

NORTHSIDE CULTURAL BUSINESS DISTRICT AUTHORITY BOARD

June 20, 2024

A meeting of the Northside Cultural Business District Authority (NCDBA) Board of Directors was held on Thursday, June 20, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at 702 N Burdick St.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Mattie Jordan-Woods, Damian Henderson, Tami Rey, Ricky Thrash, Mayor David Anderson

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Marilyn Pulley, Kiar Gamsho, Chad Dodd, Matthew Norman, Chad Dodd

Also present from the City of Kalamazoo were:

- Kevin Ford, Shared Prosperity Coordinator
- Erin Hahn, Community Investment Administrative Assistant

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken at 6:05 p.m. and it was determined that quorum did not exist. **

**Mayor David Anderson arrived at 6:10 p.m., at which point quorum did exist

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Director Rey seconded by Mayor Anderson motioned to approve the Agenda as amended. A voice vote was taken, and the agenda was approved.

APPROVAL OF NCDBA MINUTES

It was discovered that on page 7 of the May 2024 minutes, Director Henderson seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting, but he was not present at the May meeting. It was determined that Director Dodd seconded the motion.

Director Jordan-Woods stated that the minutes also did not include that the board voted to celebrate the Northside Cultural Business District in July.

Director Thrash seconded by Mayor Anderson motioned to approve the amended minutes from May 16, 2024. A voice vote was taken, and the minutes were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Two community members, Raymond Ryan and Amina Shakir, introduced themselves, and Lou Bilancio, the program manager of the Senior Ecumenical Center introduced himself.

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NEW BUSINESS

1. There was no new business to discuss.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Planning Committee Assignment: Combine Committees to Ensure Greater Participation

a. Economic Vitality and Organization

- i. Director Jordan-Woods stated that one of the Board's major priorities is to increase the number of Northside residents who own businesses, and that the Board is looking for dollars to assist residents that currently own businesses.

b. Design and Promotion

- i. Director Jordan-Woods stated that another major goal of the Board is to ensure that the rich history of the Northside is reflected in the cultural markers.
- ii. Board members and community members were given a print-out of different design ideas for the cultural markers, and it was determined that the 3rd idea was the idea the Board would like to move forward with. What was significant about this design was the LED lights that will not only attract visitors to the cultural markers, but also make them feel safer by adding lighting to the space. Additionally, the design includes a QR code on each marker, which would direct visitors to the information in a digital format.
- iii. Director Jordan-Woods stated that at the last committee meeting, the committee voted on the content of the pillars, which will highlight different categories such as businesses (both multigenerational and black-owned), residents (current and past), and will showcase the rich history and culture of the Northside.

2. Historical Markers – Resident/Business Engagement

Director Jordan-Woods opened a discussion about who else the Board should try to get on the committee to identify names of people who have been long-term members of the community. Mayor Anderson suggested Lucinda Simpson.

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Director Jordan-Woods stated that the plan moving forward is to collect data, including the names and stories of Northside residents, specifically multi-generational families, business owners, etc., and then to organize the data into categories. She suggested that Public Media Network might be a good resource to help organize the data.

Lou Bilancio suggested that the Board partner with the Ecumenical Senior Center for their community yard sale on July 27th. There would be a cookout, yard sale, and a table for data collection for the historical marker project. Director Henderson affirmed that the collaboration was a good idea. Director Rey also agreed and suggested that the event should be advertised through multiple mediums so that it is accessible to those without internet. Mayor Anderson suggested publishing in MLive, and working with Luis Pena, the City's Historic Preservation Coordinator.

Director Jordan-Woods suggested getting the word out with a post card invitation as well as a social media event posting. She also suggested that the event have a raffle and other activities to draw as many people as possible. She suggested that they utilize the Board's funds and resources so that the burden is not just on the Ecumenical Senior Center to make the event a success.

Director Jordan-Woods suggested that data collection boxes could also be placed at grocery stores and churches in the neighborhood, so the project reaches as many people throughout the community as possible.

Director Thrash suggested a social media campaign in which people could share their memories of the Northside. It was determined that the Board needs to create a Facebook page and possibly other social media.

Raymond Ryan asked what the deadline of the project is, and Director Jordan-Woods stated that the timeline is up to the Board, but they hope to have the pillars up by the end of September, and that the committee can decide the date that information stops being collected.

Director Thrash expressed concern about the lighting connecting to city utilities. Director Jordan-Woods explained that the wiring for the lighting already exists at all 36 sites and the pillars would connect to it.

Director Jordan-Woods stated that the artwork should be done by artists from the Northside or Eastside to keep the dollars circulating in the community. She stated that the Northside has a rich history of people who are passionate about the neighborhood and that the Board needs to make sure the pillars honor as many people as possible, not just a select few. She expressed that it is up to the Board to change the narrative of the Northside, because it is a neighborhood of choice for many people.

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It was decided that all Board members would work on finding ways to promote the data collection and bring forth names of people they know as well as family members.

It was decided that Director Rey will work with Lou to finalize plans for the July 24th event at the Senior Ecumenical Center. At the next meeting, Director Rey will give a report on the progress. Director Jordan-Woods stated that other board members, specifically Director Thrash, may be asked to help with this coordination.

COMMUNICATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Board Reports and Updates

- a. Director Henderson inquired about the construction being done on Ransom Street, saying that there were sewer line issues connecting two households and causing back-ups. Kevin Ford will connect Director Henderson to James Baker and report back. Mayor Anderson will also work to resolve this issue.
- b. There was a discussion about Brownfield development potential and what the timeline would look like for projects routed through the program. Kevin Ford stated that he would work with Jamie McCarthy and the legal representative of Brownfield to educate the board about this in the July meeting. Mayor Anderson said that it is significantly hurting the resources of the new DDA/DEGA, because all new developments are using Brownfield, so the TIF dollars are being allocated to the Brownfield, not back to the DDA/DEGA. Director Jordan-Woods stated that that is why the Board needs to understand how Brownfields work to have a clear understanding of what the Board's budgets will look like and to avoid the same problems that have affected DDA/DEGA in the past.

2. Staff Reports and Updates

There were no updates from City staff.

ADJOURNMENT

Director Rey seconded by Director Henderson motioned to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Submitted by: Erin Hahn, Community Investment Administrative Assistant

Approved on: July 18, 2024