

**ROMEO DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
COMBINED GOALS, OBJECTIVES & 2021/2022 BUDGET WORKSHOP
WEDNESDAY, MAY 3 2021 – 6:00 PM.
ROMEO COMMUNITY CENTER
361 Morton Street, Romeo, Michigan 48065**

The purpose of the Romeo Downtown Development Authority is to correct and prevent deterioration in the Romeo Business District; to encourage historic preservation; to authorize the creation and implementation of development plans in the district and promote economic growth.

MINUTES

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman, Kelley Stephens called the meeting to order at 6:04PM and led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

*Present: Poznanski, Humphreys, Brandt, Hayes, Stephens, Rose, Parker, Malzahn
Tarr arrived at 6:06.*

Public Forum – None

Approval of Agenda

MOTION by Hayes second by Rose to approve the May 3, 2021 combined goals, objectives and budget workshop agenda as amended.

Ayes: All in favor

Nay: None

MOTION carried.

Discussion of Items not completed at April 12, 2021 Workshop meeting

Village Park Improvements

Board discussed the improvements needed in the park such as improvements to the gazebo, grass and trees. Question about the Lions owning the gazebo came up. Malzahn stated the Lions no longer want the care and maintenance of the gazebo.

Discussion regarding the school property on Prospect Street was also brought up, it would make a great park. Malzahn stated she has talked to Superintendent Todd Robinson and the schools are not interested in any discussion related to the sale of the property at this time.

Further discussion determined a subcommittee would need to be formed for the park and should be a project item for the DDA. Malzahn stated Parks and Recreation is waiting to hear what is decided about the park.

Lafayette Bike Path

The Lafayette bike path was brought up during the discussion about the crosswalks. Only a portion of a bike path on Lafayette would be in the DDA district. Would be helpful for getting people into town, there was a discussion with DTE about an easement to cross their property to access Lafayette it would need to be revisited. The idea to put on Lafayette was to have access to the village from the North and South side of 32 mile.

DDA Events

The decision to cancel Harvest Days was made at the April meeting. Board discussion about having events or activities during weekends in October. Don't spend a large amount of money on one event that is weather dependent. Spread events out, movies in the park, family fun night, kids day etc.

Discussion about purchasing igloos for restaurant use, placing on sidewalks and in alleys. Igloos could be reserved. Would be helpful if all merchants in town would stay open later when events are happening.

Some board members stated these are great ideas but not part of the DDA purpose. DDA focus should be more upon infrastructure, parking and property acquisition to create parking.

2021/2022 Budget

Board discussed the Village and DDA revenue sharing agreement and shared projects. Striping and maintenance of parking areas, is this the village only or does DDA need to share in the cost?

Way-finding signage has been a topic for many years, is this something that should be looked at?

Banner installation, who is responsible for the cost, who needs to delegate when and what is hung? If a group wants to create banners for hanging, who would approve? If group hangs they should pay the cost of installation. The decision should not be the responsibility of one person.

Harvest decorations and cost, they have been installed in the past by a local resident. Should the amount be increased, include removal and increase the amount allowed to spend.

The cost of flowers, watering and maintenance was discussed, there is one more year left on the current contract. Should additional money be added for next year?

Budget discussion to continue after regular meeting. Will continue with budget discussion after regular meeting

MOTION by Malzahn second by Brandt to adjourn for regular meeting at 7:00 PM and resume workshop immediately following regular meeting.

Ayes: All in favor

Nay: None

MOTION carried.

Reconvene meeting at 7:53 PM.

2021/2022 Budget

Holiday lighting discussion, assume same as 2020. May need to increase, need to purchase the rest of the bows, only purchased half last year. If want to do more trees on buildings will need more lights. The thought was to change out the snowflakes for wreaths, the wreaths will need to be purchased.

Discussion about dumpster corrals in quadrants. Hayes advised he and Tarr had walked the quadrants and something needs to be done to clean them up and reduce the number of dumpsters. Should consider line item for dumpster corral.

Discussion continued.

Stephens asked Humphreys to put the numbers into an updated spread sheet and bring to a special meeting to be held before the Village Council meeting on May 19, 2021 so budget can be sent to council. Stephens will email board with dates for special meeting.

MOTION by Parker second by Malzahn to adjourn at 8:51 PM.

Ayes: All in favor

Nay: None

MOTION carried.

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Hall, Executive Director
Minutes approved by DDA Board motion on
As Presented/Amended