

Minutes

Cascade Charter Township
Downtown Development Authority
Tuesday, January 17, 2022
5:30 P.M.
2870 Jacksmith Ave SE

- ARTICLE 1.** Chair Puplava called the meeting to order at 5:31 P.M.
Members Present: Vogel, Kleyla, Preston, Stephan, Puplava, Lesperance
Arrived Late: Makkar
Members Absent: Growney and Siegle
Others Present: DDA Director Sandra Korhorn and those listed on the sign-in sheet.
- ARTICLE 2. Approve the Current Agenda**
Motion was made by Member Vogel to approve the current agenda. Supported by Supervisor Lesperance. Motion carried 6 to 0.
- ARTICLE 3. Approve the Minutes of the November 15, 2022 Meeting**
Motion was made by Supervisor Lesperance to approve the November 15, 2022 Meeting Minutes as written. Supported by Member Vogel. Motion carried 6 to 0.
- ARTICLE 4. Acknowledge visitors and those wishing to speak regarding any agenda or non-agenda items**
There weren't any visitors who wished to speak on non-agenda items.
Member Makkar arrived at 5:32 p.m.
- ARTICLE 5. Update from Deputy Dieppa re: Crime in the District (Including Q&A)**
Deputy Dieppa presented to the DDA and Cascade business owners invited to attend the meeting. Everyone in attendance was able to ask questions and discuss crime they either have experienced or they feared they may experience in the future. The business owners appreciated the discourse and hope to have more meetings like this in the future.
- ARTICLE 6. McKenna – Lower Village Area Mobility & Transportation Committee Update**
McKenna met with the Road Commission and they were unwilling to consider measures that would slow traffic on Cascade Road. This would make it very difficult, if not impossible, to make that area safely walkable. They considered installing a roundabout on Cascade and 28th St but it is unlikely because the cost would outpace the benefit. The Road Commission shared that they believe the township would have more opportunity on 28th St because that area has more latitude when it comes to traffic slowing measures. They discussed the pros and cons of roundabouts and other traffic calming measures. There was much concern about pedestrians and crossing roads with the current speed limits.

The DDA Board decided to reach out to the Road Commission to see if they could either attend a DDA meeting or if they DDA could hold a special meeting for them to attend so the DDA didn't have to speak in hypotheticals and could actually hear straight from the Road Commission what they would allow and how the DDA Board and Road Commission could work together.

McKenna researched other local municipalities and they noted that some subsidize ride sharing programs, some are funded via millage, and some use Dial-a-Ride. Of the ones that have a public bus, Cascade Township pays among the top overall prices but that is at least partially because Cascade's route is significantly longer and includes more stops. Some municipalities had busses for only specific destinations, such as a specific office complex to a populated apartment complex and back. The Rapid also services an area of Plainfield Township and runs a bus to their Meijer/Walmart at no charge to the township. The members discussed if that would be something DDA Board Members were willing to do for Cascade or if the store could supplement the price of the Rapid for stopping there.

They will survey bus riders in the near future to find out what they are using the bus for and how frequently they use it, among other details. They will also conduct surveys with residents and local businesses to see how they use the bus and, if they don't, why not. The DDA Board discussed the merits of median islands, roundabouts, and installing crosswalks. Traffic calming will be necessary to create a village area, as widely requested in the strategic planning survey. McKenna will continue to research ridership in local non-millage communities to gather additional financial data.

The DDA Board took a brief recess.

ARTICLE 7. Review and Discuss Centennial Park Median Islands

Economic Development Director Korhorn spoke with the Road Commission about increasing the visibility of the seven median islands. The Road Commission will only allow low-level plantings between 18" and 24" tall; no trees or permanent structures are permitted. Parks Chair Wauty suggested the planting native plants and shrubs that may last the winter and provide increased visibility. Staff recommends engaging with landscape architects the township has previously used to design a planting plan. Staff also recommends replacing the reflective posts at the edges of the island quickly when they are knocked over or disappear.

Mike Kasmauskis, Centennial Park Business Association President came forward and said that the reflectors were useful but need to be replaced in a timely manner.

ARTICLE 8. Review 2022 DDA Annual Report

Economic Development Director Korhorn presented the 2022 DDA Annual Report. This year a map of the DDA boundaries was included. Member Kleyla suggested the dates on page six of the annual report be clarified so they could be more easily understood by residents. Chair Puplava requested a description of who 'McKenna' is, as some residents may not know they are a consulting company and inclusion of the DDA

website and Facebook page in the report. Member Stephan suggested that the yearly time the Metro Cruise Warmup is held be included in the report.

ARTICLE 9. Recommend Village Design Review Committee member

Motion was made by Chair Pupilava to recommend Member Preston to the Village Design Review Committee. Supported by Member Stephan. Motion carried.

ARTICLE 10. Election of Officers

Motion was made by Member Stephan to nominate Chair Pupilava as Chair. Supported by Member Makkar. Motion was made by Chair Pupilava to nominate Member Stephan as Vice Chair. Supported by Member Vogel. Motion carried. Motion was made by Supervisor Lesperance to nominate Member Growney as Secretary. Supported by Chair Pupilava. Motion carried.

ARTICLE 9. Any Other Business

- a. 2023 Budget
- b. Contact List for Board Members
- c. Small Business Resource Event – Wednesday, March 8
- d. Ribbon Cutting – Friday, January 27
- e. Minutes: Implementation Committee Meeting 12/16/22
Township Board – November 2 & 16, 2022
- f. Next Meeting: February 21, 2023

ARTICLE 10. Adjournment

Motion was made by Member Makkar to adjourn the meeting. Supported by Supervisor Lesperance. Motion carried 7 to 0. The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rene Growney, Secretary