



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CLINTON DDA
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**Gratiot Downtown Development Authority of the Charter Township of Clinton
Baker College Community Room
Wednesday
June 13, 2018 Minutes**

DDA Vice Chair Carolyn Dorian called the meeting to order at 7:37 a.m. in the absence of Chair Pat Moran.

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

Others Present: Also present were Clinton Township Police Sergeant Curt Randall, Planning and Community Development Director Carlo Santia, and DDA Liaison Joe Peruzzi.

A motion to approve the minutes of May 9, 2018 was made by Pete Thomas and seconded by Bruno Burnosky. Motion approved.

Reports/Presentations

- a. **Treasurer's Report:** Carlo Santia reported that the bank balance stands at \$55,637 as of 04-30-2018. Revenues received in 2018/19 to date stand at \$0, but Mr. Santia indicated that the township's finance department predicted that the DDA may receive up to \$88,000 in tax receipts due to increasing valuations on commercial properties along the corridor. Expenditures since April 1, 2018 were \$191.63 for utilities. It was suggested by DDA members that if tax revenues did increase the DDA may be able to implement some projects that have been put on hold due to a shortage of funds.
- b. **Police Report:** Sgt. Curt Randall apologized for missing the past three meetings due to specialized training and the recent Officer Recognition Breakfast conducted by the Township. He reported that 57 incidents of crime had occurred along the corridor in the past month. A new crime reporting method has been adopted by the township and Sgt. Randall asked the DDA members if the police department should continue to report crime with addresses included. DDA members said the addresses were helpful and Sgt. Randall said that future reports would continue to include same. A number of incidents were reported at the same address along Gratiot and Sgt. Randall indicated that these were shoplifting incidents at the Target store. He added that retail fraud did appear to be on the upswing but only marginally. No pattern of home invasions or multiple crimes were detected. Sgt. Randall said the officer count now stands at 93 with the recent hire of both a male and female officer with experience from the City of Detroit. He said the township is expected to have a marijuana ordinance in place by September and Mr. Santia confirmed that prediction. The

township has become a destination know as a good community to work at so finding qualified police officers has meant a safer community for residents. Body cameras have now been used by officers for the past two months and they are proving very worthwhile in investigating police procedures and crime incidents.

- c. **Marketing Support:** DDA Liaison Peruzzi indicated that he continues to update electronic signs with messages from the Township and Gratiot Cruise. He is also in the process of procuring from MDOT a permit for the township's Gratiot Cruise event to use Gratiot for Sunday, August 5. He inquired about the progress on the Gratiot Blooms program and there continued to be discussion about the size of flower pots and the procedure by which they can be procured. DDA member Pete Thomas said he would look into how the DDA members might approach purchasing pots from either the Farmers Market as suggested by Donna Sassin or elsewhere. Size and whether the pots should come installed with soil and flowers has yet to be determined. Vice chair Carolyn Dorian suggested that the DDA find an intern paid or not who could help with social media duties and possibly the website. Mr. Peruzzi added that he thought this was a good idea and pointed to his positive experience with interns while employed at the township. He said that since last year his billing was only \$680 due to a shortage of DDA tax revenues. He suggested that his duties now mainly focus on minutes, electronic signage, DDA letters, and special purchases and that now the DDA may have the opportunity to proceed with a paid intern position due to a prediction of increasing tax revenues. He also suggested that these duties might be appropriate for the soon to be hired Planning and Community Development Deputy. He recommended that by year's end the DDA could have these changes in place if the DDA desired.
- d. **Landscape Report:** Mr. Santia said that Stafford Landscaping was now caring for the median landscaping along Gratiot. He said that mulch would soon be applied with another application prior to the cruise.
- e. **Gratiot Cruise Report:** Tom Tignanelli said that this year's Gratiot Cruise planning was on schedule.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 a.m.

**Submitted by DDA Liaison Joseph Peruzzi.
The next meeting is scheduled for July 11, 2018.**