

DOWNRIVER COMMUNITY CONFERENCE
REGULAR MEETING – June 4, 2009

Item #3

Present:

Allen Park	Trustee Barbara Warren
Brownstown Twp.	Alternate Bill Irving, Asst. Corporation Counsel
Dearborn	
Dearborn Heights	
Ecorse	
Flat Rock	Councilman Paul Gagne
Gibraltar	
Grosse Ile Twp.	Alternate William Krauss
Huron Twp.	
Lincoln Park	Mayor Frank Vaslo
Melvindale	
River Rouge	
Riverview	Mayor Tim Durand
Rockwood	Chief Russ Van Wassehnova
Romulus	Delegate Tim Keyes, Economic Development Director
Southgate	Alternate Levon King
Taylor	Alternate Laurie Trueblood
Trenton	Councilman Terry Teifer
Woodhaven	
Wyandotte	

The meeting was opened by the Chair Terry Teifer, at 6:22 p.m. with community roll call and introductions.

Agenda: Motion by Mayor Durand, supported by Alternate Trueblood, to accept the agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes: Motion by Mayor Vaslo, supported by Delegate Keyes, to accept the minutes of 5/7/09 as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Presentations:

American Red Cross: Diane Ashburn, with the Southeast Michigan Red Cross, announced their 11th year of the **Downriver Summer Mayors' Challenge** (Blood Drive kick-off notice/dates distributed). There were 800 pints of blood collected last year over the 4th of July holiday from the Mayor's Challenge. Coupon books (Downriver area businesses) will be given to everyone who attempts to donate blood. Diane said they supply blood to 45 of the finest hospitals in the mid-west – and they cover the University of Michigan's blood needs as well. She thanked all the board members for their support.

Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Update: Mohammad Alghurabi, Senior Project Manger with MDOT gave an update on the Detroit River International Crossing efforts to build a bridge to Canada; explaining where they are in the process. Color brochures with map were distributed for board members to review. The Record of Decision, issued by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is the final environmental clearance for the Detroit River International Crossing (DRIC) study for the new bridge just east of Zug Island. The Record of Decision is the last step under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to gain project approval, following four years of consultations, public hearings, traffic analyses, and environmental studies. Construction of a new border inspection plaza, bridge and interchange is scheduled to begin in 2010, provided approval is given by the Michigan Legislature. Activity on the Michigan side of the border will create 10,000 construction jobs and more than 30,000

MDOT Update (continued):

indirect jobs during the construction period. The new bridge, when completed, helps retain 25,000 jobs in Michigan that would be lost without more crossing capacity. And, it is expected to draw about 3,500 jobs into Southeast Michigan from outside the state. The jobs would primarily locate in Wayne, Oakland and Monroe counties. No construction can begin until legislation is approved. Mr. Alghurabi requested that the Downriver communities support the legislation when it is finalized. Discussion followed.

Finance Committee Report:

Finance Minutes: Motion by Tim Keyes, supported by Mayor Vaslo, to approve the Finance minutes of 5-26-09 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Building Drainage System Bid: Treasurer Tim Keyes said the Finance Committee reviewed drainage bids submitted, which included re-grading of ground; install storm drain system with catch basins; replace gravel parking area; concrete slab removal/ replacement; and replace down spouts. Project is to be completed in late June, after the Creative Montessori Academy is on summer break. This will be paid from the Capitol Reserve Account. Motion by Delegate Keyes, supported by Alternate King, to award the contract to the lowest bidder, McNally's Inc. for \$24,300.00. Discussion followed. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Committee to Act for Board: Motion by Alternate Van Wassehnova, supported by Trustee Warren, to authorize the Executive Committee to act on behalf of the full board during the months of July and August, with the next full board meeting scheduled for September 3rd. The motion passed unanimously.

Remarks from the Audience:

Ryan Werder, of Congressman Dingell's Office: Their office has a guide book for Displaced Workers, with information on assistance and training opportunities (unemployment insurance, workforce centers, retraining programs, community colleges, etc. – anything that would be helpful to someone out of work – the PDF version will be sent to communities to post to their websites.) Jim Perry added that DCC had a round-table discussion with Congressman Dingell to talk about issues this area is facing. It is anticipated that there will be more funding for trade-related programs. Jim said that DCC has seen over 200,000 customers since July of last year, and he invited board members to visit DCC to see what goes on here. Ryan added that Congressman Dingell is supporting a National Emergency Grant to bring in an additional \$30 million to Michigan to ease the unemployment issues.

Madelyn Williams, of DTE Energy, announced that DTE Energy will present an Energy Efficiency Funding and Opportunities for Cities and Counties Seminar at the Henry Ford Museum, Lovett Hall Ballroom, on June 23rd from 7:30 a.m. – 12:30p.m.. This is an opportunity for municipalities across Michigan to come together and learn first hand how stimulus dollars can be leveraged, understand the available programs and more importantly, make sure they apply through the proper channels.

Cherie Mollison, of The Senior Alliance, announced that the TSA –Area Agency on Aging, is working on a collaboration between the federal and state government, the Veterans Administration and the Area Agency on Aging on efforts for veterans who want to stay in their own homes for long-term care. They anticipate receiving 20-40 veteran referrals next year from the VA medical centers (Dingell center in Detroit and the Ann Arbor center). There are more resources available to serve the older and now younger veterans as well. More information will be forthcoming.

Motion by Delegate Keyes, supported by Alternate Trueblood, to adjourn at 7:00 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.