

MEETING MINUTES
Berkley Downtown Development Authority
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Berkley Public Safety Building, 2nd Floor Conference Room
Wednesday, May 11, 2016

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 8:02 AM with Chair Alan Semonian presiding.

II. **DETERMINATION OF ATTENDANCE:**

Present: Kathy Abrahamian
Richard Eshman
Lawrence Gallagher
Ross Gavin
Alanda Knox
Keith Logsdon
Rob Onesko
Alan Semonian

Absent: Bridget Dean – *excused*
Diane Farrington – *excused*
Karen Koerber – *excused*
Matteo Passalacqua
Margie Simmons

Also present: Steve Baker, City Council Liaison
Dottie Popp, Planning Commission Liaison

III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** On motion by Gallagher and second by Gavin, the agenda was unanimously approved by the Board.

IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A. **Regular Meeting of April 13, 2016:** Logsdon noted that in Item IX.A., 2016/17 Operating Budget, the minutes read as if the Board had suggested the budget additions, when in fact they came from meetings of the Promotions Committee.

On motion by Logsdon and second by Gallagher, the amended minutes were unanimously approved by the Board.

V. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

VI. **CHAIRPERSON'S UPDATE:** No report.

VII. **LIAISON REPORTS:**

A. **City Council Liaison:** Baker congratulated the Board on being (almost) debt free, as the intersection loan is going to be paid off. This presents an opportunity for the DDA. Council has been in budget review discussions, going over the budget line by line, and he reported that the DDA budget is on its way to being approved on Monday, May 16. He thanked Semonian, Eshman, and Sabuda for their participation in Council's budget review and noted the new City Manager is also playing a role in the discussions.

Colleen Graveline has been appointed to fill the vacancy on Council created by Tina Edgar's resignation.

Berkley Days kick off May 12 and run through May 15.

He noted one of the priorities for the City noted in the 2016/17 budget is the condition of sidewalks throughout the city. They are also discussing the area of downtown from Tyler to Greenfield on 12 Mile Road and resurfacing and painting Coolidge. Left turn lanes need to come up to current requirements. The Planning Commission and Council held a joint meeting a few weeks ago and high

on the agenda is traffic calming on Coolidge. To that end, the Coolidge Action Taskforce, made up of two City Councilpersons, two members of the Planning Commission, two DDA Board members, one representative from the Chamber of Commerce, and one representative from the Environmental Advisory Committee will begin meeting soon to study options and set priorities. Councilperson Blanchard will chair the group.

Semonian asked if there were two Board members interested in joining the committee, and Logsdon and Gavin volunteered. Logsdon noted that Passalacqua, who was absent, may also be interested. Baker will send a summary of what has been discussed so far to them.

B. Planning Commission Liaison: Popp reported that at their April 26 meeting, the Commission approved a façade change for Hartfield Lanes. They also discussed and eventually passed a rezoning request from Vinsetta Garage for added parking with stipulations that the outside walls be built more like the walls around the Westborn and Northpointe lots. She noted that many residents who attended were still opposed to the rezoning, but noted that Berkley needs to add depth to the parking adjoining the Woodward business district.

The commission also approved and sent on to Council a revised site plan for the development of a 12-unit apartment building on Greenfield at Oxford. Construction is expected to start as soon as possible.

C. Chamber of Commerce Liaison: Semonian reported that the next Chamber Chat will be at Our Greentopia on May 20. The Chamber is seeking sponsors for Cruise Fest T-shirts.

D. Beautification Advisory Committee: Absent – no report.

VIII. New Business:

A. Semonian reported that the DDA budget was approved by Council in work session. Next month's agenda will include 2016/17 budget priorities, including finding a DDA manager and setting up committees for the prioritized items.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Robina/12 Mile Project: Traffic Study Test – Logsdon said he wasn't sure of the schedule to proceed and suggested forming a committee. He thought it was a good idea to prepare a billboard size sign to advertise that changes are coming soon, maybe including the mock-ups of the design that were used at the Art Bash last year to get visitor input. Baker suggested having a local printer prepare the materials and to have the same information on the city's Web site. Art Bash Saturday would be a good target date. Abrahamian and Logsdon volunteered to be on the committee, and Logsdon thought Passalacqua would also want to join. Semonian suggested Dean since she's on Robina, and Vansen should be invited.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

B. Maintenance/Beautification Committee – Flowers should be in before the Art Bash. Weather has been "iffy."

C. Promotions Committee: No report.

D. Budget/Finance: Margie Simmons/David Sabuda – No report.

On a separate issue, Popp reported that the Coolidge businesses in her area are deciding to work together proactively and have scheduled a meeting for Tuesday at 9:00 AM at Berkley Eyewear.

In response to a comment overheard in Royal Oak, "Does Berkley *have* a downtown?" Semonian noted that the lack of promotion could be directly addressed by the DDA Manager the Board has been discussing. He had met with the mayor of Ferndale who noted that a DDA manager is essential to moving forward.

Abrahamian reported a serious sewer issue on 12 Mile and Robina near her building, apparently caused by one of the restaurants pouring grease down the drain. Semonian said that should be addressed by the DPW.

XI. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 AM on motion by Onesko and second by Gallagher.