



**CANTON TOWNSHIP
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Minutes of the January 18, 2023 Meeting**

This meeting was held in the Supervisor's conference room in the Canton Township Administration Building.

The meeting was called to order at 8:02 A.M. by Person, Bart Patterson.

Present: Steven Brock, Laura Giove, Joe Hawver, Seth Kleinglass, Bart Patterson, Mark Waldbauer

Absent: Anne Marie Graham-Hudak, Andy Hargreaves, Sandeep Narang, Kurt Olson, Jade Smith

Staff: Amy Hamilton, Cathy Vettese

Guests: George Tsakoff, Engineer with OHM and Anterjot Singh Bains, Canton resident

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

MOTION: by Laura Giove, supported by Mark Waldbauer, to accept the agenda as presented.

AYES: All present to accept the agenda as presented.

APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 16, 2022 MINUTES

MOTION: by Steve Brock, supported by Mark Waldbauer, to approve the November 16, 2022 meeting minutes.

AYES: All present

CITIZENS' NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Amy welcomed Canton resident Anterjot Singh Bains and George Tsakoff who is with OHM. Introductions were made. Anterjot had seen the meeting posted in the Focus and wanted to experience the DDA meeting.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

MOTION: by Mark Waldbauer, supported by Laura Giove, to accept payment of bills.

AYES: All present

DISCUSSION: SET 2023 GOALS WITH OHM

Amy began the discussion of the 2023 goals with EV charging stations along Ford Road. Amy mentioned that the DDA had talked about possible incentives to the businesses along Ford Road to help with the installation costs of EV charging stations. George Tsakoff, said OHM will be looking into all grant opportunities. Steve Brock wanted to know what the installation costs of EV charging stations would entail. Amy pointed out the biggest cost would be the process to hook up the stations to the power source. DDA may be able to fund a grant program for businesses.

Mark Waldbauer asked which station levels were being recommended. George recommended the level three charging station which are known to be the faster charging stations. Joe Hawver gave a brief description of the different levels of charging stations. He explained level one and two could be used with the existing power source but a level three may need an upgraded power source. He also pointed out that level three would be more expensive for business owners. George suggested level three stations would be ideal for a business location. Steve Brock asked if DDA is anticipating paying for the installation. Amy reminded everyone that once the Ford Road boulevard is completed, the DDA will be paying for the Ford Road upgrades. She said an EV grant funded by the DDA would have to be reviewed at that time.

Bart Patterson noted that the power grid upgrade will need to be made while the Ford Road boulevard construction is occurring. Our guest, Anterjot Singh Bains, researched the cost differences of level two and three. He said that level three will cost between \$40,000.00 and \$175,000 because it will need a 480-volt power source but level two cost is considerably lower. It will only cost between \$2,500 to \$5,000 because it would only need a 240-volt power source. Bart also noted that the incentive would have to be offered to the property owner instead of the business that is interested because they are not always the same.

Steve Brock asked if Canton owned any land that could possibly be used for charging stations. Amy said that Canton does own two parcels on the east side of Sheldon that is south of Ford Road. She said a suggestion had been made about that being a possible EV Charging Station area.

All agreed to continue to investigate EV charging stations along Ford Rd.

Seth Kleinglass suggested that the LED light conversion be revisited in 2023. Amy noted that MDOT has asked the DDA to wait because they will need to remove all the conduit even if it was new. The new conduit may not work with the new system. The entire system will be converted to LED once the boulevard is completed. Amy pointed out that whenever there is a down pole from an accident they are currently being replaced with LED lights. Amy estimated that about 30 of the current lights are LED.

Steve Brock asked if there were any special activities planned for 2023.

Bart Patterson suggested another Shred event. Amy agreed that the shred event was very successful in the past.

Steve Brock suggested a car show. Amy is concerned about finding a host site for this event. There was some discussion about the car show location.

Amy also reminded everyone of the soccer tournament. Seth suggested a bike show.

Anterjot suggested having an e-waste recycling event. Amy agreed that there was a great need for e-waste recycling programs.

Bart Patterson suggested an event that could benefit a company named Humble Designs. He went on to explain that the company accepts donations of old furniture and home furnishings to be used in homes that have been rehabbed and they also have a charity shop. He suggested to partner with them on a donation event.

Anterjot Singh Bains also shared an idea about a possible cultural parade. Bart pointed out that the population has increased considerably since the last time there was a Ford Road parade and that a parade would not be feasible but the parks may be a better location for such an event.

Amy suggested forming an activity subcommittee. There was a lot of interest in the subcommittee idea.

DISCUSSION: 2023 MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF DDA WALLS

Amy explained the need for the maintenance and repairs of the DDA walls. She reminded everyone that the walls are insured by Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority (MMRMA). MMRMA will reimburse all cost of the walls due to an accident except for a \$1,000.00 deductible that the DDA is responsible for. Seth asked what the repair costs were for the prior year due to accidents. Amy said that \$28,000.00 was spent on repairs in 2022 due to accidents.

APPROVAL OF P.O. TO ALBAUGH MASONRY STONE AND TILE

MOTION: By Mark Waldbauer, supported by Laura Giove, to approve the acceptance of the Albaugh Masonry Stone and Tile purchase order.

AYES: All present

DISCUSSION: 2023 MAINTENANCE & REPAIR OF DECORATIVE STREETLIGHTS

Amy explained that we spend approximately \$55,000.00 a year on repairs and maintenance to the decorative lighting. Mark asked about the insurance reimbursements for pole knockdowns. He wanted to know what account the revenue would go into. Amy explained that it goes into a DDA revenue account. Seth reviewed the cost on a previous quote concerning the lamps that are being replaced with LED lamps. He estimated the cost to be approximately \$600.00. He asked about the cost on a previous quote for Great Lakes Power concerning upgrades to all the Lamps. Amy was unsure of the amount but offered to have Great Lakes Power come to a meeting in the future.

APPROVAL OF P.O. TO GREAT LAKES POWER AND LIGHTING

MOTION: by Mark Waldbauer, supported by Laura Giove, to approve the acceptance of the Great Lakes Power and Lighting purchase order.

AYES: All present

DISCUSSION: 2023 – 2024 PUBLIC ART EXHIBIT PROPOSAL

Amy explained that the Michigan Sculpture Initiative works with local Michigan artists to display their art publicly. It gets changed every May. They send 400 photos of the sculptures to choose from and the board will narrow it down to 10 sculptures with 2 alternates. Amy pointed out that the cost went up a little this year to \$21,500.00.

Anterjot asked who assesses the impact this has on the community. Bart explained that it is part of the beautification process. He mentioned in the past there had been organized art tours of these sculptures. There is an announcement when the new pieces are in place and this draws people to come and view them as well as shop. Bart listed several communities that participate in these types of sculpture programs. Amy added that part of the DDA's master plan is to continue to purchase permanent pieces. Amy listed a few of the pieces that we currently own. The new pieces get featured in the ShopCanton

Guide and on the website. This helps to educate people about the new pieces and about the artists that created them. Bart pointed out that because of the size of Ford Road we have an opportunity to display bigger pieces of art. Seth suggested an art tour may also be a possible event idea. Joe Hawver suggested connecting with Canton's Partnership of the Arts and Humanities organization. Seth recommended the sculpture choices be sent electronically, like last year. Amy agreed to do that. Seth asked when the selection would begin. Amy replied that is typically in the second week in March but she has not received the file yet.

MOTION: by Laura Giove, supported by Seth Kleinglass, to approve the acceptance of the Midwest Sculpture Initiative Purchase order.

AYES: All present

DDA COORDINATOR'S REPORT – JANUARY 13, 2023

- **Board Openings** – Dianne Cojei, Wedad Suleiman, and Richard Zuniga have resigned from the board. I'd like to thank them for their service to the community and the DDA. This will leave the DDA with three open board seats, two resident and one business rep. Over 22 applications were submitted to fill the vacancies. After going over each application, we will be interviewing 12 of the applicants the week of January 30th.
- **Holiday Decor** – LeClerc Display will begin removing the holiday décor this weekend. I will be inviting our representative Shawn Baily to a meeting to discuss any changes we'd like to make for the 2023 holiday season.
- **Wayfinding Banners** – I am in the process of ordering new wayfinding banners to place along Ford Road. Many of them are missing and the ones that are up are faded and do not look professional. I was hoping to hold out until the boulevard construction began but with a 2025 tentative start date, we cannot wait.
- **Boulevard Concept Drawings** – Myself and staff from MSD are working with OHM on some detailed concept drawings for the boulevard. The drawings will be used to help give the board, staff and the public a better idea of what the final product will look like.
- **New Streetlights** – The Ford Road Boulevard Subcommittee has been working for almost two years on landscaping and lighting decisions for the impending boulevard. A streetlight study was done last year and a modern fixture was picked out by the committee. The next decision is the color of the new poles. We've ordered two poles that will be installed at Canton's DPW so both the DDA Board and Township Board can physically see the lights. We will also have each light painted a different color so board members can vote on which one they prefer.

More to come on this.

ADDITIONAL CITIZENS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

After some discussion of the Wayfinding Banners, the board decided they wanted the banners to be refreshed with a new design. The board asked Amy to contact New Moon to see if Kim would design some seasonal banners for them to look at. Amy said she would contact New Moon after the meeting so they could get started.

A few members inquired about new commercial construction at Home Depot, Artic Edge, Ford Road and Michigan Avenue and Canton Center. Amy emailed the board after the meeting with the following results. After talking with our Planning Division, she learned that the out lot at Home Depot is going to be a small strip mall with three businesses: Aussie Grill (an Outback carryout), a mattress store and a TBD business. The building going in at Canton Center and Michigan Avenue is a Quick Pass Car Wash. The construction over by Artic Edge is a Mans Lumber extension.

Amy requested any follow up questions be emailed to her or Cathy.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 9:06 a.m.