

Village of Byron
Downtown Development Authority Minutes
April 10, 2014

Meeting called to order at 6:04pm by Chairperson Vandemark

Acknowledged Clerk's position changing due to resignation by Jim Crain. DDA will need to appoint new Recording Secretary.

Roll Call – Present: Ayotte, Bowers, Dickinson, Miller, Murphy, Vandemark. Absent: Murphy-Alderman, Rauch, Musall.

Minutes – Miller moved, Dickinson seconded to approve the 3-13-14 minutes and the 3-20-14 Presentation Summary. All Ayes. Carried

Comments – Vandemark noted Recording Secretary change with possible meeting dates changed to the First Thursday of each month in order to accommodate schedule conflict with new Clerk. Crain to record minutes of May meeting so item can be discussed and voted on by members.

Treasurer's Report – Accepted as presented.

Grants Application Update – Vandemark read letter regarding project not being selected. There were a high number of projects with fewer dollars to award. Have not heard back yet on sharrette grant application but approximate cost is \$3,500.

Sharrette Design – Need urban designer and facilitator. Possibly hold day or evening function, possibly using the HS Cafeteria. Emailed Christy regarding interest in sharrette and market study to find out what is included and what the process is.

Gary Sands did Manistee market study more on the housing side verses the business study. Marketing is a good educational opportunity for students using school resources (Baker, MSU, UoM) to save costs. With design, would need more depth of planning in stages which is better left to professionals.

Low Income Market Survey – Focus on introducing DDA Chairman to Nate Scramlin. Vandemark to call him as he appears to be key person at State level.

Fundraiser Ideas – Discussed golf outings, noted three groups already do them and finding sponsors may not be possible due to donor fatigue. Miller and Ayotte noted community breakfast at Mason's the 3rd Saturday is open, but need to get on schedule due to high demand. Discussed variety of ideas from fish fry's to talent shows, mystery dinner, motor bike show, working charity poker room, or a beer/music tent at fireworks show to take advantage of the two hour lull before fireworks show while people are gathering. Since there is little else to do, this may be an opportunity to capture a large demographic.

Branding/Logo – Discussed need to streamline design. Pros and cons of modern verses old vintage design. Bowers noted ideas to incorporate how everything comes together between Genesee, Shiawassee and Livingston Counties all converging in Byron; with a slogan like, "Where Communities Come Together". Another slogan mentioned was "Our Roots Run Deep". Could involve school art class/PTA with competition to design logo.

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Brownfield Update – County Commissioners voting 4/16/14 on Brownfield approval. Court hearing regarding demolition order will be decided on 4/17/14. Asbestos testing holding up bid process. Question was raised on how DDA purchases property. May need to approach DNR Land Bank at the State to make application through Village for purchase if it becomes a defaulted property tax claim.

Comments – Bowers inquired if rules are in place for enforcement to clean Tower property as it impedes what she is trying to accomplish. Byron Police are responsible for code enforcement. She attended recent school board meeting noting two items of relevance; one is forecasting future needs for buildings as enrollment declines; second is cooperation between school and village during water emergency.

Next Meeting is 5-8-14 @ 6PM; Byron Municipal Building.

Meeting adjourned at 7:54PM

James Crain – Recording Secretary

Date

Rob Vandemark - Chairman