

**DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
LAWRENCE VILLAGE HALL  
April 26, 2017**

Present: Roy Cogar, Mary Webster, Donna Taylor, Kim Thompson, Don Hanson, Steve Petersen, Dale Gribler

Absent: Dave Quick, Gary Barton

Also: Diana & Bryan Stump, Jan Petersen, Dan Faulkner, Marcy Hamilton, SWMPC

Presentation of the Paw Paw River Water Trail Project by Marcy Hamilton, SWMPC. Their goal is to develop a state-certified 68-mile water trail from Paw Paw to Benton Harbor. Talked about the grants currently received and the work that will commence soon in Lawrence between Paw Paw Street and 54<sup>th</sup> Street. Additional sections of the river will be cleared and improved in the next 3 years.

Thompson reported that information was received at the Michigan Township Association annual conference regarding additional grants available from MDNR, MDEQ, Rural Development, Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Land and Water Conservation Fund, Recreation Passport, and others. She will provide copies of the information she received. Many of them require a certified recreation plan.

Motion by Hanson, Support by Taylor to approve the Minutes from March 22, 2017 as presented. All aye. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report was not presented.

Thompson provided more information regarding the discrepancies in the Tax Capture for both the DDA and LDFA. She is working with the County and Township treasurers to resolve.

Farmer's Market report was presented. Jan Petersen attended the 10<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the Michigan Farmers' Market Association (MIFMA). The MIFMA membership fee is \$150. Vendors can then be a member for a fee of \$30 and be eligible for discounts for insurance, etc. There has been a lot of discussion regarding insurance for the market and individual vendors. Motion by Webster, Support by Thompson to pay the \$150 membership fee from DDA funds. All aye. Motion carried.

The Streetscape Report included discussion regarding the sidewalk on the southwest corner. Motion by Webster, Support by Hanson to have Isom Contracting install 3 light bases for a cost not to exceed \$750. All aye. Motion carried.

The sidewalk replacement from DeHaven's building to the former barber shop was discussed. Faulker will contact the property owners and review the 50/50 cost share.

There is a new business opening up at the former Red Brick Café. The Shack has a business currently in Paw Paw and is expanding to Lawrence. They will have a hamburger and hotdog primary menu. They hope to open in a few weeks.

Thompson shared that the Township of Lawrence had accepted an offer to purchase the bank building. A sporting goods shop tentatively named Lawrence Outfitters is hoping to have canoe and kayak rentals as well as guns & ammunition, fishing and bait supplies. Also hopes to expand to offer training and self-defense for youth.

Roy Cogar reported that the Freedom Bar & Grill is getting closer to opening.

Motion by Webster, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Petersen to adjourn at 8:05 p.m. All aye. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim J Thompson  
Secretary