



RIVERFRONT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

1315 S. Washington Avenue
Council Chambers – Room 205
989.399.1311
March 14, 2023
MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:

Clerk Santos called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

Present: Abraham Allen, Erin Andrus, Martin Chelekis, Carol Cottrell, Robert Gollin, Mike Hanley, John Humphreys, Brian Keenan-Lechel, Tom Miller, John Moton, Vee Murugan

Excused: Aaron Bedford, Clint Bryant, Fred Czerewko, Mark Fischer, Travis Hare, Tim Morales

NEW BUSINESS:

Clerk Santos reminded the Commission that the election of Vice Chair was postponed from the January 10 meeting.

Moved by Commissioner Cottrell, seconded by Commissioner Humphreys to elect Commissioner Moton as Vice Chair. Commissioner Moton accepted and the motion was approved.

Vice Chair Moton continued with the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Moved by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner Keenan-Lechel to approve the January 10, 2023 minutes. Motion approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

CHAIR REPORT:

Vice Chair Moton welcomed new Commissioner Vee Murugan. Personal introductions were given by each Commissioner.

REPORTS:

• **SVRC ENHANCEMENT PROJECT**

Commissioner Andrus reported that ARPA funding of \$250,000.00 has been approved by the City Council. Depending on the ARPA rules, if she is not able to complete the design work, alternatives would be Spicer Group or Kibbe & Associates. It was suggested that a 10% contingency be planned for future maintenance. Commissioner Keenan-Lechel said they are looking at T-shaped areas with picnic tables, umbrellas, trash containers, etc.

- **SAGINAW VALLEY RAIL TRAIL**

Commissioner Keenan-Lechel reported that the city is working with Kibbe & Associates for project cost and the County may consider funding assistance.

- **RFDC MASTER PLAN - DESIGN GUIDE**

Commissioner Gollin reported that the River Corridor Master Plan is included in the City Master Plan when approved by the Planning Commission and the City Council. According to ordinance §12.041, the Commission is responsible to create and implement a River Corridor Master Plan.

Moved by Commissioner Humphreys, seconded by Commissioner Cottrell to review the River Corridor Master Plan that is part of the City Master Plan so it can be properly adopted. Motion approved.

- **CITY MANAGER**

No report.

- **DDA/Old Town/Land Bank**

Commissioner Miller reported the following:

- The DDA is accepting applications for façade grants;
- Creating a list of potential deals for developers and businesses that include pre-development, budgeting, business plan development, financing options, and information on small grant programs;
- New staff hired at Saginaw Future;
- Interest in the Bearing Building with historic preservation in the discussion; and
- Jefferson Apartments at 505 Millard is for sale by the city.

- **RIVERFRONT LOOP**

Commissioner Miller reported that progress is slow but still in review.

- **BEAUTIFICATION DAY**

No report.

- **RIVERWALK MARKERS**

Commissioner Andrus reported that the plaques are done and mounted on the posts. However, the posts are not high enough. Barrett Sign is requesting post extensions before installation can begin. Working to determine the placement along the path and should be ready for this Spring.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Commissioner Cottrell reported that the Art & About team will focus on sculptures for permanent placement on the Riverfront and Riverwalk corridor. Invitations have been sent to Michigan sculptures regarding the planned vision for an impactful and representational art detail. Nothing abstract. An artist has been selected that is fairly local.

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A brief discussion was held on the property at the corner of Genesee Avenue and Water Street and what can be done about the safety of the site. Agreed that the owner is responsible.

Vice Chair Moton announced that the next meeting will be April 11, 2023.

ADJOURN:

Moved by Commissioner Hanley, seconded by Commissioner Keenan-Lechel to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

Recorded by,

Janet Santos, MiPMC/MMC
City Clerk