

City of Charlevoix
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BOARD

Monday, July 27, 2009 - 5:30 p.m.

210 State Street, City Hall, Second Floor Conference Room, Charlevoix, Michigan

Minutes

A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 5:32 p.m. by Chairman Mason.

DDA Members present: Dan Barron, Kirby Dipert, Fred DiMartino, Hugh Mason, John Taylor (arrived at 5:37 p.m.), Jeannine Wallace and John Yaroch (arrived at 5:37 p.m.)

DDA Members absent: Gina Whitney and Mayor Norman Carlson, Jr.

Staff: DDA Executive Director Keith Carey
City Planner Mike Spencer

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Board approved the agenda as presented.

C. INQUIRY INTO POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST - None.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. May 26, 2009 DDA Meeting Minutes

The Board reviewed the proposed May 26, 2009 minutes. Motion made by Member DiMartino and seconded by Member Barron to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was unanimously approved by a voice vote.

E) PUBLIC INPUT, NOT RELATED TO OTHER AGENDA ITEMS - None

F) OLD BUSINESS - None

G) NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion on the use of flags for advertising. (Requested by the Planning Commission)

The Planning Commission and the City Council support allowing flags provided there are regulations to limit the flags' numbers and overall appearance. Mr. Spencer asked the DDA for its opinion on the use of "open" and advertising flags. The Planning Commission is considering allowing 3'x5' flags to be flown. Presently, a business is allowed two signs per and a sandwich board sign. Park Avenue businesses have erected decorative flags to bring attention to their business. The City does not regulate flying the United States flag.

Member Wallace expressed concern that a 5' flag would be too large. She would like to keep the downtown looking quaint and charming and does not wish to see the flags in the downtown area.

Member Barron asked if provisions could be added to allow a business to have either a sandwich board sign or a flag.

Member Dipert voiced concerns on flags being placed too low and would prefer not to see anything hanging from the buildings. He also asked that the Commission consider allowing a business to choose: a sandwich board sign, a neon "open" sign or a flag; not all three. He does not want the downtown to look like a used car lot.

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Member Yaroch asked if other cities allow advertising flags. The Planner advised the Board that Petoskey and Harbor Springs do not allow flags. Charlevoix Township allows flags.

Member Taylor asked if the Commission could consider something that would allow small flags only in the off-season (winter months). The Planner advised the Board that the Commission is considering having flags only during certain months, but he feels it could be difficult to enforce.

Executive Director Carey voiced concerns that the flags may interfere with pedestrian traffic. Flags should not be able to hit pedestrians.

Member Yaroch supported the concept of each business having a business sign and one flag.

Member DiMartino agreed that businesses wish to draw attention to their business and that we should support the businesses.

Chairman Mason concurred that the number of signs and their size is a concern in the downtown area.

H) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Board reviewed the Director's written report.

I) MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Member Barron complimented Director Carey on his work on the Venetian Vision movie in the park and the other numerous items during the Venetian Festival.

Executive Director Carey reported that a second outdoor movie was being considered in August. The movie was enjoyed by over 500 people.

The Board discussed concerns of chairs, blankets and coolers being left in the park to save seats for Venetian concerts. The Venetian board will be evaluating the issue and plans to have a policy in place next year that will outline when individuals can place chairs in the park and that all items would have to be removed at the end of the concert. They are also discussing the option of a "blanket only" zone.

J) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

K) ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Member Yaroch and seconded by Member Dipert to adjourn. Motion adopted. Meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Hugh Mason, Chairman

Linda Jo Weller, Recording Secretary

Carol A. Ochs, City Clerk