

MELROSE TOWNSHIP DDA MINUTES
Regular Meeting of April 20, 2022
At Melrose Township Hall

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Chair Broc Johnson called the regular meeting to order at 5:08 PM and welcomed new member Bill Goldsmith.

Members present: Broc Johnson, Steve Whittaker, Phil Whittaker, Bill Wehrenberg, Dave Rentschler, and Bill Goldsmith.

Members absent: Vern Goodwin, Mike Strobel, and Jonathon Borisch.

Also present: Recording Secretary Tom Mackie

Others present

Township Clerk Robin Hissing Berry.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Bill Wehrenberg motioned, Steve Whittaker seconded, to approve the minutes of October 27, 2021, as presented. All ayes, motion carried.

III. ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Dave Rentschler nominated Broc Johnson as Chair, 2nd by Steve Whittaker.
Dave Rentschler nominated Steve Whittaker as Vice-Chair, 2nd by Phil Whittaker.
Dave Rentschler nominated Bill Wehrenberg as Secretary, 2nd by Phil Whittaker.

On a voice-vote all three nominations were individually approved.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT:

Tom reviewed the year-end financial statements as presented in an income statement and balance sheet for fiscal year ended March 31, 2022 as well as the 2022/2023 annual budget as approved by the Township Board at a Public Hearing on March 29, 2022.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. Township Purchase of Circle Park: Robin reported last year's DNR Land Grant application was denied based on our low scoring. Priority was given to undeveloped properties and the applicant's overall economic status. Any future progress on this project will depend on the current property owner. Based on a question from Broc, all DDA members expressed continuing support for township acquisition of the property.

Bill Wehrenberg motioned, Broc seconded, to express DDA support for the Township's effort to pursue ownership of Circle Park. All ayes, motion carried.

b. Merchant's Association Update: Phil reported no new information to share and reiterated this is something the merchants must pursue.

- c. **Bylaws Amendment:** Tom noted a 2019 amendment to the State's DDA Statute provides "Not less than a majority of members shall have an interest in the downtown district." At our meeting on August 25, 2021 the DDA discussed this and determined the Township Attorney would propose a Bylaws amendment incorporating this new language. A handout detailing the current and proposed amendment to Article 2, Section 2 was provided for discussion.

Bill Wehrenberg suggested the first sentence providing for 9 members including the Supervisor with appointed 4-year terms could be better stated as "The Board of Directors shall consist of (8) persons appointed to 4-year terms plus the Supervisor of Melrose Township who serves as an ex-officio member with a term concurrent with their elected position.

- d. **Sidewalk Extension Project:** Broc noted we don't have all the information yet to move forward and asked that the project be moved to the May meeting agenda.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **Future Development Plans:** Nothing to report for this month but will have in May.
- b. **River/Boardwalk Path Discussion:** Vern has been working with our Engineer for several months but hasn't received any proposals yet. He will ask for a timeline and look for other options if necessary.
- c. **US131 Corridor Committee Membership:** Broc noted our October discussion and decision to discontinue participation with this organization as the apparent benefits did not warrant the annual \$2,000 membership fee.

Committee Representative and Melrose Township Clerk Robin Berry indicated there are new developments and asked the DDA to reconsider their decision. Using projected computer images, she reviewed the current website and Facebook page, noting several activities in the Village of Walloon Lake. Robin also stated the Petoskey Visitor's Bureau has recently expressed interest in getting involved.

Broc noted our initial commitment of support began 4 years ago. Last year we discussed dropping out and made the decision to discontinue funding last October. Robin suggested there has been a lot of recent activity but the DDA was not aware of this at the time. Dave and Phil both expressed support for continuing our membership for another year.

Dave Rentschler motioned, Steve Whittaker seconded, to continue the DDA's membership with the US131 Corridor Committee for 2022 and authorize an annual Membership Dues payment of \$2,000. All ayes, motion carried.

Broc then expressed a need for the US131 Committee to regularly communicate with the DDA on what they are doing and how it will benefit us.

d. **Promote Michigan Update:** Diana Stampfler will have a report at our next meeting. Broc indicated she is working on a redesign of our brochures and is looking for ideas on what to include. The DDA reviewed our current brochure and identified several updates. Our current year budget for this project is \$7,500.

VII. **DDA MEMBER COMMENTS:** Broc asked all members to provide the Recording Secretary with current contact information, including phone number and email address.

VIII. **CITIZEN COMMENTS:** None

IX. **NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, May 25, 2022 at 5:00 PM

X. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Prepared by:

Approved by:

Tom Mackie, Recording Secretary

Bill Wehrenberg, Secretary