



City of Allegan
Downtown Development Authority Meeting
City of Allegan Council Chambers
231 Trowbridge Street

April 13, 2022

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 8:00am.

2. Attendance

Present: Chair Mark Heather, Vice Chair Michelle Liggett, Carleigh Ackerman, Mayor Delora Andrus, Carl Canales, Nicole Heslip, Kelly McLean, Phil Siegler, Steve Tibbitts

Absent:

Others Present: Parker Johnson, Downtown Manager and Assistant to the City Manager
Joel Dye, City Manager

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from March 9, 2022, by Canales, supported by McLean.
Motion carried 9-0.

4. Public Comment

None

5. Discussion Items

a. Social District Update

At their previous meeting, the Authority directed staff to develop a resolution in support of social districts in the State of Michigan and keeping them in perpetuity. During that work, city staff came to learn that the state has recently adopted legislation removing the sunset date of December 31, 2024, therefore making the Downtown Allegan Social District permanent.

Authority members were unanimously pleased and directed staff to begin looking into permanent signage to replace the current yard signs being used at the boundaries of the social district.

b. Downtown Events & Promotion

Johnson gave an update on the planning for upcoming events being hosted within the DDA boundaries by the Downtown Allegan promotions group including concerts at the Griswold, Rollin' on the River, Bridgefest, Fork in the Road, July 3 Jubilee, and Sidewalk Sales.

The authority was supportive of the Downtown Allegan board idea to close the easternmost block of Trowbridge Street every Monday during Fork in the Road for picnic tables. Heather and others wanted to see picnic tables also available in the Regent alley during the summer, specifically during Fork in the Road.

Heslip suggested fundraising efforts during events.

6. Comments from City Staff & Board Members

a. Shared Refuse Program

Dye informed the group that the city received no bids for the construction of dumpster enclosures and that city staff will begin reaching out to companies directly.

The authority acknowledged that there is a need to have dumpsters located on the Riverfront, although it is something that the city is finding increasingly difficult to make reality with so much obstruction.

b. Wayfinding Signage

Dye explained that city staff was in the exploratory stages of a wayfinding signage plan that would happen in tandem with the Downtown Streetscape Improvement Project.

Johnson shared comments from the last Downtown Lowdown meeting expressing disdain for the current condition of the oval entrance signs at Hubbard and Water streets. The authority agreed with the Downtown Lowdown group that the signs are showing their age and do not reflect well upon the downtown. They wish to see these signs refaced before being replaced with the new wayfinding plan.

Additionally, the authority wishes to see the outdated directional boxes located downtown be removed, as well as the directional business signs located on posts in some planters on street corners.

Heslip voiced her desired to see bike racks included in the Streetscape Improvement Project.

c. ORV Ordinance

Dye updated the authority on the City Council's current discussion regarding an ORV ordinance allowing for off road vehicles on City streets. The group reacted favorably.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45am.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Parker Johnson
Downtown Manager & Assistant to the City Manager**