



**CANTON TOWNSHIP
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Minutes of the April 19, 2023 Meeting**

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

The meeting was called to order at 8:04 A.M. by Bart Patterson.

Present: Steven Brock, John Camp, Laura Giove, Seth Kleinglass, Bart Patterson, Kyle Selter, Jacob Uhazie, Mark Waldbauer

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

Staff: Amy Hamilton, Jon LaFever, Cathy Vettese, Patrick Sloan

Guests: Attorney Bryan Amann, Kent Early with OHM

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

MOTION: by Mark Waldbauer, supported by John Camp, to accept the agenda as presented.

AYES: All present to accept the agenda as presented.

APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 15, 2023 MINUTES

MOTION: by Mark Waldbauer, supported by Steven Brock, to approve the March 15, 2023 meeting minutes.

AYES: All present.

CITIZENS' NON-AGENDA ITEMS

N/A

PAYMENT OF BILLS

MOTION: by Seth Kleinglass, supported by Mark Waldbauer, to accept payment of bills.

DISCUSSION: PAYMENT OF THE BILLS

Seth Kleinglass asked if the new snowplowing contract with Frank's Landscaping worked in the DDA's favor. Amy confirmed it did work out in the DDA's favor because of the mild winter.

AYES: All present accept payment of the bills.

DISCUSSION: ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS

Amy introduced Bryan Amann to open the discussion. She explained that electric vehicle charging stations are part of the DDA's master plan but also pointed out that the DDA needed to conserve funds that will be required once the Ford Road boulevard is completed. DDA would like to look at ideas to incentivize businesses to install EV charging stations.

Bryan Amann gave a brief explanation about his involvement with EV charging station and businesses. He expressed how important it is to keep DTE engaged because it will affect infrastructure and transformers. Bryan stressed that it takes a lot of planning. Bryan feels that the DDA can be an effective catalyst in bringing interest in investing in EV charging stations. He suggested to let independent EV companies be responsible for installation and maintenance. He advised bringing the business community together with the DDA to create a coordinated comprehensive plan. He feels that Canton is a great community which is close to the expressway and can draw customers to utilize the businesses while charging their vehicles. He also suggested to have centrally located EV areas that are within walking distance of businesses.

Bart Patterson suggested creating a task force that would create a survey to send to the businesses in the DDA district. Amy mentioned that property owners may be difficult to contact. Mark Waldbauer recommended including someone from the planning commission to join the task force. Patrick Sloan said there are people involved with the planning commission that would be interested in being involved. Patrick also announced that he is currently working on creating an ordinance for EV charging stations but added that the Township is still a month or two from having a completed ordinance. Amy asked anyone that was interested to be on the task force to contact her via email.

She asked Kent Early, of OHM, if they could help facilitate a direct approach. Kent replied they could help with that. Amy asked if Green Spot could come to Canton and evaluate Ford Road's needs. There was some discussion as to current EV charging stations in Canton. It was decided that an EV charging station task force would be formed and a survey for businesses created.

Bryan Amann exited the meeting at 8:42.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF P.O. TO OHM FOR ENGINEERING CONSULTING SERVICES

Amy explained the scope of services continues to change and the need for a new purchase order. Amy will close the remaining open purchase orders and would like to create a new billable-hours type purchase order. Kent Early reassured everyone they do not perform services without the DDA's direction and approval. Amy reviewed with everyone the OHM services we utilize.

APPROVAL OF P.O. TO OHM FOR ENGINEERING CONSULTING SERVICES

MOTION: by Mark Waldbauer, supported by Jacob Uhazie, to open discussion concerning the OHM purchase order.

John Camp asked if any new projects would be discussed before service was granted to OHM. Amy assured him they would.

AYES: All present to approve the OHM purchase order.

DDA COORDINATOR'S REPORT – APRIL 19, 2023

- **Public Art Installation** – The 2023-2024 public art selections will be installed on April 20th. Attached, is a flyer of the pieces selected and the location they will be placed.
- **Wayfinding Banners** – The new banners have been ordered and should be here in May. I will be working with Canton's DPW to get them installed.
- **Cross access update** – We are meeting with Dunkin Donuts on Tuesday, April 18th to discuss cross access with Wendy's. Citizen's Bank and Wendy's have both agreed to the cross access and are currently working on easements. Dunkin Donuts is the last property on the south side of Ford needed. We've been working on this for three years so I'm very happy to see progress being made.
- **ShopCanton Color Block Game** – New moon will kick off the "Shop Local, Shop Canton Color Block Game" in May. Visitors who shop and dine the specials from the participating merchants, using the ShopCanton Guide Mobile App, will be entered to win in a weekly drawing for \$100 gift card. The game will begin in May and run for 26 weeks with a grand prize drawing in November for a \$500 gift card. The following is the color block schedule:

May – Yellow Block

June – Purple Block

July – Green Block

August – Red Block

September – Blue Block

October – Brown / Orange Block

November – Grand Prize Drawing

- **New Business Update** – A Certificate of Compliance has been issued for the following businesses:

- **House of Umani (Ramen Noodle Restaurant)** – 45250 Ford Road

ADDITIONAL CITIZENS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Amy thanked Patrick for all his help with the cross access and finally finding a home for the Chuck sculpture. John Camp expressed how important it is to have cross access to make Ford Road easily traversed. Bart asked about how the cross access will impact the anticipated boulevard on Haggerty. Patrick said he had not seen the final plans. An aerial map was discussed and reviewed. Amy gave a brief update that Wayne County is still on track for 2025.

Amy mentioned that the color block game was advertised in the Focus and on the website. She has seen a lot of interest in the game. The color block game is something new for DDA. John Camp asked if we get reporting on how many people participated. Amy assured him that Kim at New Moon presents all the reporting at the end of the year but offered to contact her to see if she could supply monthly updates on the color block game to see how it's doing as this game is new for the DDA.

Amy introduced Jon LaFever to the board. Jon explained to the board the vision for the new position. Amy was hopeful that we would be transitioning a new person by the next board meeting in May.

Bart asked about the vacant Coney Island building on Ford road. Patrick said the House of Umani will be opening a Ramen Noodle Restaurant in that location and have been going forward with their plans.

Bart asked about the timing of BJ's gas station. Patrick said he believes they will be breaking ground sometime this summer.

Kyle Selter asked what stage we are in with the Ford road project. Amy let him know the final design is anticipated for April of 2024. Once it goes out to bid, they expect the bids to come back by December of 2024. Kyle expressed that he wishes the design was more bicycle friendly.

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

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 9:11 a.m.