

GRAND LEDGE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

319 TAYLOR STREET
GRAND LEDGE MI 48837
(517) 622-5256

MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2014
6:00 P.M.

COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL
200 E. JEFFERSON ST.

I & II. ROLL CALL - Bruce MacDowell called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Present: Rachel Schroeder, Mayor Kalmin Smith, Terrance Augustine, Bob Brown, Chris Fata, Michael Fredericks, Jason Barclay and David Jonas.

Absent: Karl Glarner, Gary Burt, Ben Cwayna, and Keith Mulder.

Also Present: Economic Development Director Mark Sullivan, and Assistant City Administrator Ameer King.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Terren from Girl Scout Troop 30422 led us in the pledge.

IV. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION -

1. Grand Ledge Girl Scouts - Sue Feenstra, Girl Scout Troop leader from Troop 30422 introduced her troop. The girls addressed the board asking permission to place recycled art work in the downtown area. They believe it will bring more people to Grand Ledge. They are learning about recycling, team work, etc. This is a silver project with Girl Scouts. Jenny would like to create a tooth with a brace on it and place by the dentist office. Clare would like to create a bouquet of flowers and place by the funeral home. Terran would like to create a taco and place it by the Cancun restaurant. Sara would like to create a water bottle and place by the recycle center. Alley would like to create a blue & green fish and place by the opera house. Zoe would like to create a dalmatian and place in front of fire station.

Several questions were asked. 1. When would the artwork be put on display? Hopefully this summer but possibly as late as the fall. 2. Will you be putting them on the sidewalks? Yes in some cases. They will be secured possibly in the tree grate area. 3. What size will they be? Generally 3x4 foot. 4. Are these made exclusively with bottle caps? Yes, any kind of plastic cap, even a butter cap. 5. How long would they be on display? As long as they look good, hopefully up to a year.

Ms. Feenstra went on to explain the project in more detail. This silver award requires 50 hours of work for the girls along with quite a bit of paperwork. They will be doing some fund raising to off set the costs of the base materials. We are starting here, asking permission and then will discuss with businesses. We have to start collecting caps as well. Mr. Fredericks suggested they go to Charlotte Recycling Center where they have buckets of caps separated out. There are 10 girls working on this and will have 10 separate displays. The board asked Ms. King to coordinate the project and to also check with the City's zoning administrator to ensure we follow the rules. Mr. Augustine made a motion to support the Girl Scout Recycled Art Project. Mr. Fredericks supported the motion. Motion carries 8 to 0.

Mr. Barclay arrived at 6:15 p.m.

V. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA - Mr. Fredericks made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Augustine supported the motion. Motion carries 9 to 0.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Mr. Brown made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2013 meeting as presented. Mr. Fata supported the motion. Motion carries 9 to 0.

VII. TREASURERS REPORT

1. Payment of bills - Mr. Sullivan reviewed the bills to be paid. Mr. Augustine made a motion to approve \$2,093.13 for payment of January's bills. Mr. Jonas supported the motion. Motion carries 9 to 0.

2. Financial Statement - Mr. Sullivan reviewed the financial statements.

VIII. Committee Reports

1. Christmas Decorations Committee - Mr. Sullivan indicated that the Committee met earlier today. Bronner's is offering a 30% discount on lighted decorations through the end of February. In July the board approved purchasing up to \$30,000 in decorations and to date we have spent a little over \$17,000. There were several issues discussed. 1. The overall idea with decorations was there needs to be more color. The Committee was looking at the tinsel style lighted ornaments in the Christmas Tree and Poinsettia. There may be an issue with the height of the decorations, which will need further review. 2. Bridge Street Plaza. Next year it was suggested by Ms. King to wrap the arch in lights and possibly move the Christmas Tree onto the cement area to enhance the archway. 3. Banners. The Committee discussed adding in seasonal banners. The Victorian Day group might want to purchase banners for their festival, which in turn might spur interest from other groups. Mr. Augustine asked if this would be the end for purchasing or a continual budget item. Chairman MacDowell replied that he didn't believe it would be an annual item. Mr. Brown made a motion to approve the additional funding in the amount of \$2,309.78 for the purchase of Christmas decorations. Mr. Federicks supported the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carries 9 to 0.

Mr. Barclay - yes

Mr. Jonas - yes

Mr. Fredericks - yes

Mr. Fata - yes

Mr. Brown - yes

Mr. Augustine - yes

Ms. Schroeder - yes

Mayor Smith - yes

Mr. MacDowell - yes

IX. Old Business

1. Bridge Street Plaza - Mr. Sullivan indicated that the arch is in place. Mr. Augustine indicated that the Garden Club is meeting right now and is ready to meet with the Landscape Committee to discuss the layout at Bridge Street Plaza. Mr. Brown indicated that the artwork is now here. Ms. King indicated that it was suggested by Mr. Mulder and Mr. Barnum (the artist) that we display the artwork in a downtown store front and ask the community for input in naming the entire grouping. The Board would like Ms. King to coordinate the artwork display/naming.

The board requested that Ms. King provide the information she has gathered on the splash pad at the next meeting and have it on the agenda for discussion.

2. Update MEDC Grant - Mr. Augustine indicated that there will be a meeting at end of January with Kuntzsch Business Services. KBS and Ziemnick Foster Engineering are working on the grant.

3. Charge for MEDC Grant Committee - Mr. Sullivan reviewed the charge for the Grant Committee. Mr. Fredericks made a motion to approve the Charge for the MEDC Grant. Mr. Augustine Supported the motion. Motion carries 9 to 0.

X. New Business

XI. Directors Comments - Mr. Sullivan indicated that he had 6 days without electricity.

Members Comments - Mr. Fredericks asked if there was an Emergency Management Team for Grand Ledge. The Mayor answered that the Fire Chief, Police Chief, City Administrator, Assistant City Administrator and himself take care of all issues that come up. There was a lot of information on facebook, we had extra staff at the police department and the street department did an amazing job getting through both storms. Mr. Fredericks added that there were still people who do not have access to phones or computers and did not know where warming shelters were. It would be a good idea to have people, even volunteers, handing out flyers door to door in areas where there is no power. Mayor Smith said he would discuss with staff.

XII. ADJOURN - Mr. Barclay made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 p.m. Mr. Fredericks supported the motion. Motion carries 9 to 0.

Minutes recorded and transcribed by Ameer King



Robert Brown, Secretary



Date Minutes Approved