



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CLINTON DDA

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**Gratiot Downtown Development Authority of the Charter Township of Clinton
Baker College Community Room
Wednesday
September 12, 2018 Minutes**

DDA Chair Pat Moran called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

Members Present: Bruno Burnosky, Robert Cannon, Mark Krutell, Mario Lavinio, Cyd Lucas, Pat Moran, Donna Sassin and Tom Tignanelli. *A quorum was present.*

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

A motion to approve the minutes of August 8, 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 \$108,620. Expenditures from April 1 to the present stood at \$35,779. Major invoices in the past 30 days included \$15,000 for the DDA's annual lighting contribution and \$13,183 for Stafford Landscaping services. Remainder of costs included \$1,770 for C and G Publishing covering the Police/Fire Millage support advertisement, and \$160 to AT&T and \$156 to DTE Energy.

Landscaping Report: Chairman Pat Moran extended an invitation to Stafford Landscaping owner Dave Stafford to discuss ways in which the DDA may reduce the size of some of the planting beds that have lost ground cover and shrubs due to salt and poor soil conditions. Mr. Stafford indicated that he had seen a number of areas where landscaping was virtually non-existent along Gratiot at the 16 Mile Road and 15 Mile Rd. intersections. A few other areas along the corridor also lacked landscaping and he suggested that Stafford Landscaping come up with a staged-plan to plant grass and some ground covers in bare areas. He said he would report with a plan as early as at next month's meeting. Most recently Stafford conducted a major weeding and mulching just prior to the Gratiot Cruise. Mr. Peruzzi indicated he would remind Mr. Stafford of the next meeting date.

Police Report: Sgt. Curt Randall said that there were 33 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 department had hired one new police officer with 18 months of experience on the Detroit Police force. The new officer also underwent field training in Warren.

Marketing Support: DDA Liaison Peruzzi said he had confirmed through Finance and the Assessing departments that the DDA had received \$88,000 in tax revenues in March, 2018, and that the next increment of funds would be in March of 2019. He was told the amount received this year increased due to personal property tax receipts. This year's addition is approximately double of what was received in the prior two years. The Electronic Sign at 14 Mile and Gratiot continues to work well but it was noted that a couple of large sections of the sign covering had failed during the past few months. Mr. Peruzzi said he would take a look and contact the DPS for potential repair solutions.



Mr. Moran said he would provide the name and phone number of the sign repair company he uses. Mr. Peruzzi indicated that the original sign installation company was no longer in business. Mr. Peruzzi also noted that the GoDaddy website account had been switched from the previous planning director's name to the township's IT department. It is important to keep current the website GoDaddy account because if it lapses other entities may purchase the site and attempt to resell to the original owner at an inflated price. He added that upon an update of website information, the IT department will create a separate link from the township's website to the DDA GratiotinClinton site. Mr. Peruzzi said he would go over the site and make a cursory update of same pending the hiring of a new Planning Director and possibly the addition of a social media intern. Mr. Moran asked if it was able to be determined how many hits the Gratiot DDA website receives and Mr. Peruzzi indicated Google Analytics could provide that. He reminded the DDA members that the website had not been updated in at least a couple of years due to financial constraints and concerns over the need and viability of the site itself. Mr. Peruzzi suggested that upon hiring a new Planning Director the DDA may want to review the issue.

Supervisor Cannon remarks and Misc. Reports: Mr. Cannon announced that the Clinton Township Goodfellows will hold its annual Pasta Dinner for "No Child Without a Christmas" event from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. on October 10 at the Mirage Banquet Hall at 18 Mile Rd. and Garfield. He also again thanked the DDA for its support of the Police and Fire Millage requests. He added that despite the failure of the recent road millage request that the township continued to contribute funds to reconstructing major township roads. He noted that \$300,000 from the township general fund is going toward the reconstruction of M59. Other projects include work on 19 Mile Rd. and reconstruction on Little Mack at 15 Mile. He estimated that the township's annual contribution will be approximately \$1.2 million in order to repair major roads in the community.

Mark Krutell said the fall Gratiot cleanup will be held beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday, September 29. Volunteers would again meet at the Farmers Market. Students who need service hours will be credited for 3 hours as long as they provide the necessary paperwork. The Clintondale Adult Ed. Program on Price Drive will provide a complementary lunch following the clean up.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 a.m. The next DDA meeting is scheduled for October 10, 2018.

Joseph Peruzzi

Submitted by DDA Liaison Joseph Peruzzi