

Elkton DDA Meeting
Tuesday, July 23rd, 2019
Elkton Village Hall
57 N. Main St.
P.O. Box 516
Elkton, MI 48731
989-375-2270

Breakfast provided at 8:00A.M. by Phyllis Baranski.

Carrie Williams, Chairman called the meeting to order at 8:02A.M. Members present are: David Fisher, Gretchen Roestel, Jeff Daniels, Randy Haley and Gail Schember. Excused absent are: Dennis Ropp, Deb Leipprandt, and Harrison Gunden. Guests present are: Tim Fritz, Tina Seley, Martin Baker, and Lonnie Schulz, DPW Superintendent.

Motion David Fisher, second Randy Haley to approve the minutes from the June 26th, 2019 DDA meeting. Motion carried.

Guests: Tim Fritz stated he is the owner of the former Rick's Graphics building, the McGee building, and the Farm Bureau Building. Tim has been in contact with Carl Osentoski and Phyllis Baranski regarding Façade Grants. The Village is working on becoming a Redevelopment Ready Community, so that businesses are more likely to receive grant funding for improvements. Tim stated that the more businesses that participate in the grant process, the more likely Elkton is to be awarded the grant funds. The grants would offset the cost of improvements such as windows, doors, sidings, etc. on the front of the businesses, as well as the back of the businesses due to access from the alleys. Motion Carrie Williams, second Gail Schember to invite Carl Osentoski and all business owners to the August DDA meeting to learn more about the Façade Grants. Motion carried.

Tina Seley introduced herself to the DDA members. Tina is the new insurance agent for Farm Bureau Insurance as of July 1st. She is finishing up training and will be hosting an open house soon to welcome in the community. The DDA thanked Tina for joining the meeting today.

Randy Haley discussed the need for a theme for the Village in order to attract tourists and residents. Discussion regarding what has worked for other communities visited by the members and guests. Discussion regarding theme ideas such as logging or wind turbine. Discussion regarding the need for benches downtown as well as the type and cost of benches.

Old Business:

1. Purchase of Property from Annette Cobb
The Purchase Agreement for the empty lot downtown has been signed by both parties. Closing on the property should be completed by next month's meeting. Lonnie Schulz was asked about the grass seeding, walkway, picnic tables, lighting and water/sewer availability on the empty lot. Discussion regarding the use and function of the lot. The DDA is to firm up ideas for next month's meeting, as the purchase should be complete and the DDA could start working on the property soon.

2. Walking Path at Ackerman Park

Discussion regarding funding for a walking path at Ackerman Park. The DDA decided that a path at the park would take people away from the downtown and that the idea of a set path on the existing sidewalks would keep people near the businesses. The DDA will discuss this project more after the new property downtown is purchased and more funding is available.

New Business:

1. What's App for communication

Motion Jeff Daniels, second Randy Haley to approve the use of the What's App notifications for members to receive information regarding the DDA. Motion carried. Carrie Williams will be the administrator for the app.

2. Autumnfest

Randy Haley asked if anyone has heard any final events for this year's Autumnfest. Discussion regarding the possible events for this year's festival. Carrie Williams will check with Cathy Schuette, member of the Elkton Community Club, on the status of this year's Autumnfest.

Next Meeting Date is Tuesday August 20th, 2019 at 8:00A.M.

Tim Fritz, Carrie Williams, Tina Seley, and Phyllis Baranski agree to type up the letter inviting businesses to attend the August meeting to learn about the grant opportunities and to hand deliver the letter to the businesses.

Motion to adjourn by Randy Haley, second by David Fisher. Meeting adjourned at 8:54A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Phyllis A. Baranski, CMC, CMMC