

A regular meeting of the Alma Downtown Development Authority (ADDA) was called to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Alma Municipal Building. A quorum of the Authority was present.

Authority members present: Joe Ahern, Stacey Ensz, Ken Kline, Donna Kolar, Greg Mapes, Ken Solomon, and Katie Tobias.

Authority members absent: Carol Freed, Nancy Gallagher, Brent Moeggenborg, Canyon Platt (arrived after roll call), and Andy Shafley.

Also present: Aeric Ripley.

DDA Director Aeric Ripley called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Motion by Kline, seconded by Ahern, to receive a resignation letter from Authority Member Jim Wheeler, effective January 1, 2022. Motion carried.

Yes: Ahern, Ensz, Kline, Kolar, Mapes, Solomon, and Tobias.

No: none.

Absent: Freed, Gallagher, Moeggenborg, Platt, and Shafley.

Motion by Ahern, seconded by Tobias, to approve minutes of November 11, 2021.

Mapes question the language “no significant changes” in the second paragraph following approval of minutes of October 28, 2021. Discussion followed about changes made during the project. Ahern suggested “no significant” be stricken.

Authority Member Canyon Platt arrived at 6:05 p.m.

Additional discussion followed about the parking lot project and issues with drainage.

Motion to approve minutes, as corrected, carried.

Yes: Ahern, Ensz, Kline, Kolar, Mapes, Platt, Solomon, and Tobias.

No: none.

Absent: Freed, Gallagher, Moeggenborg, and Shafley.

Motion by Ahern, seconded by Kolar, to ratify the minutes of January 13, 2022, as presented. Motion carried.

Yes: Ahern, Ensz, Kline, Kolar, Mapes, Platt, Solomon, and Tobias.

No: none.

Absent: Freed, Gallagher, Moeggenborg, and Shafley.

Ripley made a phone call to Professor Asia Dowtin, MSU Forestry Department, for a discussion about Dr. Dowtin’s proposal: Reimaging Trees in Downtown Alma: A collaboration between Community Residents, City Management, and Michigan State University. Dr. Dowtin did not answer, and Ripley left a message with her voice mail.

Ripley reviewed Dr. Dowtin’s proposal saying the project will begin with a tree inventory. She expects to have a draft report prepared around April 15th. She will ask for review and input at that point and expects to have a final report ready in early May.

Ahern voiced concerns about store owners and asked if they had provided any input. Ripley said there would be an opportunity for public input. Brief discussion followed about factors that may be taken into account for placing trees in the downtown area.

Ripley explained the MSU group will be asking for the DDA to cover costs, such as travel and food expenses, and costs for producing reports. The total will likely be between \$2,000 and \$2,500.

Ripley was asked if students would be implementing the plan. Ripley said they would still need to go out for bids for removal, purchase, and installation from different companies. Ripley said there is \$30,000 budgeted and he expected there would be enough available there to purchase trash receptacles as well. Discussion followed about the number and style of trash receptacles.

Platt asked about permissions necessary from MDOT for work on a major trunkline. Discussion followed.

Motion by Ahern, seconded by Kolar, to recommend to the City Commission acceptance of the proposal from Dr. Asia Dowtin, MSU Forestry Department, and her Urban Forestry class, for an evaluation of downtown trees and development of a plan for replacement and maintenance, including reimbursement of expenses, not expected to exceed \$2,500. Motion carried.

Yes: Ahern, Ensz, Kline, Kolar, Mapes, Platt, Solomon, and Tobias.
No: none.
Absent: Freed, Gallagher, Moeggenborg, and Shafley.

Ripley noted the next regular meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2022.

Kolar asked about the "Baby, It's Cold Outside" downtown outdoor dining event on February 12, 2022. Lengthy discussion followed regarding the event, directional signage, and event advertising.

Joe Ahern left the meeting at 6:48 p.m.

Kline asked about downtown murals. Ripley explained KAB (Keep Alma Beautiful) is working on a policy/procedure for murals in the downtown area. Brief discussion followed.

Mapes asked about the county's parks grant. Ripley said the grant had already been awarded. Additional discussion followed.

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.



Sara Anderson, Alma City Clerk

Date of Approval: July 27, 2022