

Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes

June 16, 2025, 3 p.m. | Community Planning & Economic Development, 245 N Rose Street

PRESENT: Curt Aardema, David Anderson, Jeff Breneman, Clarence Lloyd, Rick Searing, Stanley Steppes, Jessica Thompson

EXCUSED: Trisha Kidd

ABSENT: Kwame Gyimah

STAFF: Meghan Behymer (Downtown Coordinator); Erin Hahn (Community Investment Administrative Assistant); Jessica Wood (Legal Counsel)

A. CALL TO ORDER

DIRECTOR AARDEMA CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 4:33 P.M.

PRESENT: Curt Aardema, David Anderson, Jeff Breneman, Clarence Lloyd, Rick Searing, Stanley Steppes, Jessica Thompson

EXCUSED: Trisha Kidd

ABSENT: Kwame Gyimah

THE JUNE 16, 2025 ATTENDANCE INCLUDING EXCUSED AND UNEXCUSED ABSENCES IS RECORDED.

1. ADOPTION OF FORMAL AGENDA

DIRECTOR LLOYD MOTIONED TO ADOPT THE JUNE 16, 2025 AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

DIRECTOR THOMPSON SECONDED. NO OBJECTIONS. MOTION CARRIED.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Director Breneman stated that the start time of the Downtown Development Authority meeting on May 19, 2025 should be updated to 4:45 P.M.

DIRECTOR SEARING MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING ON MAY 19, 2025 AS AMENDED. DIRECTOR LLOYD SECONDED. DIRECTOR AARDEMA ABSTAINED. NO OBJECTIONS. MOTION CARRIED.

3. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

a. Financial Report

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Ms. Behymer presented the financial report, noting that in April, the DDA received \$2,426 in delinquent property tax revenue, bringing year-to-date revenue to \$61,636. March expenses totaled \$5,135, with key costs including utilities (\$648) and contractual services (\$4,487), primarily for Abraxas file storage and Wolverine Lawn Services. Year-to-date expenses stand at \$43,988.

DIRECTOR LLOYD MOTIONED TO ACCEPT THE APRIL 2025 FINANCIAL REPORT AS PRESENTED. DIRECTOR THOMPSON SECONDED. NO OBJECTIONS. MOTION CARRIED.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

5. DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Director Searing remarked on the positive energy downtown, noting how recent events have brought the area to life.

Director Lloyd highlighted the intern mixer and suggested exploring a recurring Friday “happy hour” activation, similar to past Union events. He also noted that the MEDC’s Patronicity program is still available, offering a potential \$25,000 match to activate a public space.

Director Thompson shared updates on successful summer events, including strong attendance at Kids in the Zoo, Beats on Bates, and the upcoming Ice Cream Social.

Director Aardema emphasized the benefits of coordinating events in Bronson Park with those on the Kalamazoo Mall to increase impact and suggested lighting the former courthouse building as a temporary activation strategy. Director Breneman added that WMU’s College of Fine Arts students could potentially help design creative lighting installations.

6. ADJOURNMENT

DIRECTOR AARDEMA ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 4:50 P.M.