

FENNVILLE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

March 1, 2006 Minutes

Call to Order/Roll Call - The regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Fennville DDA was held at Fennville City Hall on Wednesday, March 1, 2006. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Elice Menear at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Jim Lytle, Elice Menear, Tony Morgan, Gregg Puvogel (7:02 p.m.), Mark Schrock, Steve Valkema (7:04 p.m.), and Kym Zumbrink

Members Absent: Claude Rummer

Others Present: Jim Suerth, City Commission

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Comments – Menear welcomed the students from a government class at Allegan Public High School.

Secretary's Report - The minutes of the February 1st meeting were presented to the board for review.

Motion: For the approval of the minutes of the February 1st meeting as presented.

Made by: T. Morgan Supported by: M. Schrock

Results: Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Tony Morgan reported the cash balance as of 02/28/2006 was \$133,108.85. Invoices presented were from Scholten Fant for legal services and from Lisa Sheaffer for flip charts and markers for the STDI meeting.

Motion: For the approval of payment of the invoice from Scholten Fant in the amount of \$104.00 and the reimbursement request from Lisa Sheaffer in the amount of \$45.54.

Made by: K. Zumbrink Supported by: G. Puvogel

Results: Motion carried.

Old Business

- a. ACCM Lease Agreement Update – The lease agreement has been signed by all parties involved. Menear added that she had attended the last board meeting of the Allegan County Children's Museum.

New Business - No new business was reported.

Committee Reports

- a. Communications – Gregg Puvogel reported that he had attended the City Commission February 6th meeting and had received information regarding Brownfield Redevelopment and the purchase of a new police cruiser. Mark Schrock will attend the next City Commission meeting scheduled for Monday, March 6th.

Information regarding the 2006 Downtown Revitalization Conference has been received. The conference is being held in April in Kalamazoo and will provide many networking opportunities with state officials from MSHDA and MEDC. Jim Lytle will attend two days of the conference, and if registration fees can be split, Mark Schrock and Elice Menear will attend one day each.

Motion: To pay for two registrations at \$195 each for the 2006 Downtown Revitalization Conference.

Made by: G. Puvogel Supported by: T. Morgan

Results: Motion carried.

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Sheaffer spoke about the Small Town Success Team, which is a core group of the attendees of the Small Town Success conference in Mt. Pleasant last October. Discussions of this group include using tourism and culture as a way to increase economic development of the small towns within Allegan County. The Heritage Trail would be utilized in this respect. Sheaffer felt added representation from Fennville is needed. Menear will speak to Paulette Clouse about possibly joining the group.

- b. Economic Restructuring – Zumbrink reported the loan program is completed except for the composition of a brief history section. Schrock offered to help write it and will meet Zumbrink on Saturday, March 4th. Zumbrink also mentioned the Lakeshore 504 loan program based out of Holland. It provides low-interest loans to small business owners for construction costs, land purchases, equipment and soft costs. Its website is www.lakeshore.org.
- c. Organization – No report.
- d. Physical Elements – Schrock reported the first STDI meeting went well. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 21st at 6:30 at the Fennville High School library. The promotion committee will advertise the meeting via flyers, websites, etc. Schrock reiterated how important it is for the DDA to attend this meeting.
- e. Promotion – Lytle spoke about developing a brochure for Fennville, and anyone with ideas for it should submit them to him.

Miscellaneous

The DDA discussed the Goose Fest Committee's request to use the vacant property on Main Street for the carnival rides. Since the DDA is in the process of outlining a development proposal for the property, it could not guarantee at this time that the property would still be available for use for the Goose Fest.

J. Paules Fenn Inn is celebrating its 20th anniversary in June 2006.

The Michigan Passenger, a publication of the Michigan Association of Railroad Passengers, Inc., contained an article in its Winter 2006 issue regarding the train stop in Fennville during the Goose Fest last fall

The notice of intent to apply for a community development block grant for the New School & Street Safety Enhancement project was accepted by the State. The City is now in the process of completing the application and environmental review.

Penny Thompson's resignation letter was received at the previous DDA meeting.

Motion: To formally accept Penny Thompson's resignation from the DDA.

Made by: E. Menear Supported by: J. Lytle

Results: Motion carried.

Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m. with the next regular meeting scheduled for April 5th at 7:00 p.m.

(Minutes submitted by Lisa A. Sheaffer)