

Minutes

Cascade Charter Township
Downtown Development Authority Board of Directors
November 19, 2024
5:30 p.m.
2870 Jacksmith Ave. SE

- ARTICLE 1.** Chair Kleyla called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.
Members Present: Vogel, Carlson, Preston, Kleyla, Lesperance, Bingham, Stephan
Members Absent: Makkar
Others Present: Township Manager Jade Smith, Executive Assistant Jessica Stine, and those listed on the sign-in sheet.
- ARTICLE 2. Approval of the Agenda**
- Motion was made by Member Vogel to approve the current agenda. Supported by Member Stephan. Motion carried 7 to 0.**
- ARTICLE 3. Approval of the Minutes of the September 17, 2024 Meeting**
- Motion was made by Supervisor Lesperance to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2024 meeting as written. Supported by Member Carlson. Motion carried 7 to 0.**
- ARTICLE 4. Acknowledge visitors wishing to speak**
- There wasn't anyone who wished to speak at that time.
- ARTICLE 5. 28th St/96 Island Improvements**
- Manager Smith researched the island improvements on 28th St and 96 and determined that the DDA was responsible for maintaining them. This was documented in the bid specs, stating that the DDA was fiscally responsible. He was unable to locate the official agreement.
- He worked with Harder & Warner to come up with three ideas to improve the median islands. Members suggested upgrading or updating the 'Cascade Township' sign to compliment the islands. They were not interested in an installation that required watering, much weeding, or Township employees to regularly work in the middle of the road. Member Vogel suggested engaging both sides of the expressway so people would know they were 'coming to Cascade'. Member Stephan wondered if the Kent County Road Commission would allow a sign to hang from the overpass. Manager Smith said he would go back to Harder & Warner and the Kent County Road Commission to see what they could come up with and what would be allowed.
- ARTICLE 6. Staff Updates**

- **OHM Presentation**-Residents loved the OHM presentation. Members already saw business owners taking the new ideas to heart and updating their plans. They thought the proposed Tassell Park update was amazing.
- **New Parks & Facilities Director and Parks & Facilities Coordinator**- Manager Smith explained that the Township had hired a new Parks and Facilities Director, Dan Zwick, and a new Parks and Facilities Coordinator, Sydney Aubert. They have already begun planning two Christmas events.
 - Christmas at the Stonehouse on December 14th, 2024
 - Christmas Tree Lighting at Virgil Westdale Nishimura Memorial Park on December 1st, 2024.
- **Village Lighting**-The holiday lighting in the village was extended further into Tassell Park and down Cascade Rd to the Stonehouse.
- **Pedestrian Bridge**-The first side of the Pedestrian Bridge should be complete before winter. Member Kleyla asked if the angle for the light post banners mattered so they could be read from the road and requested the project engineers verified it would be possible.
- **Former Tuffy Muffler Property**-DTE disconnected power to the former Tuffy Muffler property on November 17, 2024. The Township Board is set to approve a contractor for demolition at their November 20, 2024 meeting.

ARTICLE 7. Any Other Business

Manager Smith stated that he would work with the Building Department to come up with a list of new businesses for future meetings. Newly opened businesses included Orange Fitness and Mad Chicken. There was a new vacancy in the plaza behind Starbucks.

The Township had not received negative feedback on the hotel ordinance and 90% of hotels were in compliance.

A visitor came in partway through the meeting and was acknowledged near the end of the meeting. They were very excited about the Cascade Reimagined project and that the DDA has ideas to move forward.

ARTICLE 8. Adjournment

Motion was made by Member Vogel to adjourn the meeting. Supported by Member Carlson. Motion carried 7 to 0. The meeting adjourned at 6:26 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Vogel, Secretary