council and Planning members on the new City Council Goals that were developed and passed by Council in 2020.
 - Meetings were not held in 2021 due to COVID issues but they would continue to be available to meet as requested during 2022 to help on the City Council Goals.
3. Work with City Council on the Houghton Ave redesign project.
 - A streetscape plan was developed with the assistance of Beckett & Raeder in 2021. In 2022, the Board will continue to work on the plan and funding options for the streetscape.
4. Continue the downtowns flower and snow removal projects.
 - In 2021, the Board again sponsored the flowers and snow removal downtown. Both projects will again be a part of the DDA's plans in 2022.
5. Work on seasonal themed banners.
 - No banners were decided upon during 2021 but they will continue to discuss optional themed banners during 2022
6. Research the Historical Preservation Designation for the City.
 - In 2021, the Board discussed pros and cons of the designation but made no decisions. It will continue to be something the Board will look into during 2022.
7. Façade program
 - In 2021, a draft plan was submitted by Manager Dantzer and a subcommittee was developed to work on the final draft. In 2022, the subcommittee plans to meet with Manager Dantzer to develop the final plan to submit to the full board for their consideration.

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No one from the public was in attendance to speak on the plan.

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Chairperson Fabbri adjourned the meeting at 12:16 pm.