

**MELROSE TOWNSHIP DDA MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting of May 25, 2022**  
**At Melrose Township Hall**

**INFORMATIONAL MEETING:**

Broc opened the Informational portion of the meeting at 5:00 PM, noting the meeting notice was provided to all taxing jurisdictions as well as the township's web site and bulletin board in accordance with Public Act 57 of 2018. No representatives of the various taxing jurisdictions were in attendance. Broc noted the presentation normally provided during the informational portion of this meeting will be addressed under various agenda items. This information is also available on the DDA page of the township's web site. No public comment was offered so Broc closed the informational portion of the meeting at 5:00 PM

**Oath of Office:**

Township Clerk Robin Berry administered the Oath of Office to DDA Member Steve Whittaker.

**I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL**

Chair Broc Johnson called the regular meeting to order at 5:04 PM.

**Members present:** Broc Johnson, Steve Whittaker, Phil Whittaker, Bill Wehrenberg, Dave Rentschler, Bill Goldsmith, Vern Goodwin and Jonathon Borisch.

**Members absent:** None.

**Also present:** Recording Secretary Tom Mackie

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Bill Wehrenberg motioned, Steve Whittaker seconded, to approve the minutes of April 20, 2022, as presented. All ayes, motion carried.**

**III. FINANCIAL REPORT:**

Tom reviewed the year-to-date financial statements as presented in an income statement and balance sheet through May 25, 2022.

**IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**a. Township Purchase of Circle Park:** Jonathon suggested our low scoring on last year's grant application was due to a lack of citizen involvement in the Township's Recreation Plan; however, he is still interested in selling the park to the Township. Vern noted additional factors include our lack of population diversity and the fact that we're not economically disadvantaged. Broc suggested we contact the Walloon Lake Association and Conservancy for help. Vern will contact them. Jonathon presented ideas for improving our score.

- b. **Bylaws Amendment:** Following discussion, **Broc Johnson motioned, Phil Whittaker seconded, to amend Article 2, Section 2, of the DDA Bylaws to read as follows:**

Section 2: Number, Tenure, and Qualifications

The Board of Directors shall consist of nine (9) persons. Eight (8) who are appointed to four (4) years. The Supervisor of Melrose Township serves as an ex-officio member. Not less than a majority of the members shall be persons having an interest in property located in the downtown district or officers, members, trustees, principals, or employees of a legal entity having an interest in property located in the downtown district. In addition, not less than one (1) of the members shall be a resident of the downtown district, if the downtown district has 100 or more persons residing within it. Before assuming the duties of office, a member shall qualify by taking the constitutional oath of office. Members of the board shall continue in office until a successor has been appointed.

**The Motion was approved with a vote of all Ayes.**

- c. **Sidewalk Extension Project / River Boardwalk Discussion:** Vern reported no recent discussion with Aaron Nordman. Broc noted Aaron (Performance Engineers) appears to be quite busy and suggested looking to other engineering firms for a quote. Vern expressed agreement that Aaron is extremely busy but noted the Board of Trustees designated Performance Engineers as the Official Township Engineering firm.

**V. NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. **Future Development Plans:** Jonathon reported the Walloon Village General Store will continue to operate through Labor Day. At that time his plan is to replace the building with a new structure having retail on the ground floor and residential units above. Part of the retail will presumably be some type of grocery store if a tenant is found. Planning is presently underway, although availability of engineering services, as well as water and sewer availability questions create some uncertainty.
- b. **Promote Michigan Update:** Broc reported Diana Stampfler planned to present a report but hasn't arrived yet. He reviewed changed for our brochures. Broc then handed out Diana's report and indicated we will discuss at the next meeting.
- c. **Car / Boat Show Discussion:** Steve has updated this year's efforts to provide different types of cars for the show. Broc added, a theme-based show may provide something unique that would distinguish us from other communities.

Steve confirmed that Wally Kidd is pursuing the Boat Show once again. Broc suggested getting Diana Stampfler involved for promotional efforts.

**VI. DDA MEMBER COMMENTS:** Steve and Phil presented a list of ideas for future projects:

- a. Construct an archway over the park entrance drive. General interest was expressed.
- b. Replace Park gazebo. Vern expressed support for expanding but concern for a new structure. Broc noted a lack of township personnel if a proposed use required this. Broc

also noted the need to observe the park's historic designation. Phil volunteered to research replacement ideas.

- c. Continue new lighting in the area of the park and beach. Broc expressed support for this from the condominiums to the dam.
- d. Construct an archway over the entrance to Winsor Street or North Shore Drive. Concerns were expressed over MDOT approval.
- e. Develop a plan for themed signage. Not a high priority but Steve suggested the Mathew family may be interested in allowing signage on their property at the US131 junction. General interest was expressed and Steve will pursue this.
- f. Canoe Launch in the Park. Concern over river navigation was expressed. Bill Wehrenberg will research log-jam removal from the river.
- g. Divided highway between beach and park. Concern was expressed over the ability to obtain MDOT approval as well as a potential loss of property for an expanded road right-of-way.

**VII. CITIZEN COMMENTS:** Scot Graden of Walloon Central expressed interest in becoming a member of the DDA.

Laurie Woodhouse (audience member) asked for details about the planned use of Middle Street by the Walloon Lake Inn. Jonathon responded the road will be used for staff and customer access with parking on the Triton Marine property.

**VIII. NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, August 24, 2022 at 5:00 PM *{subsequently revised to July 5<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 AM}*

**IX. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 PM.

Prepared by:

Approved by:

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Tom Mackie, Recording Secretary

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Bill Wehrenberg, Secretary