

NORTHSIDE CULTURAL BUSINESS DISTRICT AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING

Thursday, February 19, 2026

Northside Association for Community Development

612 N Park St., Kalamazoo, MI 49007

A meeting of the Northside Cultural Business District Authority (NCBDA) Board of Directors was held on Thursday, February 19, 2026, 6pm at 612 N Park St., Kalamazoo, MI.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Chad Dodd, Damian Henderson, Mayor Anderson, Kiar Gamsho, Mattie Jordan-Woods, Ricky Thrash

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Marilyn Pulley, Tami Rey

ALSO PRESENT FROM THE CITY:

- Maria Smith, Community Investment Admin
- Kevin Ford, Shared Prosperity Coordinator
- Bobby Boyd, Economic Development Supervisor

A. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Director Jordan-Woods called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M. Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.

B. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

DIRECTOR THRASH MOTIONED TO ADOPT THE FEBRUARY 19, 2026, AGENDA AS PRESENTED. MAYOR ANDERSON SECONDED. NO OBJECTIONS. MOTION CARRIED.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Correction noted: Director Dodd was late for the January 15, 2026, meeting, not absent.

MAYOR ANDERSON MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE CORRECTED JANUARY 15, 2026, MINUTES OF THE NORTHSIDE CULTURAL BUSINESS DISTRICT AUTHORITY. DIRECTOR GAMSHO SECONDED. NO OBJECTIONS. MOTION CARRIED.

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS

A member of the public Tisha Pankop from Now Kalamazoo introduced a monthly digital newsletter called Northside Knows which focuses on Northside news. Discussion included sign up, potential business features like Park Street Market, and opportunity for community engagement.

E. DIRECTOR COMMENTS

None.

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. Investment plan for the potential receipt of \$700,000 from the Plaza Corp project

Director Jordan-Woods welcomed Board input on ideas for how the money will be divided. The Board discussed establishing a clear spending framework before funds are received. Other topics included creating a subcommittee, discussing allowable expenditures with the attorney, holding special meetings to narrow down priority project ideas, and voting on the distribution. The funds are restricted to use within the district boundaries.

The Board discussed the following key priority ideas:

- Resident-owned and underserved business support (grant and/or revolving loan fund)
- Affordable housing initiatives
- Cultural identity (murals, wayfinding/cultural monuments)
- Infrastructure and façade improvements
- Youth employment and workforce development
- Business marketing and promotion
- Site selection/business recruitment support
- Support for existing businesses (marketing assistance)
- New business ideas – tech center, skating rink, laundromat
- Lighting and safety improvements
- Festivals and events to activate the district

Director Dodd entered the meeting at 6:09 PM.

The Board discussed filling a 9th Board position and presenting the application criteria at the next meeting.

Director Henderson introduced a discussion about ideas for different styles and ways of creating cheaper monuments. Ideas included wayfinding style monuments, “30 Monuments for the Northside” sponsorship model campaign, community historian stipends, and campaign fundraising and gap funding strategy.

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Moving forward on creating the Social District

The Board reviewed the resolution requesting the creation of a Social District within the Northside Cultural Business District.

DIRECTOR HENDERSON MADE A MOTION TO SUPPORT THE RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING AND REQUESTING THAT THE CITY COMMISSION CREATE A SOCIAL DISTRICT WITHIN THE NORTHSIDE CULTURAL BUSINESS DISTRICT. SUPPORTED BY DIRECTOR GAMSHO. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY WITH A VOICE VOTE.

2. Service agreement language

The Board reviewed the proposed service agreement language. Concerns were raised regarding Section 8(Accounting Records), specifically:

- Contract management
- Bidding authority
- RFP production
- Board management language

The Board reaffirmed the desire to retain control over these functions.

DIRECTOR THRASH MADE A MOTION TO HAVE THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ENSURE THE LANGUAGE DISCUSSED BY THE BOARD BE REMOVED FROM THE SERVICE CONTRACT. SUPPORTED BY DIRECTOR DODD. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY WITH A VOICE VOTE.

H. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

I. STAFF REPORTS AND UPDATES

None.

J. ADJOURNMENT

DIRECTOR HENDERSON MOTIONED TO ADJOURN. DIRECTOR DODD SECONDED. NO OBJECTIONS. MOTION CARRIED.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:03PM.