



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CLINTON DDA
40700 ROMEO PLANK ROAD, CLINTON TOWNSHIP, MI 48038 (586) 286-8000 WWW.GRATIOTINCLINTON.COM

**Gratiot Downtown Development Authority of the Charter Township of Clinton
Baker College Community Room
Wednesday
August 8, 2018 Minutes**

DDA Chair Pat Moran called the meeting to order at 7:32 a.m.

Members Present: Bruno Burnosky, Carolyn Dorian, Jim Johnson, Mark Krutell, Mario Lavinio, Lynn LaVoie, Pat Moran, Donna Sassin and Tom Tignanelli. *A quorum was present.*

Others Present: Also present were Clinton Township Police Sergeant Curt Randall, and DDA Liaison Joe Peruzzi.

A motion to approve the minutes of July 11, 2018 was made by Tom Tignanelli and seconded by Mark Krutell. Motion approved.

Reports/Presentations

Treasurer's Report: DDA Liaison Joe Peruzzi reported that the DDA's bank balance currently stands at \$140,183. Expenditures from April 1 to the present stood at \$6,211. Two outstanding invoices were presented: \$15,000 for the annual DDA contribution to lighting electrical costs and \$13,183 for Stafford Landscaping for services rendered from June to August. **A motion was made by Tom Tignanelli and seconded by Mario Lavinio to authorize the \$15,000 payment for lighting electrical costs. Motion approved. A second motion was made by Tom Tignanelli and seconded by Mark Krutell to authorize payment of \$13,183 to Stafford Landscaping. Motion approved.** Mr. Peruzzi reminded DDA board members that the current budget of \$52,000 will be deducted from the bank balance over the course of the year. He indicated he would check with the assessing and the finance departments to determine if any other potential influxes of tax recapture funds are expected for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Landscaping Report: Pat Moran said he was impressed with the landscaper's work during the week prior to the Gratiot Cruise and reported that currently the median landscaping looks good. He suggested that the DDA might want to consider adding sod in areas where the bed plantings have receded and now only contain mulch. He thought that cost would not be excessive. He asked that Mr. Peruzzi contact Dave Stafford and invite him to the next DDA meeting to discuss the conditions of the beds and possibly bid on applying sod in some of the landscaped areas where plants are sparse.

Police Report: Sgt. Curt Randall said that there were 42 incidents of crime in the DDA area during the current reporting period. Retail fraud including shoplifting again accounted for the majority of larcenies during the period. Narcotic complaints and property damage accounted for the remainder of the incidents. Sgt. Randall said the Gratiot Cruise went off without any major incidents other than three minor vehicle accidents with one vehicle hitting a bus. He reported that both the Police and Fire millages had been approved by voters averting the need to lay off any police officers and fire/rescue personnel. He expressed thanks for the C and G ads that were sponsored by the DDA supporting both the Police and Fire/Rescue millages.

Marketing Support: DDA Liaison Peruzzi said he had reviewed the DDA's finances with the township and had available check registries, bank balance statements and revenue and expenditure detail. He indicated he would check with the township regarding any additional funding for the year as well as to detail the \$88,000 that was added to the DDA budget that exceeded previous estimates. He would report on his findings next month. The Electronic Sign is working well and Cruise sponsors would continue to be shown on the sign for the next month. He advised the DDA that he had placed the Macomb Daily in contact with Jim Kowalski who every year in the past has provided photos for both the Cruise website and the Macomb Daily Gatefold that thanks sponsors for their participation in the cruise. Mr. Peruzzi said that the \$2200 cost for Cruise advertising and the gatefold was built into the budget. A general discussion ensued regarding the need to outline the future course of the DDA and the type of projects that might be addressed within the funding limits of the DDA. Ms. Dorian said she thought now was a good time to determine what low cost initiatives the DDA could begin and the Board agreed that this was a good idea and the time was right. She and other members agreed that an intern whether paid or not might be good to enhance the social media presence for the DDA. Ms. Dorian and other members of the Board were unsure of whether the Board of Trustees had renewed the DDA for another 15 years. Mr. Moran thought it had but was not able to verify that at the time of the meeting. The Board of Trustees will be contacted to determine the DDA's long term status. It was agreed that members should come to the September meeting with a focused list of what they thought was important for the growth of the corridor. Members also suggested that each invite some other business person on the corridor to get their input about the role the DDA can play in the future. The DDA Board was asked that any major projects be reviewed and implemented no earlier than the hiring of a new Planning Director for Clinton Township.

Gratiot Cruise Report: Tom Tignanelli said that this year's Gratiot Cruise went well and that Classic Car shows at both the Headquarters and Moran Chevy went off as planned. Mr. Moran thought the number of people attending the event was slightly down and attributed that to the extreme heat for the day. Mr. Tignanelli suggested that more classic cars were parked because of the heat and vehicle overheating issues. He then presented Mr. Peruzzi with one of the Gratiot Cruise's annual Humanitarian Awards for volunteer work done for the township despite his retirement two years ago. Mr. Peruzzi expressed surprise and a great appreciation for the award.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 a.m. The next DDA meeting is scheduled for September 12.

Joseph Peruzzi

Submitted by DDA Liaison Joseph Peruzzi

