

## Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2026, 3 p.m. | City Hall, 241 W. South Street

**PRESENT:** Curt Aardema, Mayor David Anderson, Harvin Sandhu, Trisha Kidd, Clarence Lloyd, Rick Searing, Cheng Kidd Sun, Connor Sampson

**STAFF:** Meghan Behymer (Downtown Coordinator)

### A. CALL TO ORDER

**DIRECTOR AARDEMA CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 4:50 P.M.**

**PRESENT:** Curt Aardema, Mayor David Anderson, Harvin Sandhu, Trisha Kidd, Clarence Lloyd, Rick Searing, Cheng Kidd Sun, Connor Sampson

**EXCUSED ABSENCE** None

**UNEXCUSED ABSENCE:** Stanley Steppes

**MAY 11, 2026, ATTENDANCE, INCLUDING EXCUSED AND UNEXCUSED ABSENCES, IS RECORDED.**

#### 1. Purpose Statement:

*The purpose of this Downtown Development Authority is to halt property value deterioration and promote economic growth within its business district, to increase property value.*

The purpose of this Downtown Economic Growth Authority is to correct and prevent deterioration in residential, commercial, and industrial areas, to authorize the acquisition and disposal of interests in real and personal property; to authorize the creation and implementation of development plans and development areas.

The Kalamazoo DDA and DEGA, acting in concert, have set forth the strategic objective of focusing its resources on improving “The First 16 Feet”, a three-dimensional volume of space including buildings ground floor façade, the frontage that exists between the façade and the common space, and the common space that provides access to and through the district.

### B. ADOPTION OF FORMAL AGENDA

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**DIRECTOR SUN MOTIONED TO ADOPT THE MAY 11, 2026, DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AGENDA AS AMENDED. DIRECTOR LLOYD SECONDED. NO OBJECTIONS. MOTION CARRIED.**

## **C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**DIRECTOR SUN MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BOARD ON APRIL 20, 2026. DIRECTOR SEARING SECONDED. NO OBJECTIONS. MOTION CARRIED.**

## **D. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

### **1. Financial Report – March 2026 (Meghan Behymer, Downtown Coordinator)**

Behymer presented the March 2026 Financial Report: In March, the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) received \$1,680 in revenue from 2024 Small Business Taxpayer Exemption Reimbursement. 2026 year-to-date revenue totals \$1,680. March expenses totaled \$18,071. Key expense categories included: **Professional and Contractual Services (\$1,748)** for banner installation/removal; **Utilities (\$698)** for Electricity (\$536) and Water & Sewer (\$162); and **Administrative Fees (\$15,625)** for Q1 City of Kalamazoo Service Agreement. 2026 year-to-date expenses total \$19,266.

**DIRECTOR SUN MOTIONED TO ACCEPT THE MARCH 2026 DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FINANCIAL REPORT. DIRECTOR SANDHU SECONDED. NO OBJECTIONS. MOTION CARRIED.**

## **E. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

None

## **F. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

## **G. DIRECTOR COMMENTS**

Director Lloyd and Director Sun led a discussion centered on exploring a potential partnership with Western focused on social work and community support initiatives. The

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University's Health and Human Services college is convening regional healthcare stakeholders, including Beacon, Bronson and ISK, to discuss findings from a community health assessment and regional healthcare needs. Social work was identified as a key strength area for Western and a potential opportunity for future collaboration. The conversation included expanding internship and placement opportunities, though funding remains a challenge. Existing support programs, including Broncos Lead, currently do not have sufficient funding capacity to support broader internship or placement expansion. Potential opportunities for larger collaborative initiatives involving local governments and regional partners may be explored later this summer.

Director Aardema noted strong community participation at the recent marathon, bicycle event, Sounds of the Zoo, and Mac and Cheese Mayhem events. He highlighted the value of scheduling complementary events together to create stronger attendance and increase downtown activity. Grouping newer events alongside established activities can help build momentum and attract larger crowds. Once events mature and establish consistent audiences, less coordinated support may be needed.

### H. ADJOURNMENT

**DIRECTOR LLOYD MOTIONED TO ADJOURN, SUPPORTED BY DIRECTOR SUN. MOTION APPROVED WITH NOONE OPPOSED.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 P.M.**