

# Romeo Downtown Development Authority Regular Meeting

**Monday, April 7, 2025– 7:00 p.m.**

**361 Morton Street, Romeo, MI 48065 South Meeting Room**

## MINUTES

1. Roll Call: 7:00 p.m.  
Present – Hutnick, Osebold, Poznanski, Bowers, Rose, Lee, St. Laurent  
Absent - VanWormer
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approval of Agenda  
Motion by: Lee                                      Second by: St. Laurent  
Discussion: Hutnick objects to limiting public comments to 3 mins. St. Laurent commented that due to the number of potential speakers, allowing longer time would limit how many speakers could have a chance to speak.  
Ayes - Lee, St. Laurent, Bowers, Poznanski  
Nayes - Hutnick, Osebold, Rose  
Motion Passes: 4-3
4. Approval of the Minutes:  
March 3, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes  
Motion by: Rose                                      Second by: Lee  
No further discussion.  
All ayes.  
Motion Passes: 7-0
5. Public Forum:  
Mike Romano from Tech City Electronics stated his concern over the Park Mobile signs saying we don't have any Spanish signs and the signs are not aligned. Other public comments were against paid parking.
6. Financial Report:  
Report provided in Board packet from Plante Moran. A fund balance of \$255,624.27 was presented for March 26, 2025. The financial report was received and filed.

Motion: To approve the payment of bills from February 20, 2025 -March 26, 2025, in the amount of \$13,436.28.

Motion by: Lee

Second by: Osebold

Roll Call:

Yes: Lee, Osebold, Hutnick, Poznanski, Bowers, Rose, St. Laurent

No:

No further discussion.

Motion passes 7-0

7. Funding Request:

Request was made by the Romeo Lion's Club for donation not to exceed \$1,000 for the St. Baldrick's foundation. The donation would cover the cost of hanging/removing the charity banners in downtown Romeo.

Motion: To approve the payment of \$1.000 to the Romeo Lion's Club for the St. Baldrick's foundation.

Motion by: Lee

Second by: Hutnick

Roll Call:

Yes: Lee, Hutnick, Osebold, Poznanski, Bowers, Rose, St. Laurent

No:

No further discussion.

Motion passes 7-0

Request was made by the Rotary Club of Romeo for donation not to exceed \$1,037 for the Vintagefest event. The donation would cover the cost of the portable restrooms in downtown Romeo.

Motion: To approve the payment of \$2.000 to the Rotary Club of Romeo for the Vintagefest event.

Motion by: Rose

Second by: Lee

Roll Call:

Yes: Rose, Lee, Hutnick, Osebold, Poznanski, Bowers, St. Laurent

No:

No further discussion.

Motion passes 7-0

8. New Business

**a. Wayfinding and Attraction Strategy Presentation**

EVTIP Strategic Planning Project was presented by Mary Ammerman from the University of Michigan Economic Growth Institute.

**b. Romeo DDA Strategy Presentation**

Cristina Sheppard-Decius from POW Strategies presented her 5 year strategy proposal for the Romeo DDA.

Motion: To approve the Romeo DDA Strategy.

Motion by: Lee

Second by: Osebold

Roll Call:

Yes: Lee, Osebold, Hutnick, Poznanski, Bowers, Rose, St. Laurent

No:

Motion passes 7-0

**c. District 360 Presentation**

Salesforce backed CRM designed specifically for mainstreets. This tool will allow the DDA to house all important contact information such as business owner, building owner, stakeholders and board members. It will also be one source of accurate data and historical preservation for all communication within the district.

Motion: To approve adopting and usage of District 360 software in the amount not to exceed \$1,800 per year as well as a one time fee of \$5,000 for Building Inventory data.

Motion by: Lee

Second by: Osebold

Roll Call:

Yes: Lee, Osebold, Hutnick, Poznanski, Bowers, Rose, St. Laurent

No:

Motion passes 7-0

**d. Board Member Report**

Romeo DDA will be put on the Village Council's agenda going forward as a place for the DDA to report on current projects.

Motion: To approve moving forward with a monthly report to the Village Council.

Motion by: Lee

Second by: Osebold

Roll Call:

Yes: Lee, Osebold, Hutnick, Poznanski, Bowers, Rose, St. Laurent

No:

Motion passes 7-0

**9. Unfinished Business:**

**a. Social District**

Update included establishing a district boundary, potential licensees and next steps. The DDA Director is working with the Village President and Chief of Police on establishing a District boundary. We currently have (4) four businesses that are interested in gaining permits for this

project which satisfies the qualification of having a min. of (2). DDA Director is working on establishing a Social District Proposal, Management Plan and Implementation Plan to present at the May board meeting for approval. This is the next step for presenting to the Village Council for adoption.

**b. Multi-modal Streetscape Conceptual Planning Services**

We have had our kick off meeting with Giffels Webster. The walkabout is scheduled for April 17th. This is the beginning of the Public Engagement segment that should conclude by May 1, 2025.

**c. Art Plan**

The Girl Scouts have joined the DDA in a partnership for an Art Mural project.

The Art Plan including conceptual designs, budget, location and management plan have been submitted to TMobile for grant funding.

**d. Public Restrooms**

Although this is a much requested item from the village residents and businesses, there isn't a location for a permanent structure at this time so going forward with a pilot of the portable units is not necessary. We will continue to look for viable space and possible purchase of land.

**e. PILOP**

The Village Board of Trustees voted in favor of reducing the PILOP fee to \$100 indefinitely.

**f. Parking Committee**

This board has agreed to administer the parking program on behalf of the village, providing support and manpower and are happy to continue doing so. Re-joining the Parking Committee is not necessary at this time as the DDA board does not have involvement in other possible solutions.

**g. Spring Decor**

Spring flowers are on track to be delivered no later than May 23, 2025.

10. Executive Director Report  
Kay Pochert went over her current activities from March and provided an itemized report and project management list.
11. Board Member Comments

**Hutnick** - communicated that she did not agree with the certified letter sent to Dr. McLeod by Board Chair St. Laurent. She stated that she wanted a vote of the board and that communication should not have been on the DDA Letterhead with all board member names as there was not a vote.

**Osebold** - also stated she did not agree with the certified letter sent to Dr. McLeod due to the process.

**Poznanski**: thanked the public for coming and let them know she appreciates their feedback. This is how we know what you think and we do listen. She also apologized to the board for the hurtful comments that are on social media as she knows first hand how hard it is. She encouraged the public to deter from aggressive language. Poznanski also offered anyone to volunteer to serve on the board as we have an open seat.

**Lee** - voiced that we have been talking about data and possible solutions to the parking need for a year. The Parking committee came up with the least bad solution in their opinion. She encourages the public to seek out and find the data and not believe false statements on the internet. Reach out to the board or the DDA office for factual information.

**St. Laurent** - Also encouraged the public to seek out factual and accurate information as most of what is shared on social media is incorrect. She is excited for what is coming with our adopted Strategy Plan and future infrastructure projects.

**Bowers** - happy he isn't on social media very often. He didn't sign up for politics, but was more interested in downtown beautification projects. Congratulated Rose on his new establishment and its success so far. Mentioned that the Peaches renovation looks great!

**Rose** - Thanked the board and appreciates that we all work together. Appreciates the public for showing up and sharing their thoughts and ideas. Our best bet is to seek out factual information and to talk to each other going forward.

12. Adjournment: 9:37 p.m.

Motioned: Lee

Second: Bowers

All ayes.

Motion passes: 7-0