



James S. Perry
Executive Director

MEMBER COMMUNITIES

FUNDING SOURCES:

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Department of Energy

Family Independence Agency

Federal Transit Authority

Michigan Department of Career Development

Michigan Department of Community Health

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

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Michigan Economic Development Corporation

Michigan Small Business Development Centers

Southeast Michigan Community Alliance

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DOWNRIVER COMMUNITY CONFERENCE

Item #3

REGULAR MEETING – February 3, 2011

Present:

Allen Park
Brownstown Twp.
Dearborn
Dearborn Heights
Ecorse
Flat Rock
Gibraltar
Grosse Ile Twp.
Huron Twp.
Lincoln Park
Melvindale
River Rouge
Riverview
Rockwood
Romulus

Mayor Gary Burtka
Treasurer Barbara Warren
Mayor Jack O'Reilly
Mayor Daniel Paletko
Mayor Pro-Tem Darcel Brown
Mayor Jonathan Dropiewski

Supervisor Brian Loftus
Supervisor Elke Doom
Mayor Frank Vaslo
Mayor Valerie Cadez

Mayor Tim Durand

Tim Keyes, Economic Development Director

Mayor Joseph Kuspa
Mayor Jeffrey Lamarand
Councilman Terry Teifer
Councilman Dan Duderstadt
Mayor Joseph Peterson

The meeting was opened by the Chair Mayor Valerie Cadez, at 6:35 p.m. with community roll call.

Agenda: Motion by Mayor Vaslo, supported by Tim Keyes, to accept the agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes: Secretary Tim Keyes reported. Motion by Tim Keyes, supported by Councilman Teifer, to accept the minutes of 12/2/10 as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Presentation:

Downriver Film Initiative & Resolution: Jim Perry reported that at the Board's request, a committee was formed to look at the best ways to promote filming in the Downriver area. Jim said the committee had a great meeting and tour recently at the City of Allen Park Film Studio, and then introduced Mike Donofrio, Downriver Film Initiative Committee Chair, who gave an overview of

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efforts to date. Mike advised there's been good feedback from the communities on ways to best promote the area to the film industry. Wayne County's Film Commissioner, Mike Mosallam, was at the last meeting, and he gave us advice on partnering in this effort. Good joint effort between Downriver and Wayne County – DCC is the Central Point of Contact – can use DCC's website to link with each of the communities, so scouts can access website for needed information. He said we understand the communities' concerns with assisting with funds, so the Committee is refocusing efforts on concept of how to promote the area with marketing strategy. The process has been streamlined with templates for a film ordinance and permit forms, and other required documents that were sent to each community to use. They would also like to see the film tax incentive continued, so a resolution has been prepared for board approval. Sue Pilon added that twelve of our member communities were present for the meeting held in Allen Park – with next one scheduled for February 18th for another meeting/tour in Allen Park – we're inviting our legislators to attend. Jim Perry said Sandy Mull with the Southern Wayne County Regional Chamber has been very supportive of this effort as well.

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Motion by Mayor Paletko, supported by Treasurer Barbara Warren, to approve the resolution as presented, to be sent to our state legislators and the Governor. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

Revenue Sharing: Mayor Kuspa raised a concern about upcoming revenue sharing cuts, and asked the board to approve a resolution opposing this. Mayor O'Reilly said he would help with the wording. Discussion followed: All local governments participating in the DCC are experiencing a continuing loss of Property Tax revenue and yet continue to have responsibility for the health, safety, and welfare of their residents. Statutory changes enacted as part of Proposal A will prohibit local governments from receiving the full annual increase in property tax revenue from future increases in property values. Communities will be unable to fund much-needed health and welfare services if such extraordinary cuts in state revenue sharing are made. Motion by Mayor Kuspa, supported by Mayor O'Reilly, that the DCC Board of Directors opposes any further cuts in state Revenue Sharing, and urges that, if any cuts are made to Statutory Revenue Sharing, the lost revenue be replaced by the State from another State revenue source. The motion passed unanimously.

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Property Tax and Personal Property Tax: Mayor Jack O'Reilly asked for a resolution on personal property tax. He said that this is Michigan's oldest form of taxation and, as such, has contributed greatly to the growth and success of Michigan by allowing local governments to provide essential services and attract investment. The elimination of Personal Property Taxes would lead to debate over what is or is not Real Property, resulting in a new administrative burden falling on local governments at a time when state action will have dramatically reduced their revenue. Communities will be unable to fund needed health, safety and welfare services if Personal Property Taxes are eliminated without a replacement revenue. SB 34 as introduced and referred to the Senate Finance Committee will have a devastating impact on our members, local government statewide and ultimately the quality of life within our state. Motion by Mayor Paletko, supported by Councilman Duderstadt, that the DCC Board of Directors opposes any effort to eliminate Personal Property Taxes in Michigan without a replacement revenue or a broad and inclusive discussion of statewide tax policy that allows local governments the new revenue opportunities already afforded local governments in 34 other states. The motion passed unanimously.

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Legal/Professional Services: Mayor Frank Vaslo asked that as part of Best Practices, we take a look at our professional service contracts (legal and auditing services) since it hasn't been done in a few years. Kim Donahey reported that we have updated our auditing contract recently.

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Information Items: Chair Cadez went over the information items included in the packet. Jim Perry referenced the item regarding the Greenways Open House/Dedication scheduled for February 22nd at the Flat Rock Community Center, as part of the Linked Greenways that DCC has partnered with in the past several years. Jim referenced the Weatherization Customer thank you notes, and said the staff has been doing a great job. Mayor Vaslo also commended Jim Perry and the Weatherization program, as a Lincoln Park resident came to him to compliment the DCC staff and program for assisting her. Jim Perry also referenced a handout regarding Ventower taking applications. Paula Boase, DCC's Economic Development Director, gave an overview of Ventower's growth – initially formed from a Brownfield, and now hiring 150 skilled workers for their new site in Monroe. Jim commended Paula for her efforts, and all those present applauded her efforts related to bringing this company to the area. Jim Perry referenced the "Return on Investment" reports for the communities. He asked that each board member ensure they receive one, if they did not pick one up at the Open House, held just before the

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board meeting. He commended Sue Pilon for compiling customized community information for this report.

Federal Transit Authority

Remarks from the Audience:

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Fred Eaton of Comcast reported that they closed the deal on acquiring NBC Universal. Comcast has a very substantial facility in Westland where they have a network operations center that manages their cable and fiber optic traffic, all across Michigan. They also have a call center facility in Plymouth Township, and offered a bus trip and tour of their facilities for DCC Board members if anyone is interested. They just relocated their Regional Headquarters from Southfield to the Plymouth location, so it brought jobs to Wayne County. He'll send out an e-mail follow up to the board. He also offered board members an opportunity to appear on their News Makers program taped in Southfield. Please let him know if you'd like to appear on the show.

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Representative Andrew Kandrevas was present in the audience, and said the Personal Property Tax hearing is scheduled for next Wednesday. He said the MML did an action alert on this. He'll check into the other resolution items brought up as well.

Michigan Economic
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Downriver Association of Realtors. Elaine Adkins, Executive Officer, said they've been in business and serving Downriver since 1929, and will be making a formal request to present at a future board meeting.

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Motion by Mayor O'Reilly, supported by Mayor Vaslo, to adjourn at 7:05 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

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