



MINUTES

Monthly Meeting of the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Board of Directors

THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2023 @ 8:00 AM

Council Chambers

300 E Nine Mile, Ferndale, MI 48220

1. CALL TO ORDER: 8:06 AM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Pj Jacokes, Omar George, Sarah Brown, and Mayor Melanie Piana, Metari Harris, Jerome Raska, JeDonna Dinges

MEMBERS ABSENT: Toly Ashkenazi, Jess Minnick,

STAFF PRESENT: Lena Stevens, Executive Director; Sommer Realy, Engagement Manager

GUEST SPEAKERS:

2. Approval of Agenda

AYES – Chair Pj Jacokes, Omar George, Sarah Brown, and Mayor Melanie Piana, Metari Harris, Toly Ashkenazi, Jerome Raska, Jess Minnick

NAYS- None

All ayes, motion carries.

3. Community Reports

Jenny Marr, Director of the Ferndale Area District Library presented updates on upcoming programs.

4. Call to Audience

5. Presentations

6. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of Minutes from February 16, 2023

AYES – Chair Pj Jacokes, Omar George, Sarah Brown, and Mayor Melanie Piana, Metari Harris, Toly Ashkenazi, Jerome Raska, Jess Minnick

NAYS- None

All ayes, motion carries.

7. Regular Agenda

a. Approval of Triennial Budget and Workplan

Director Stevens provided an update of the 2023 DDA budget process. The draft budget was originally presented in January, with workshops held at the Regular Meetings in February and March. The Workplan is a new item this year, designed to capture the goals and vision for the upcoming budget year.

Each year, the DDA Board votes to recommend that Ferndale City Council adopt the DDA budget. All information is available for the public to view on downtownferndale.com

Mayor Piana noted two projects that are not identified in Workplan- curb management study a Woodward Corridor ribbon cutting at the end of construction.

Motion by Omar George seconded by Sarah Brown to approve the approve the triennial budget and workplan with amendments to add a curb management study and Woodward ribbon cutting.

AYES – Chair Pj Jacokes, Omar George, Sarah Brown, and Mayor Melanie Piana, Metari Harris, Toly Ashkenazi, Jerome Raska, Jess Minnick

NAYS – None

All ayes, motion carries.

8. Call to Board Members

Mayor Piana discussed her decision to not run for Mayor in November 2023. She stated that she will endorse candidates who understand municipalities and she plans to continue to be an advocate for items she is passionate about.

9. Information Items from Executive Director

- a.** Award of sidewalk repair contract
- b.** Road construction updates
- c.** Upcoming ribbon cuttings

10. Adjournment

Motion by Metari Harris seconded by Omar George to adjourn the meeting

AYES – Chair Pj Jacokes, Omar George, Sarah Brown, and Mayor Melanie Piana, Metari Harris, Toly Ashkenazi, Jerome Raska, Jess Minnick

NAYS – None

All ayes, motion carries.