

## MINUTES

Cascade Charter Township  
Downtown Development Authority  
July 15, 2025, at 5:30pm  
Cascade Library Wisner Center  
2870 Jacksmith Ave. SE

**ARTICLE 1.** Vice Chair Stephan called the meeting to order at 5:31pm.  
Members Present: Vogel, Preston, Bingham, Stephan, Lesperance, Carlson,  
Late: Makkar  
Absent: Kleyla,  
Others Present: Township Manager Jade Smith, Executive Assistant Jessica Stine,  
Downtown Development Manager Eric Ensey

**ARTICLE 2. Approval of the Agenda**

**Motion was made by Member Vogel to approve the agenda. Supported by Member Preston. Motion carried 6 to 0.**

**ARTICLE 3. Approval of the Minutes of the June 17, 2025 Meeting**

**Motion was made by Supervisor Lesperance to approve the minutes as written. Supported by Member Preston. Motion carried 6 to 0.**

**ARTICLE 4. Closed Session per MCL 15.267 (1) to Consider Purchase of Real Property**

**Motion was made by Member Vogel to enter closed session per MCL 15.267 (1) to Consider Purchase of Real Property. Supported by Member Bingham. Motion carried 6 to 0. The Board entered closed session at 5:34pm.**

Member Makkar arrived at 5:40pm.

**Motion was made by Member Vogel to return to open session at 6:20pm. Supported by Member Bingham. Motion carried 7 to 0.**

**ARTICLE 5. Staff Updates**

Manager Smith talked about the concert series that will continue at Friendship Park throughout the summer. The two remaining concerts are scheduled for July 17<sup>th</sup> and August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The Township received eight proposals for Tassell Park and interviewed four of them. Manager Smith will bring the Board of Trustee's decision to the next meeting.

The KDL Cascade Library Refresh Project is nearing completion and the Grand Reopening is scheduled for July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30pm.

The pedestrian bridge over the Thornapple River is complete, other than the light poles, and open to traffic. Many residents have expressed how necessary they believe the improvements are and that there has been increased pedestrian traffic in that area.

Members commented that they perceived the Independence Day Parade and Celebration to have significantly lower attendance this year. The parade only lasted 15 minutes when it generally lasts an hour. There were comments that the library celebration was well attended. Some suggested factors were extreme heat and which day of the week the holiday landed.

**ARTICLE 8. Any Other Business**

The Informational Meeting will take place that night, immediately following the regular meeting.

**ARTICLE 9. Acknowledge Visitors & Public Comment**

There were not any visitors who wanted to be acknowledged at that time.

**ARTICLE 10. Adjournment**

**Motion was made by Member Makkar to adjourn the meeting. Supported by Member Vogel. Motion carried 7 to 0. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Vogel, Secretary

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**INFORMATIONAL MEETING**  
Cascade Charter Township  
Downtown Development Authority  
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2870 Jacksmith Ave. SE

**ARTICLE 1.** Vice Chair Stephan called the meeting to order at 6:31pm.  
Members Present: Vogel, Preston, Bingham, Stephan, Carlson, Makkar  
Absent: Kleyla, Lesperance  
Others Present: Township Manager Jade Smith, Executive Assistant Jessica Stine,  
Downtown Development Manager Eric Ensey

**Approval of the Agenda**

**Motion was made by Member Vogel to approve the agenda. Supported by Member Bingham. Motion carried 6 to 0.**

**ARTICLE 2. Review of Projects Completed - 2024**

Manager Smith presented a slideshow about the DDA, how a DDA works, and what projects were completed in 2024.

**ARTICLE 3. Future Plans/Projects**

Also in the slideshow, Manager Smith discussed ongoing DDA projects and ones they may be interested in expanding on in the future.

**ARTICLE 4. Acknowledge Visitors & Public Comment**

There were not any visitors who wanted to be acknowledged at that time.

**ARTICLE 5. Adjournment**

**Motion was made by Member Makkar to adjourn the meeting. Supported by Member Preston. Motion carried 6 to 0. The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Vogel, Secretary