

Elkton DDA Meeting
Tuesday, March 29th, 2016
Elkton Village Hall
57 N. Main St.
P. O. Box 516
Elkton, MI 48731
989-375-2270

Chairman Kurt Damrow called the meeting of the Elkton Downtown Development Authority Committee to order at 6:00P.M. Committee members present are: Phyllis Podlaskowski, Martin Baker, Terry Heck, Dennis Ropp, and Jeff Daniels. Excused absent are: Dave Fisher, Joe Sherwood, Kim Depner, Deb Leipprandt and Christine Peyerk. Guests present are: Jean McBride and Pat McArdle.

Kurt told all present that the Village Council adopted the Ordinance and approved the DDA Plan/TIF Plan for our DDA. This occurred at the Special Meeting on Tuesday March 22nd, 2016 immediately following the Public Hearing that evening. The DDA is awaiting response from the Township and County on the TIF Plan.

The committee discussed some of the projects it would like to accomplish within the next few months. First on the list is to get the water fountain repaired at Veteran's Park. Marty had priced the liner and fittings, etc. at Menards. Terry Heck stated he could do a rubber lining for about the same price. Terry also could take care of the fiber optic lighting, as he has experience with it. The committee agreed that red, white, and blue lighting would be perfect for the fountain. Marty has already discussed with Lonnie Schulz the digging of the dirt out of the fountain. Jeff Daniels volunteered his teenagers to help with the hand digging during their Spring Break the week of April 4-8. Kurt would coordinate the time and tools. Also discussed were the drinking fountains at all three parks. Marty was going to ask DPW if a push button would be less likely to get broken, rather than the current lever system.

Another project the committee discussed was painting of business facades. Kurt stated he had several businesses that agreed to purchase the paint and brushes, if the DDA would provide the free labor. Terry Heck has scaffolding that could be used to paint higher on the buildings. Kurt would coordinate this effort with the business owners and then advertise for volunteers. Jeff Daniels stated his teenagers could also help paint as needed.

Marty would draw up a budget for the DDA. At this point the DDA has no revenue sources. Marty is going to propose a \$2000 loan from the Village at the next Village Council meeting. If approved, a new checking account would be opened at Frankenmuth Credit Union.

Kurt discussed grants the DDA could apply for, now that the Plan has been approved. We will begin working on two grants: DTE tree grant and Recreational Trail Program Grant. Kurt is contacting persons with knowledge of these two grants and will report back on his findings.

Grants for upstairs apartment remodeling was also discussed. Kurt is asking building owners if they are interested in such a grant. If he has interested building owners, then the committee will request Carl Osentoski to bring information to our next meeting.

A DDA website was discussed. The committee agreed a link on the Village of Elkton website would be a sufficient way of communicating the DDA activities to residents and business owners. Items that should be posted are: List of committee members, meeting dates, meeting minutes, real estate listings for business with district, pictures, volunteer opportunities, etc.

Committee members inquired about the ownership of empty buildings in the downtown and how to motivate owners to maintain properties better or list the building for sale. Committee members thought it would be good to call the owners and ask if the DDA can help in any way to improve the appearance of the building or host an open house to get the building sold. Kurt and Terry have been in contact with some business owners and would ask again if DDA assistance would be needed.

Kurt stated the Industrial Park area on the north side of M-142 might be developed soon. That space would have to be engineered for sewer and water and driveways. The DDA at some point could help pay for such things that help develop more business in the district.

The painting of murals on larger spaces of buildings was discussed again. If Carl Osentoski attends next month's meeting, then the committee would discuss this topic with him.

Marty proposed moving the DDA meeting date to the fourth Tuesday of every month, due to conflicts of meeting space. Committee members were all in agreement to move the date. Therefore the next DDA meeting will be **Tuesday April 26th, 2016 at 6:00P.M.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:18P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Phyllis A. Baranski, CMC