

SPECIAL INFORMATIONAL MEETING OF THE WEST BRANCH DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY HELD AT THE WEST BRANCH CITY HALL AT 121 N. FOURTH ST. ON TUESDAY, JUNE 28, 2022.

Vice-Chairperson Clark called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm.

Present: Anthony Bair, Joe Clark, Sandy Rabidue, Erin Resteiner, Ken Walters, and Cathy Zimmerman.

Absent: Joanne Bennett, Samantha Fabbri, and Autum Hunter.

Others present: City Manager John Dantzer

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Vice-Chairperson Clark noted the reason for the special meeting was to hold the first of the two 2022 required 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 upcoming years. The Board will also be looking at possibly downsizing the project as construction costs increase.
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. The reconstruction project was moved from 2023 to 2024 by MDOT due to material concerns.
4. Continue the downtowns flower and snow removal projects.
 - The Board again sponsored the flowers and snow removal downtown with the flowers being completed in May.
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 may look into during 2022.
7. Façade program
 - A façade program was completed and approved in 2022. The DDA hopes to have a project that they can use the program for in 2022.

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

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Vice-Chairperson Clark adjourned the meeting at 12:04 pm.