

**DOWNRIVER COMMUNITY CONFERENCE  
REGULAR MEETING – November 3, 2011**

**Item #3**

<u>Present:</u>	Allen Park	Mayor Felice “Tony” Lalli
	Brownstown Twp.	Deputy Supervisor Greg Mahar
	Dearborn	Mayor Jack O’Reilly
	Dearborn Heights	Mayor Daniel Paletko
	Ecorse	
	Flat Rock	Councilman Paul Gagne
	Gibraltar	Mayor James Gorris
	Grosse Ile Twp.	Supervisor Brian Loftus
	Huron Twp.	
	Lincoln Park	Mayor Frank Vaslo
	Melvindale	Mayor Valerie Cadez
	River Rouge	
	Riverview	Mayor Tim Durand
	Rockwood	Mayor Daniel Guzzi
	Romulus	Economic Development Director, Tim Keyes
	Southgate	Mayor Joseph Kuspa
	Taylor	Alternate Rocky Alazazi
	Trenton	Councilman Terry Teifer
	Woodhaven	Mayor Pro-Tem Jeffrey Harris
	Wyandotte	Mayor Joseph Peterson

The meeting was opened by the Chair Mayor Valerie Cadez, at 6:14 p.m. with community roll call.

Agenda: Motion by Delegate Keyes, supported by Alternate Mahar, to accept the agenda as presented, with two business items. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes: Motion by Mayor Guzzi, supported by Mayor Gorris, to accept the minutes of 9/1/11 as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Finance Committee Report: Mayor Jack O’Reilly reported.

Minutes: Motion by Councilman Teifer, supported by Mayor Peterson, to accept the Finance Committee minutes of 10-3-11 and 10-19-11 as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Legal Bid Award: Motion by Councilman Teifer, supported by Mayor Peterson, to approve the Finance Committee’s recommendation to retain present legal counsel with Pentiuk, Couvreur & Kobiljak, as they were the high scoring bidder. The motion passed unanimously.

CMA Purchase Agreement: Mayor O’Reilly advised that the final approved Warranty Deed will be signed soon, based on prior authorization by the Board. The CMA will now seek a public school financing bond through the State. The Master Agreement will be developed following this step.

Nominating Committee Report: Councilman Terry Teifer presented the slate of officers to serve for the 2012 Administrative Year. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor until the December meeting, at which time the election will take place. All present officers are interested in serving another term:

Chair	Mayor Valerie Cadez, Melvindale
Vice Chair	Mayor Joseph Peterson, Wyandotte
Treasurer	Mayor Jack O’Reilly, Dearborn
Secretary	Economic Development Director Tim Keyes, Romulus

New Business:

SMART Proposed Cuts: Resolution was handed out for reference. Sue Pilon reported that SMART has proposed elimination of several bus routes, including Route 160 which would impact our customers, and students who attend Wayne County Community College on Northline. Motion by Mayor Durand, supported by Mayor Peterson that the DCC Board of Directors strongly opposes the proposed elimination of Route 160 on weekdays by SMART, as this action would have a serious negative impact on Downriver residents and their ability to participate in DCC's programs. Motion passed unanimously.

Economic Vitality Incentive Plan: Sue Pilon reported.

This is a reminder about the State of Michigan's Economic Vitality Incentive Program. If you have not already been notified of the availability of this program, information is available at [www.michigan.gov/treasury](http://www.michigan.gov/treasury). Important deadlines are approaching quickly. We are certain that many of you participated in the EVIP training presentation at MML in August. DCC will be hosting a meeting with community Administrators to discuss this further, on November 18<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon.

The state has \$5 million in funds available for the EVIP grant program. There MAY be a second round of funding later depending on how many grants the state funds in this first round. Downriver has always been a model of regional collaboration and we are sure there are efforts that meet the criteria for this grant that could be or are being implemented and could use additional funding. So please contact Sue Pilon at (734-362-3425/ [sue.pilon@dccwf.org](mailto:sue.pilon@dccwf.org)) as soon as possible if you would like assistance with this.

Personal Property Tax: Mayor Vaslo asked the Board of Directors to address the concern related to personal property tax that affects all member communities. Discussion followed. Motion by councilman Gagne, supported by Mayor O'Reilly, to prepare a resolution and send to the State. (Mayor O'Reilly volunteered to assist with appropriate resolution wording.) Motion passed unanimously. Mayor O'Reilly reviewed possible ideas to pursue another alternative that would reform personal property tax. Discussion followed.

International Wildlife Refuge: Paula Boase reported that DCC was awarded \$750,000 to complete the International Wildlife Refuge – Refuge Gateway. Event is planned for Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. **“Extreme Makeover: Brownfield Edition”**.

Board Meeting Dates: Mayor Joseph Kuspa asked the board to consider meeting every other month versus every month. Discussion followed, including need to change the By-laws accordingly. Staff to put together proposed dates and By-law changes, and bring to next meeting.

Salute to Veterans & Resource Forum: Jane Mackey with Congressman John Conyers' office announced that a special event is scheduled for Veterans living in Metro Detroit, at Historic Fort Wayne in Detroit, on November 10<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Veterans will be connected with over 25 agencies that provide vital social and economic resources to veterans and their families. Jane will forward the flyer to Cari Eggleton, to be forwarded to board members. Event is being hosted by Congressmen Hansen Clarke & John Conyers.

Comments: Mayor Frank Vaslo of Lincoln Park, referencing the upcoming election and possible outcome, said he values the Board's friendship and said DCC has good and noble programs.

**Next meeting** is scheduled for Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at **5:00 p.m.** – due to Chamber's Salute to Government Officials.

Motion by Mayor Peterson, supported by Alternate Mahar, to adjourn at 6:53 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.