

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE WEST BRANCH DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
HELD AT WEST BRANCH CITY HALL, 121 N. FOURTH ST. WEST BRANCH, MI ON FRIDAY,
DECEMBER 15, 2023.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Samantha Fabbri at 12:08 pm.

Present: Samantha Fabbri, Sandy Rabidue, Erin Resteiner, Ken Walters, and Cathy Zimmerman.

Absent: Joanne Bennett, Alan Bruder, Joe Clark, and Autum Hunter.

Others present: Acting Secretary/City Manager John Dantzer

* * * * *

MOTION BY FABBRI, SECOND BY RESTEINER, TO EXCUSE MEMBERS BENNETT, BRUDER, CLARK, AND HUNTER FROM THE MEETING.

Yes – Fabbri, Rabidue, Resteiner, Walters, Zimmerman
No – None Absent – Bennett, Bruder, Clark, Hunter Motion carried

* * * * *

Heather Neuhaus and Emil Rousseau of the Visitors Bureau presented plans for a multi-county recreational byway they have been working on called the Coast to Coast on MI 55 corridor. They noted the project would help promote businesses and asked for a resolution of support.

Member Resteiner asked if it was a Pure Michigan project. Ms. Neuhaus noted that while it was not a Pure Michigan project, they would be applying to the program.

Sean Gilbert asked if the project would support the area as a whole or just Chamber members. Mr. Rousseau and Ms. Neuhaus noted the program was done through the Visitor’s Bureau and would promote the entire area.

Member Resteiner asked when the project would be up and running. Ms. Neuhaus noted the website is already up and that there would be upcoming public meetings on it.

MOTION BY FABBRI, SECOND BY RESTEINER, TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE PURE MICHIGAN BYWAYS RECREATIONAL ROUTE.

Yes – Fabbri, Rabidue, Resteiner, Walters, Zimmerman
No – None Absent – Bennett, Bruder, Clark, Hunter Motion carried

* * * * *

MOTION BY RABIDUE, SECOND BY WALTERS, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 28, 2023.

Yes – Fabbri, Rabidue, Resteiner, Walters, Zimmerman
No – None Absent – Bennett, Bruder, Clark, Hunter Motion carried

* * * * *

Chairperson Fabbri updated everyone on the recent Art and Wine Walk,

Member Rabidue noted there was a spot on the Christmas tree that was not working.

Member Resteiner brought up the idea about hiring someone part time to help with next year's Houghton Ave. correspondence and updates. It was noted the City did start a Facebook page.

* * * * *

Sean Gilbert addressed his concern that the downtown businesses were not receiving enough information on next year's Houghton Ave project. The board noted the many ways the information has been distributed.

* * * * *

The meeting was adjourned at 12:43 pm.