

LAWRENCE DDA MINUTES
OCTOBER 22, 2025
157 N Paw Paw Street

Meeting was called to order at 5:38pm with the following members present: Phil Glennie, John Gritter, Steve Petersen, Kim Thompson, new member Rachel Ferrell, Dale Gribler. Guest Jan Petersen. Member not able to attend Mike Chappell.

MINUTES: minutes of the September 24, 2025, meeting were reviewed. Motion by Steve supported by Kim to approve the minutes, carried.

TREASURERS REPORT: monthly revenue/ expenditure report with 46% of revenues collected and 17% of expenditures completed. Arbor balance on September 30th for Farmers Market \$2,205.91 and DDA of \$161,604.76. Reports attached. Motion by Phil supported by John to approve the treasurer report, carried.

FARMERS MARKET: Jan would like to contact the vendors of the market to make adjustments to the job description at the next meeting of the DDA. Questions of vendor revenue arose, a new accounting process for next year will be implemented, speculation was perhaps the musicians were paid from the fees. Need to have new Market Manager in place to attend annual training in early 2026. Jan stated the idea of moving the FM onto Elizabeth Street would be a welcomed move.

FACADE GRANTS: Mural on Community Care Office has begun and looks great, Dale will follow up with Krista Goens, John mentioned the Village is interested on placing mural on the north wall of the village office. As a side note John mentioned the artist for the Community Care Building is interested in doing a sculpture of an ox for placement in the park, John will obtain a cost estimate. Jan will contact a mural artist about future murals.

OLD BUSINESS: Kim will follow up with Orla Bontrager to complete work on old pavilion, John asked if this work included the bathroom. It does not, Kim will have contractor to supply a quote for 2026 consideration. Dale will follow up with Brian Johnson on sidewalk work and mowing at the retention pond. Steve mentioned he has seen sidewalk repair in Paw Paw which was the same width as the connecting sidewalk, John explained the village had to follow ADA requirements for new and or repairs. Invasive plant eradication in the Industrial park has begun, far worse than first thought.

NEW BUSINESS: Incubator Application received from Courtney Melching for Lake

and Light Studio at 106 W St Joseph. This would be a photography studio and perhaps a small venue for showers, etc. it was asked if we require the submission of a business plan, no as it is felt that is beyond the scope of the committee. No reimbursements for rent are to be made until business is open to the public. Motion by John supported by Phil to approve the rental reimbursement for Lake and Light Studio, carried.

The DDA received notification of a tax foreclosure hearing on January 12, 2026 at 10am by the County Treasurer for unpaid taxes for 2023 by Fruit Street Kitchen. We received notification because the HVCA unit the DDA paid for and filing our lien on the building. Dale will attend and report back.

Dale mentioned that it appears the parks and recreation committee grant application to replace the Kids Palace is moving forward, reminded the committee that we need to include construction cost of two pickle ball courts in next year budget.

Michigan Downtown Conference in Rochester is November 6,7,8. Any member that would like to attend can go, DDA has always had funds in budget for members to attend trainings. Information will be in the DDA file.

Motion by Steve supported by John to adjourn at 7:10pm carried. NEXT MEETING IS DECEMBER 10th at 5:30pm.