

Romeo Downtown Development Authority / Village Board of Trustees

Joint Meeting

Monday September 22, 2025– 7:00 p.m.

361 Morton Street, Romeo, MI 48065 Silver Senior Meeting Room

MINUTES

1. Roll Call: 7:02 p.m.
Present – Hutnick, Osebold, Murdock, Stephens, Kare, Bartholomew, Edwards, Parker
Absent - Poznanski, Rosso, Fowler, Lee, St. Laurent, VanWormer

2. Discussion

Parking Committee - DDA let BOT know that they are willing to participate in re-activating the Parking Committee to seek solutions for maintaining parking lots, PLOP, and future development of parking structures. Hare confirmed he will add this topic to the next BOT Agenda to re-activate the committee. Discussed possibly inviting members of the community to join the committee. If the desire is to go this route then creating a Task Force would be the best solution. Discussed having Paul Bowers on the Task Force as a major developer in Romeo, however Parker didn't agree due to Mr. Bowers not being a resident or business owner. DDA believes he would have valuable solutions to parking issues and owning substantial land in the DDA would justify his voice on the panel. It was mentioned that Noah, the owner of Peaches Brunchouse, would be interested in joining this Task Force. Osebold discussed how we may have adequate parking for what we have downtown now, but with the addition of Lettuce and Host and along with any future developments we will need a solution for more parking.

Wayfinding - Parker suggested that signage would go a long way in helping navigate visitors to parking that is available. He believes there isn't an insufficiency but rather people just don't know where to go. DDA gave an update on the Wayfinding project that the project is now shovel ready and they are working on grant funding opportunities. That timeline is 12-18 months. Parker was surprised and thought all of this had already been done. He feels this has been going on for far too long and we need signs up. He suggested the Village fund the project (at least for the parking signage) to get moving. Edwards mentioned the Village doesn't have the funds.

Joint Meeting Agenda - Parker requested that going forward we have set items for discussion on the Agenda and the group agreed.

Code Enforcement - Parker raised the question of enforcement of signage in the DDA. He mentions there is a lot of window signage that does not meet code and needs to be enforced. Osebold mentioned the dumpster next to Buchemis and that it is sitting on grass which is also not meeting the ordinance. Pochert asked what the process is currently in order to gain insight on who would enforce ordinances and what do people do if they have a complaint. Parker said that the Village Office is responsible for enforcement currently and should do more. Kare mentioned that maybe hiring a Code Enforcement Officer would be a valuable solution. He also believes the police department could enforce, however they are already over burdened. We should invite Mike Bommarito to future discussions. The group agrees there needs to be a better process and solution.

Beautification - Osebold offered that the DDA can and will assist with downtown beautification efforts such as weeding and landscape upkeep. She discussed how we can use volunteer groups such as Serve, The Garden Club, Church organizations and others. Stephens mentioned he believes the building owners need to take more responsibility and “just do it”.

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Streetscape Project - DDA gave an update on the status of this project. We are shovel ready now and are researching possible funding opportunities. We are working with a couple of professional grant writers provided by 4 Counties Community Foundation and the timeline for this project is 36-48 months. The group discussed the need to slow down traffic and improve walkability downtown.

Next Joint Meeting - November 10th

3. Adjournment: 8:00 p.m.

Motion by: Kare

Second: Edwards

All ayes.

Motion passes: 8-0