

**DOWNRIVER COMMUNITY CONFERENCE**  
**REGULAR MEETING – February 4, 2010**

**Item #3**

<u>Present:</u>	Allen Park	Mayor Gary Burtka
	Brownstown Twp.	
	Dearborn	Mayor Jack O'Reilly
	Dearborn Heights	
	Ecorse	
	Flat Rock	Mayor Jonathan Dropiewski
	Gibraltar	Mayor James Gorris
	Grosse Ile Twp.	Alternate William Krauss
	Huron Twp.	
	Lincoln Park	Mayor Frank Vaslo
	Melvindale	Mayor Valerie Cadez
	River Rouge	Mayor Michael Bowdler
	Riverview	Mayor Tim Durand
	Rockwood	Mayor Daniel Guzzi
	Romulus	Delegate Tim Keyes, Economic Development Director
	Southgate	Mayor Joseph Kuspa
	Taylor	Alternate Rocky Alazazi
	Trenton	Councilman Terry Teifer
	Woodhaven	Mayor Pro-tem Jeffrey Harris
	Wyandotte	Alternate Todd Drysdale, Administrative Services Director

The meeting was opened by the Chair Terry Teifer, at 6:21 p.m. with community roll call and introductions.

Agenda: Motion by Mayor O'Reilly, supported by Mayor Dropiewski, to accept the agenda as presented, with one new presentation item (Jill Ferrari of Wayne County regarding NSP). The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes: Motion by Mayor Guzzi, supported by Alternate Drysdale, to accept the minutes of 12/3/09 as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Presentations:

- Downriver Filming Permit Process: Mayor Gary Burtka of Allen Park gave updates on the Downriver Filming Permit process. He reported that the first graduating class of the Lifton Institute had 106 graduates and they are teaming up with The Henry Ford for a new movie and each graduate has a job (100% employment). The next class is almost filled ( 35% more students enrolled than the first group); Stautzenberger College is opening on-site in April; most of the movie will be shot at Greenfield Village in Dearborn; the first movie was shot in Allen Park, Lincoln Park and Taylor at Heritage Park.

Mayor Burtka suggested creating and providing a Film Location Photo Data Base. This photo data base will provide snap shots of sites in each community with possible locations that could be used in a movie. The Michigan Film Office is already doing this on a state wide basis. Each community should have something available for the film industry location scouts to review for any possible needs. He suggested this could be done thru DCC's website, including photos along the river. He said the movie industry is going extremely well! Mayor O'Reilly added that Dearborn has had a website with photo locations for over a year and they have had some contact with the State of Michigan where people are referred to the site, adding it is a very successful tool. Once you post it, people will refer to it.

Mike Donofrio of Allen Park reported on the process for working with the Michigan Film Office – they want to promote the Downriver as a film-friendly region. He provided a power-point presentation of the process. They want to have communities model after their process – it is easy and streamlined. The film industry looks to see what is in an area (businesses, restaurants, etc.) Benefits that cannot be tracked are the moral boost and excitement generated for the area. Average is 18 months to produce a film. This is the process with an ordinance, application form and permit necessary, establishing fees (examples on Allen Park’s website). The City of Allen Park is currently working with the Lifton Institute for Media Skills on this process. Currently the Institute goes out into Allen Park to film their pilot movies and they have the Permit documentation in place and are testing it out with them. They have made some adjustments and modifications and feel it would be a good idea to have all of the communities work with the same format. The permitting process is another resource of revenue to all cities. Mayor Burtka asked DCC members to review the information and take back to their communities to help market our area. Police and Fire, and DPS departments get involved as well. It was suggested that the conversation about this continue at future meetings.

- Jill Ferrari with Wayne County’s Community Development Block Grant program: Jill is the new Director of Development. Jill wants to provide monthly updates to our board. She is responding to last month’s request for updates on the NSP (Neighborhood Stabilization Program). There is a lot of federal money flowing through their department that they want to share with the communities. They had an original award of \$25.9 million (100% is awarded to a project or a program, \$9 million will be under contract); within the next 30 days, a list of all programs and projects for specific sub-recipients will be on-line for review, so you can see who is getting the money and how it is being spent. Two of the Wayne County programs that communities will be able to benefit from if they are an NSP participating community are: a program for demolition through a partnership through the Nuisance Abatement program and the Wayne County Land Bank. They are looking to supplement the projects that are already in the communities. Another program is a \$4 million dollar home buyer’s assistance network to create a training program to take potential homebuyers through a 6-9 month process for credit repair and home ownership training in order to maintain a house once they purchase. This program will be published by the end of the month; 3-5 service providers will be designated and will be located throughout the county. Funds have to be obligated by September 30<sup>th</sup> (must have an address for every single dollar or a program). By 2013, all the money has to be spent. Mayor Bowdler of River Rouge asked who gets the money after a sale of a house. Jill replied that a private contractor would get to keep 15% of sale; with the rest of money going into an account. Wayne County tracks it until the project is completed; at the end of the project, the contractor will provide a scope of work for that project and then the city approves it. Community gets to direct where that money goes. Mayor Val Cadez thanked Jill and Wayne County for the details provided.

The Senior Alliance Board of Directors:

Chairman Terry Teifer reported that DCC needs to appoint six (6) members to the newly revised board of directors of The Senior Alliance. Five people have expressed interest and we need a sixth to complete the designated slots from our area. Mayor Valerie Cadez volunteered to be the sixth member. Motion by Mayor O’Reilly, supported by Mayor Durand, to appoint the following six individuals to represent DCC on The Senior Alliance Board of Directors: 1) Mary Ann Riley of Taylor; 2) Bill O’Neil of Allen Park; 3) Mayor Frank Vaslo of Lincoln Park; 4) Ann Hatley of Wyandotte; 5) Helen Morrison of Grosse Ile; and 6) Mayor Valerie Cadez of Melvindale. The motion passed unanimously.

Jason Maciewski of The Senior Alliance introduced Linda DeVore of the TSA who asked if community fire fighters could help collect donations for TSA’s holiday meals (example – Belleville firefighters were able to collect over \$1,000 in a 4-hour time frame set up at specific intersections). She thanked everyone for their consideration.

New Business:

- New Chamber President: Delegate Tim Keyes recognized the newly appointed President of the Southern Wayne County Regional Chamber, Sandy Mull. All applauded. Sandy said they have a very aggressive agenda – she wants to become more involved with DCC and plans to attend more DCC meetings.
- DPW Agreements: Mayor Dropiewski stated that Flat Rock passed their DPW agreement.

Remarks from the Audience:

- Ryan Werder with Congressman Dingell's Office: Distributed the Congressman's new Dislocated Worker Resource Guide. He wants to make it available to all the communities. It includes a large range of free resources available to residents. The electronic version will be made available on DCC's website.
- Chairman Teifer reported that Jim Perry has had some medical issues and has been out sick.
- Census materials: Sue Pilon reported that communities who have not picked up their promotional census materials may take them after the meeting.
- Return on Investment Reports: Sue Pilon referenced the package at each board member's place, includes the Return on Investment folders (if not picked up at the Open House) which includes information about the programs and funding dollars spent on services to residents in the communities. The DCC tent-style calendars were also included in the envelope.
- Open House Thanks: Mayor Jack O'Reilly thanked the DCC Staff for their work on the Open House held in January; and he commented that DCC dues have not been increased since it began in 1977.

Motion by Delegate Keyes, supported by Mayor Durand, to adjourn at 7:05 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.