

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON  
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
AUGUST 21, 2007  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**1. Call To Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by Chair Bev O'Malia and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**3. Roll Call:**

Chair Bev O'Malia, Authority Members Barb Vandenberg, Timothy Grossman, Jeremy Emmi, Emily Lilly-Lacca, Alyson Wendt, and Mayor Kenneth Zichi. Absent: Tom Mitchell (arrived at 8:05 p.m.) and Karen McGarry.

Also Present:

Deputy Clerk Holly Thompson, and business owner Wendy Schaft.

**4. Welcome New DDA Member:**

Chair O'Malia welcomed new DDA member Emily Lilly-Lacca.

**5. Approval of Agenda:**

Add 11b. Bloom Façade Extension, 12d. Sign Ordinance, and 13a. Michigan Nature Association Work in Williamston.

Motion by **Grossman**, second by **Vandenberg**, to approve the agenda as amended. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

**6. Public Response:**

Chair O'Malia called for public comment at this time and there was none.

**7. DDA Regular Minutes of July 17, 2007:**

Motion by **Zichi**, second by **Grossman**, to approve the DDA regular meeting minutes of July 17, 2007 as presented. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

**8. Accounts Payable:**

Motion by **Zichi**, second by **Grossman**, to approve the bill from Tractor Supply Company in the amount of \$41.92 as presented. Yes: Grossman, O'Malia, Zichi, Vandenberg, Lilly-Lacca, Emmi, Wendt. No: None. **Motion passed.**

**9. Treasurer:**

City Treasurer Dolley submitted a financial printout for DDA review.

**10. Community Development Director:**

Director Aniol submitted a written report for DDA review.

**11. Action Items**

**11a. MDOT Streetscape Grant Proposals McKenna Associates, Inc. and Wilcox:**

Motion by **Grossman**, second by **Zichi**, to approve the proposal from Wilcox to write the MDOT streetscape grant in an amount not to exceed \$3500. Yes: O'Malia, Zichi, Vandenberg, Lilly-Lacca, Emmi, Grossman, Wendt. No: None.  
**Motion passed.**

**11b. Bloom Façade Extension:**

Motion by **Grossman**, second by **Emmi**, to approve the façade extension for Bloom for six months. Yes: O'Malia, Zichi, Vandenberg, Lilly-Lacca, Emmi, Grossman. No: None. Abstain: Wendt; reason being she owns Bloom. **Motion passed.**

**12. Discussion Items**

**12a. River House Inn Parking:**

Chair O'Malia reported that Sue Nichani has asked for the DDA to consider letting the River House Inn use the DDA lot for parking. Ingham County was okay with a parking lot being constructed as long as the elevations did not change. She added that there still has not been an engineered site plan submitted from River House Inn. There was a meeting regarding the sign not being in compliance.

Member Wendt commented that she would like to see Williamston more business friendly.

Member Grossman commented that the River House Inn site has more land that could be turned into parking rather than using the DDA lot.

**12b. City Council News:**

Member Zichi reported that the football stadium is impressive and seats 2500. The school is looking at installing a multi-use parking lot.

Member Grossman commented that there are still issues with Red Cedar Recreation using the field.

Chair O'Malia commented the facility is nice, but the superintendent is worried that the grass may not be ready before the first game.

Member Zichi commented that the Williamston Library Foundation will have a meeting Thursday, August 23, at the Wheatfield Township Hall to discuss a feasibility study for a new library.

The VFW has proposed a new veterans memorial in McCormick Park. They are currently working with the City for a suitable location for the memorial which would include all previous wars and would have room for any future wars.

**12c. DDA Budget as Passed by Council:**

Chair O'Malia reported that there is currently \$8000 in salaries and wages that will need to be moved to a different account because there is no allowance in the DDA plan to pay for salaries or wages.

**12d. Sign Ordinance:**

Member Wendt distributed a handout for shingle signs. She added that she would like to see the current sign ordinance rewritten. She and Wendy Schaft visited Howell and got some information from them regarding their signs.

Wendy Schaft commented that Emily Sutton-Smith from the Theatre has to go to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a variance to have a shingle sign put on their business because it will stick out from the building more than eighteen inches.

Mayor Zichi commented that he would like to see the entire Zoning Ordinance rewritten. The Planning Commission is in the process of having it rewritten. He believes the Theatre was given some misinformation regarding the sign ordinance or the ordinance has not been changed.

Chair O'Malia commented that she will look into this issue.

\*Mitchell arrived at 8:05 p.m.

**13. Announcements**

**13a. Michigan Nature Association Work in Williamston:**

Member Emmi reported that the Michigan Nature Associations fundraising campaign concluded July 31. The Association was trying to raise money to maintain and/or purchase ten protected properties across the state. He added that there are five or six acres that they are looking into acquiring in Williamston. The Association would like to work with the City and Schools to build a trail system for walking in Williamston.

**16. Public Response:**

Chair O'Malia called for public comment at this time and there was none.

**17. Adjournment:**

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:24 p.m.**

**\*THE PRECEDING MINUTES ARE A SYNOPSIS OF A DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MEETING AND DO NOT REPRESENT A VERBATIM RECORD.**

Respectfully Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Holly M. Thompson, Deputy Clerk

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_