

Downtown Development Authority Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2019 – 7:30am

Members Present: Adam Elenbaas, Kristin Corner, Joshua Thurkettle, Bern Scholma, Tom Zuniga, Bob Chapin, Jeremy Borgman, Mark Alderink, Rence Meredith, Pierce Roon, Steve Spriensma

Absent: Ross Stevens, David Vanderwall

Guest: David VanGinhoven

1. Opportunity for public comment, none received.
2. Approve minutes of March 19, 2019 meeting, motion made to approve by Thurkettle, supported by Roon, motion approved.
3. Report Summary from DDA Study Committee: purpose has been a focus on infrastructure for downtown areas, as infrastructure improvements are completed, consideration should remain on improvements that benefit the development of key areas and provide the greatest benefit to the quality of community life. Group also discussed process of how potential projects would be proposed, as well as how proposals would be initiated.
4. Park / Fitness Court Project Update - Group was informed that artifacts are being gathered from the Blue House (museum house) on 68th Ave. near the park. Goal is to remove the house at the end of summer 2019. Drawing engineering is continuing, goal is to still begin construction in the fall of 2019.
5. Bus line into Allendale? Group discussed if there is demand in Allendale or could Allendale partner with GVSU to take advantage of upcoming plans in process by GVSU to incorporate a new bus line to connect Allendale and downtown Grand Rapids campuses. Members proposed the possibility of adding a parking lot west of GVSU in Allendale that could connect the Allendale community.
6. Chamber of Commerce: Multi-use Pathway / Trail Connection. Meredith inquired if the DDA would consider joining in to support the cost of constructing a connection to the pathway proposed by Ottawa County Parks & Recreation. Group inquired on specifically where money would be spent. Ottawa County Parks is still in process of raising support and determining location and timing of the pathway.
7. Opportunity for public comment, none received.
8. Motion to adjourn by Borgman, support by Elenbaas. Next meeting scheduled July 16, 2019.