

**DOWNRIVER COMMUNITY CONFERENCE  
REGULAR MEETING – September 2, 2010**

**Item #3**

Present:

Allen Park	Treasurer Barbara Warren
Brownstown Twp.	Mayor Jack O'Reilly
Dearborn	
Dearborn Heights	
Ecorse	
Flat Rock	Mayor Jonathan Dropiewski
Gibraltar	Mayor James Gorris
Grosse Ile Twp.	Trustee Pamela Frucci
Huron Twp.	Supervisor Elke Doom
Lincoln Park	Mayor Frank Vaslo
Melvindale	Mayor Valerie Cadez
River Rouge	
Riverview	Mayor Tim Durand
Rockwood	
Romulus	Tim Keyes, Economic Development Director
Southgate	Mayor Joseph Kuspa
Taylor	Mayor Jeffrey Lamarand
Trenton	Councilman Terry Teifer
Woodhaven	Mayor Pro-tem Jeffrey Harris
Wyandotte	Mayor Joseph Peterson

The meeting was opened by the Chair Terry Teifer, at 6:32 p.m. with community roll call and introductions.

Agenda: Motion by Mayor Dropiewski, supported by Mayor O'Reilly, to accept the agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes: Motion by Mayor Durand, supported by Mayor Peterson, to accept the minutes of 5/6/10 as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Finance Committee Report: Treasurer Tim Keyes reported.

DMA and DCC FY 2010-2011 Budget: Kim Donahey could not be present this evening, but she prepared a video Power Point presentation for board review (with full detail included in the packet). The DCC is requesting approval of a \$21,511,587 budget for the 2010-2011 fiscal year. This is an increase of \$1,967,434 from the 2009-10 year. The increase is primarily due to additional funding through the Transportation, Weatherization, and Economic Development Departments. New funding through COPS grants has also had a positive impact on the DMA budget. During the current year, the DCC has been able to replace its telephone system, replace its accounting software system and renovate the board room (177). Treasurer Keyes thanked Kim Donahey and Nicole Chavez for their work on the budget, and for the outstanding presentation. He also added that the Finance Committee met and reviewed in detail and approved the budget. Detailed discussion followed regarding staff's efforts to ensure continued state and federal funding.

Jim Perry reported that the DCC Michigan Works offices saw 287,000 people July 2009 – July 2010 and we are working to get more federal funds. Discussion followed of funding situation. The board complimented staff on the 504 loan program. Paula Boase responded that this is a revolving fund – performing beyond expectations; adding that our Downriver Area Brownfield Consortium (DABC) is rated #1 in the country.

Finance Committee Report – Budget (continued):

Mayor O'Reilly added that DCC was one of the first to receive Brownfield funding through the efforts of Congressman Dingell - organized around DCC, with Dearborn and Monroe as the primary sites. Being familiar with DCC's history, Mayor O'Reilly added that the Small Business Administration has been working with DCC for a long time and there are things being done here and no where else in the region; DCC has been outstanding in bringing so many resources to this region to benefit all communities; and emphasized the need to recognize the value we have in our own organization. Question followed about Ventower. Paula explained that Ventower, a new wind turbine company in Monroe, has cleared the land, and building construction will begin soon – they are currently hiring and plan to be operational by January.

Further discussion followed about the building portion of the budget. Chairman Terry Teifer said we are continuing negotiations with the Creative Montessori Academy regarding purchasing part of the building. Questions were raised about the Weatherization Program funds – staff will prepare details and forward to the board via e-mail. Motion by Mayor O'Reilly, supported by Mayor Peterson, to approve the DMA and DCC budgets as presented. The motion passed unanimously. Chairman Teifer gave accolades to staff on a great job.

DCC Assessment Dues: Motion by Mayor Kuspa, supported by Mayor Peterson, to approve the 2010-2011 Assessment Dues as presented (remaining the same since 1977). The motion passed unanimously.

2010-2012 Audit Contract: Treasurer Tim Keyes reported that an RFP was sent out for a new audit contract. Two firms responded: Plante & Moran, and Hungerford. The Finance Committee reviewed the two bids submitted, and the scoring report by staff, and concurs with awarding the auditing contract to Plante & Moran for 2010-2012. Motion by Mayor Peterson, supported by Treasurer Warren. The motion passed unanimously.

The Senior Alliance Board Appointment: Chairman Terry Teifer reported that DCC needs to appoint two additional members to The Senior Alliance Board of Directors, resulting from term expirations. Discussion followed of possible candidates, as only one is being presented today, and the importance of this board. Motion by Mayor Durand, supported by Mayor Kuspa, to re-appoint Mary Ann Riley for a 3-year term to the TSA Board. The motion passed unanimously. Board members were asked to forward other names to Cari Eggleton as possible candidates for the remaining slot (can be a resident volunteer). Board members thanked Mayor Valerie Cadez for serving on the TSA board last year.

New Business:

Film Initiative Committee: Jim Perry reported that Sue Pilon sent a memo to board members asking them to appoint a person to serve on a special committee to discuss putting together a Downriver Film Initiative. Please respond to Cari Eggleton by September 17<sup>th</sup> as a meeting will be set up soon. Sue reported that DCC will serve as facilitator in this effort. Mayor O'Reilly said it is key to inventory what is available in your community and letting people know what is available and how to reach people – this is the marketing part of attracting location scouts. Discussion followed of current filming activity in Melvindale and Grosse Ile. A Hugh Jackman movie "Real Steel" is currently on location.

Nuclear Power Small Business Opportunity Conference: Mayor Jack O'Reilly noted the flyer included in the board packet under "information" is scheduled for September 28<sup>th</sup> in Dearborn. Paula Boase reported that \$80 billion is spent each year on goods and services related to nuclear power/energy. Senators Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow are promoting this event, and Mayor O'Reilly has offered use of the Ford Community Center in Dearborn for this event, as their contribution. This two-day event is sponsored by GE-Hitachi, DTE, PTACS of Michigan, MGDC, SWCRC, and the City of Dearborn.

Revenue Sharing: Mayor Jack O'Reilly encouraged board members to contact their State Legislators about current legislation regarding revenue sharing. The State is pushing a democratic vote to leverage support for a buy-out package for State employees; if it fails, they said they would have to cut revenue sharing by 6.5%.

Centralized Dispatch: Mayor Joseph Kuspa of Southgate said the Centralized Dispatch is up and running for the three communities (Southgate, Wyandotte & Lincoln Park). Mayor Joe Peterson of Wyandotte invited the board members who would like to see the new set up at the Wyandotte Police Station. Mayor Peterson complimented Lt. Scott Hayes for his efforts to ensure a smooth transition and set up. He added that the service is working well and response time is very efficient.

Agenda to be paperless: Mayor Kuspa recommended that the DMA and DCC agendas be paperless from now on to save money; agenda packets can be transmitted digitally. Agenda packets will be shown on a laptop computer on the screen at the meetings. Those present concurred with the idea.

Michigan Municipal League Annual Conference: Mayor Jack O'Reilly reported that the MML Annual Conference would be held in Dearborn this year, September 21-24. He invited everyone to come on Tuesday night for a reception at the Performing Arts Center at 6:00 p.m. (no fee).

Trustee Pamela Frucci reported that she is hosting a Chinese student in her home on a student exchange program. And, the Downriver Idol winner performed with the Southern Great Lakes Symphony. She encouraged the organizers of that event to limit participation in that competition to Downriver residents.

New Board Room Renovations: The Board complimented the board room renovations – said it looks great!

Information Items: There were several items for information included in the board packet.

Motion by Mayor Durand, supported by Mayor Peterson, to adjourn at 7:30 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.