

**Downtown Development Authority**

City of New Baltimore  
MINUTES

**Special Meeting**

Monday, April 28, 2008

5-7-08  
Sandra D. McClure  
Approved

*Minutes of Special Meeting  
April 28, 2008*

**Special Meeting:** All Members were notified in advance by email. The date and time were selected to accommodate the major majority. A vote for authorization was required prior to the May 2, 2008 deadline for submission of the Blueprints for Downtowns Matching Grant with the State of Michigan.

**Call to Order** by the Chair, Sandy McClure, at 5:07 PM.

**Members Present:** 1] Sandy McClure, Chair, 2] Bonnie Vanderbossche, Treasurer, 3] Max Plante, Secretary, 4] Tom Goldenbogen, Mayor, 5] Nancy Gruca, 6] Andre D'Anna, 7] Dorothy Stabile, 8] and Joe Drompp arrived at 5:40 PM.

**Quorum:** 7 of 11 for early votes [with Joe Drompp 8 of 11].

**Also Present:** Judy Sproat, Director of Planning and Economic Development, and Marc Levis, Asst to the Mayor.

**Not Present:** 9] Karl Rutledge, Vice Chair, 10] Dick Pierson, and 11] Shannon Longstaff.

**Susan Burkhardt**, Counsel Representative, not able to attend with Donna Quinn, her mother, going to the hospital today.

**Minutes** of Wednesday, April 2, 2008 were approved by MOTION of Bonnie Vanderbossche and seconded by Nancy Gruca. All in favor.

**Blueprints for Michigan Downtowns Application** to be approved [in its scope and ultimate implementation] and submitted by MOTION of Nancy Gruca and seconded by Dorothy Stabile with particular thanks to Judy Sproat for the great job in getting this time consuming application all put together in a short time frame, and thanks also to Sandy McClure for her assistance and in getting letters from the downtown business people in support of this Project and grant request. All in favor.

**\$20,000 Matching Funds from the DDA Approved** by MOTION of Max Plante and seconded by Dorothy Stabile upon approval of the Application and the Program objectives by the City Council and the awarding of the Grant by the State of Michigan. All approved.

**Project Discussions** included Judy noting that she had talked with Romeo, Saline, and Utica who all are pleased with the Project as it is going forward in their downtowns. The current DDA Plan was initiated in 1989 for a 20 year period and will need to be extended for perhaps an additional 15 to 20 years. It might incorporate the Burke Park to provide for an option to allow DDA funds to be spent

there if Council and all parties are in accord. Of course, the Park is not intended to generate TIFA proceeds so no funds will be diverted from City finances. Judy commented that the national Consultants selected by the State will probably be the Hyatt Firm who has been successful throughout the Country and with other Cities in Michigan. Their Five Year Strategic Plan for Romeo was impressive and a similar plan for New Baltimore would generate the 1<sup>st</sup> of 5 Years in a 20 Year Plan that the DDA is required to have. The additional 15 Year Planning can more easily be generated with a good professional start from a noted consulting firm. Without the Blueprints Grant the DDA would none-the-less still have to pay an outside firm for some work on a 20 Year New Baltimore Downtown Plan.

**Financial Sponsorship of the 2008 TasteFest** to be put on the May 7 Agenda and published versus considered at this meeting. The Mayor stated that this is a procedure that should be used before the DDA approves the expenditure of funds. Our future Agendas will have to be more carefully prepared.

**Nancy Gruca [our Greenery Mogul ]** has purchased asparagus ferns for our sidewalk pots and was smart enough to have them inside during our last freeze of the year. Tom Gunst, our amenable Public Works guy, will do the potting and Nancy will do the actual planting of the ferns.

**Cash Flow for the City** which was recently prepared for the Administration and the City Council by Plante & Moran was discussed by the Mayor. He outlined the priorities of the major Facilities Projects for the City and how they will impact on good planning for our Downtown and for our Block #2 [Police, Rec, etc].

**Bicycle Friendly [and other] Concepts** were re-introduced by Dorothy Stabile who said Stahl's may rent tandem bicycles purchased by Citizens State Bank as an interesting promotional project. Andre D'Anna [Naum's Canvas Shop owner now in Chesterfield] is hopeful of renting the Semaan first floor and to be in the rental business of kites, bikes, etc. Plante mentioned that Bay Rama may have a Kayak Race this year and perhaps Kayak rentals may be great for New Baltimore in making our waterfront an active and fun place for our residents, and to really help create a people friendly with sidewalk traffic downtown. The Mayor mentioned that the Aquatic Center already has a program where kayaks are used in the swimming pool.

**Adjourned** at 5:47 PM by MOTION of Andre D'Anna and seconded by Bonnie Vanderbossche. All in Favor.

Max Plante, Sec.

**So stay tuned and see how an amazing CONFLUENCE of great people such as our Mayor, City Council, DDA, and Ride the Wave group can create a dynamite Downtown anchoring a sensational new bathing beach and waterfront park all nicely viewed from out on Anchor Bay atop our yesteryear wood plank perfectly suited for strolling pier.**