

Downtown Development Authority

Special Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 30, 2013
Noon, Council Chambers



City of South Haven

MISSION STATEMENT: The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) is to be a leader in helping to fulfill the City of South Haven Municipal Plan; through planning, funding, and development of projects within the DDA District which promote, encourage and contribute to the overall economic growth and development of the community.

1. Call to Order by Olson at 12:00 noon.

2. Roll Call

Present: Braun, Burr, Marcoux, Maxwell, Whiteford, Olson

Absent: Zuckerman

Also present: Steve Oosting, City Engineer

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Marcoux, second by Burr to approve the January 30, 2013 Special Meeting Agenda as presented.

All in favor. Motion carried.

4. DDA will be asked to consider application to Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) Community Development Grant.

Davidson gave background information:

On January 4th, City staff was informed that a new grant opportunity became available through MSHDA for funding through the Michigan Housing and Community Development Fund (MHCD). A settlement of mortgage servicers' foreclosure practices led to an appropriation of \$3,785,000 to MSHDA. They plan to award 10-15 communities between \$25,000 - \$500,000 for development projects. One of the requirements is that a project must be located in a traditional downtown.

Davidson stated that now would be a good time to pursue the crosswalk relocation for a couple of reasons. The project is listed in the DDA Downtown Streetscape Master Plan. Also, the DDA Board had discussed their desire to do this project at their October Workshop meeting. Now there is a funding opportunity to try to complete the project. Given the Phoenix Street project is designed and planned, this project compliments that plan.

Elements of the proposed project include improvements to City Hall grounds and relocation of the Welcome Island. City Hall grounds improvements include tree replacement; landscaping upgrades; addition of a rain garden and pedestrian areas; addition of a monument memorial area; and universally accessible paths between City Hall, parking lots, and downtown. The proposal includes the relocation of the Welcome Island to the east of its current location, in front of City Hall and connecting to Dyckman Park. The City General Fund will fund the City Hall grounds improvements.

Steve Oosting, City Engineer, explained the current conceptual design. This crosswalk will lead to City Hall, and includes eliminating the stairs into the front lobby and providing a ramp with a very gradual slope of 5% making the entranceway ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant. Oosting informed the board that MSHDA looks positively on projects that include barrier free improvements and improvements that benefit citizens. The proposal is to combine this plan and the Phoenix Street project and apply for the grant for the entire project.

Dissette noted that South Haven Area Emergency Services (SHAES) funded the firefighters monument in the island and preliminary discussion with them affirms that they support the moving of the monument into the proposed monument garden.

Motion by Marcoux to approve Resolution 2013-01, a resolution approving submission of Michigan State Housing Development Authority application for Phoenix Street Accessibility and Public Green Space Improvements. Second by Braun.

All in favor. Motion carried.

5. Adjourn

Motion by Burr, second by Braun to adjourn at 12:14 p.m.

All in favor. Motion carried.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Marsha Ransom
Recording Secretary