CITY OF KALAMAZOO
DOWNTOWN
DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY

Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes

February 17, 2025, 3 p.m. | Community Planning & Economic Development, 245 N Rose Street

PRESENT: Susan Lindemann, Jessica Thompson, Matt Hollander, Curt Aardema, David Anderson, Clarence Lloyd

ABSENT: Stephanie Hinman, Kwame Gyimah, Jeff Breneman

STAFF: Meghan Behymer, Erin Hahn, Nathan Ekola

OTHER: Rick Searing, Jessica Wood (virtual)

A. CALL TO ORDER

DIRECTOR LINDEMANN CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 3:40 P.M.

PRESENT: Susan Lindemann, Jessica Thompson, Matt Hollander, Curt Aardema, David Anderson, Clarence Lloyd
ABSENT: Stephanie Hinman, Kwame Gyimah
EXCUSED: Jeff Breneman

THE FEBRUARY 17, 2025 ATTENDANCE INCLUDING EXCUSED AND UNEXCUSED ABSENCES IS RECORDED.

B. ADOPTION OF FORMAL AGENDA

DIRECTOR AARDEMA MOTIONED TO ADOPT THE FEBRUARY 17, 2025 AGENDA AS PRESENTED. DIRECTOR HOLLANDER SECONDED. NO OBJECTIONS. MOTION CARRIED.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

DIRECTOR AARDEMA MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY ON JANUARY 27, 2025. DIRECTOR LLOYD SECONDED THE MOTION. NO OBJECTIONS. MOTION CARRIED.

D. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

a. Financial Report – December 2024

DIRECTOR AARDEMA MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 2024 FINANCIAL REPORT. DIRECTOR THOMPSON SECONDED. NO OBJECTIONS. MOTION CARRIED.

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E. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

a. Approval of Director Curt Aardema as Secretary of the Downtown Development Authority

DIRECTOR HOLLANDER MOTIONED TO APPROVE DIRECTOR CURT AARDEMA AS SECRETARY OF THE DOWNTOWN ECONOMIC GROWTH AUTHORITY. DIRECTOR LLOYD SECONDED. NO OBJECTIONS. MOTION CARRIED.

b. Recommendation of DDA Board Member Nomination to Mayor and City Commission.

DIRECTOR AARDEMA MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE DEGA BOARD MEMBER NOMINATION TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION. DIRECTOR LLOYD SECONDED. NO OBJECTIONS. MOTION CARRIED.

c. Authorize Board Chair to execute legal services extension agreement with Dickinson Wright PLLC through February 2028

DIRECTOR HOLLANDER MOTIONED TO AUTHORIZE THE BOARD CHAIR TO EXECUTE LEGAL SERVICES EXTENSION AGREEMENT WITH DICKINSON WRIGHT PLLC THROUGH FEBRUARY 2028. DIRECTOR LLOYD SECONDED. NO OBJECTIONS. MOTION CARRIED.

F. PUBLIC COMMENTS

G. DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Mayor Anderson expressed enthusiasm for the new board members and discussed plans for downtown restrooms, including the Portland Loo.

Director Thompson shared excitement for the new members and highlighted the upcoming year of planned events.

Director Lloyd recommended that the Board develop a one-page summary about Arcadia Creek and noted that Greater Kalamazoo Restaurant Week begins Thursday, primarily featuring downtown but open to the entire county. He emphasized the importance of transparency when seeking stakeholder approval for the Portland Loo and suggested obtaining a utility map to review all location options.

Director Hollander expressed appreciation for having a full board and welcomed the three new members.

Director Lindemann thanked Director Hollander for his efforts and stressed the need for clear communication with those affected by the Portland Loo before committing to its maintenance.

Director Aardema emphasized that the Portland Loo project is city-led with broad impacts, requiring a high level of engagement.

H. ADJOURNMENT

DIRECTOR LINDEMANN ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 3:54 P.M.