

Downtown Development Authority

Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 7, 2014
Noon, North Side Marina



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 noon.

2. Roll Call

Present: Braun, Burr, Marcoux (arrived 12:13 p.m.), Newton, Zuckerman, Olson
Absent: Maxwell

Also present: Brian Dissette, City Manager; Steve Oosting, City Engineer

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Newton, second by Braun to approve the May 7, 2014 regular meeting agenda as presented.

All carried.

4. Approval of Minutes – February 12, 2014

Motion by Burr, second by Newton to accept the February 12, 2014 minutes as written.

All in favor. Motion carried.

5. Interested Citizens in the Audience Will be Heard on Items Not on the Agenda

None at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

6. DDA will be asked to consider approval of Resolution 2014-01: A Resolution to Use Downtown Development Authority Funds to Repay the Cost of Providing Wi-Fi Capability to Downtown Users.

Davidson reminded the board of the steps that have already been taken for this project, including previous discussion by the board and what has been accomplished thus far. The DDA is now to the point of the cost of fiber-optic cable. Davidson noted that it is a package deal with the marinas and the downtown, of which fifty-five percent (55%) of the total cost of the project of \$212,182, or \$116,700, will be funded by the DDA. The city electric fund will fund the project and repayment will be made by the DDA.

Dissette noted that there will be both passworded and non-passworded abilities; there will be unlimited bandwidth for the passworded portion while the amount of bandwidth will be controlled for the non-passworded portion. Dissette said this is the first step and his hope is to grow this system all over the city, specifically to provide an alternative to other providers. However, Dissette noted that the city is quite a ways from growing to cover residential.

Dissette explained there will be Secant servers housed at City Hall; eventually a hotel will have the ability to provide unlimited bandwidth, but bandwidth for those who are just walking down the street will be limited. Should the City decided to create a whole new Enterprise system, expansion can be a possibility.

Burr questioned if the circles on the maps are the coverage areas. Dissette said, "Yes, but that is an estimate." Zuckerman asked if Thirsty Perch, Joe's and the Vineyard are left out based on what he sees on the map. Dissette said yes and no, when we started we thought it would be much more expensive than it is, so cut back on the service area. Dissette stated that the city is willing to work with those entities; suggested approval of the item at hand and direction to staff to bring this back and try to expand the coverage.

Oosting reported the start date is accurate once the approval is obtained. Discussion regarding how many units will be hard-wired and how many will expand off of them. Oosting noted that there is already a server at City Hall providing internet access and this program will install fiber optic along Phoenix Street downstream of City Hall.

Dissette stated that it is too early to know if the city will want to start a new Enterprise Fund and become an internet provider. As far as offering free Wi-Fi, the city is the first to do this.

After some questions and discussion, Dissette reiterated that the city has members of council who would like to see this offered to the entire city, not just the downtown.

Olson asked how this will affect the DDA budget-wise. Dissette said this project was included in the DDA's budget and came in under budget; the DDA can still rebuild Kentucky Avenue.

Motion by Newton to approve Resolution 2014-01: A resolution to use Downtown Development Authority funds to repay the cost of providing Wi-Fi capability to downtown users. Second by Braun.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Marcoux that city staff determines the additional cost of including other businesses in the Downtown Development Authority, beyond the areas currently approved. Seconded by Burr.

All in favor. Motion carried.

7. Board Comments

Burr asked to assess the light pole at Phoenix and Center.

Oosting responded that he is not sure when the traffic heads will go up.

8. Director Comments

Deb reminded board members about the ribbon cutting on June 6th.

9. Adjourn

Motion by Marcoux, second by Newton to adjourn at 12:32 p.m.

All in favor. Motion carried.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Marsha Ransom
Recording Secretary