



**VIRTUAL Monthly Meeting of the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Board of Directors**  
**Downtown Development Authority Meeting**  
**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 @ 8:00 AM**

**1. CALL TO ORDER: 8:10 am**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair PJ Jacokes, Vice Chair Chris Johnston, Treasurer Sarah Brown, Members Nathan Martin, Toly Ashkenazi

MEMBERS ABSENT: Janice Semma, JeDonna Dinges, Jerome Raska, and Mayor Melanie Piana

STAFF PRESENT: Lena Stevens, Executive Director

**2. IN-PERSON MEETING RULES REVIEW**

- a. Request for all board members and audience members to wear masks regardless of vaccination status.

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Moved by Brown, seconded by Martin to approve the Agenda as published

*AYES* – Chair PJ Jacokes, Vice Chair Chris Johnston, Treasurer Sarah Brown, Members Nathan Martin and Toly Ashkenazi

*NAYS- None*

*All ayes, motion carries.*

**4. COMMUNITY REPORTS**

- a. None.

**5. CALL TO AUDIENCE**

- a. None.

**6. CALL TO BOARD MEMBERS**

- a. Recognition of service to departing board member Jacki Smith  
Board members thanks Jacki Smith in abstention for her service to the DDA Board of Directors. Members asked if a gathering could be coordinated among the members to celebrate Jacki's work. Chair Jacokes acknowledged that the DDA is in a significantly better operating position due to the efforts of Jacki Smith.
- b. Member Brown asked about lack of DDA notification related to closure of 9 Mile and Hilton train crossing for repairs. The group discussed the responsibility of Downtown Ferndale to provide information outside of its boundaries and remain connected with City of Ferndale communications channels. Member Johnson asked if a text alert system existed that could be used to notify businesses. Member Martin noted that his vehicle was nearly towed prior to street construction and would support a text alert system.

## 7. PRESENTATIONS

### a. Presentation from Hamilton Anderson on DDA Possibilities Plan

Hamilton Anderson presented the draft DDA Possibilities Plan which is based on over a year of engagement work with the DDA and City of Ferndale. Many members, including the Executive Director, were not on the board when this plan was initiated. The RFP process was in 2018, the visioning meeting was held in early 2019 and a draft was complete in October 2019. Immediately issues were identified with the draft, and discussions with board members confirmed the plan needed a new direction. Hamilton Anderson staff dedicated their time and talent the new draft which will help provide visionary direction for the decade to come.

The DDA Board of Directors participated in a thorough discussion of the plan and supported moving forward with the adoption process.

## 8. CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Johnston, seconded by Brown to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

AYES – Chair PJ Jacokes, Vice Chair Chris Johnston, Treasurer Sarah Brown, Members Nathan Martin and Toly Ashkenazi

NAYS – None

***All ayes, motion carries.***

## 9. REGULAR AGENDA

### a. Approval of Improvements to the Downtown Waste Management System and Grant Match Authorization in the Amount of \$40,000

The Zero Waste Program Coordinator requested approval from the DDA to contribute to an EGLE 2021 Recycling Grant match in the amount of \$40,000. The match commitments will go to improve the downtown waste enclosures.

***Motion by Jacokes, seconded by Martin to Approve Improvements to the Downtown Waste Management System as Proposed by the Zero Waste Coordinator and Grant Match Authorization in the Amount of \$40,000***

AYES – Chair PJ Jacokes, Vice Chair Chris Johnston, Treasurer Sarah Brown, Members Nathan Martin and Toly Ashkenazi

NAYS – None

***All ayes, motion carries.***

## 10. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Letter to Senator Jeremy Moss and Representative Regina Weiss in support of virtual meetings

***Motion by Brown, seconded by Ashkenazi to Authorize DDA Chair to send letter on behalf of the Ferndale DDA requesting temporary amendments to the Open Meeting Act be to permit public bodies to meet electronically by telephone or videoconferencing for the safety of all involved.***

AYES – Chair PJ Jacokes, Vice Chair Chris Johnston, Treasurer Sarah Brown, Members Nathan Martin and Toly Ashkenazi

NAYS – None

***All ayes, motion carries.***

## 11. ADJOURNMENT

***Motion by Member Johnston, seconded by Brown to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 A.M.***

AYES – Chair PJ Jacokes, Vice Chair Chris Johnston, Treasurer Sarah Brown, Members Nathan Martin and Toly Ashkenazi

NAYS – None

***All ayes, motion carries.***