

**CITY OF INKSTER  
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
(DDA)  
MINUTES**

A regular meeting of the Inkster Downtown Development Authority was held on **Tuesday, February 21, 2017**, in the Inkster City Council Chamber, located at 26215 Trowbridge, Inkster, Michigan.

Quorum was reached. Vice Chairman Wade called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm.

**I. ROLL CALL**

Present: Chairman Akinyemi (6:19 pm), Vice Chairman Wade, Treasurer Cimeot, Secretary Onomake, and Directors Abiolu, Adams and Theis

Absent: Directors Ndubisi, Nolen and Ogbonnya

Others in Attendance: Nate Ford, Economic Development Director  
Jeannie Fields, Director of Special Projects

Public in Attendance: Mayor Pro-Tem Tim Williams, Councilman Clarence Oden, L. Banks, T. Edison, Reverend Willie & Barbara Cooper, Paul Carr, D. Ajibade and C. Herten

**II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**MOVED** by Abiolu, Seconded by Adams to adopt the agenda. **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

**III. ADOPTION OF MINUTES of October 18, 2016 and Review Notes of November 15, 2016, December 20, 2016 and January 18, 2017**

**MOVED** by Adams, Seconded by Cimeot to adopt the Minutes of October 18, 2016. **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

**IV. CALL TO PUBLIC (Non-Agenda Items)**

None.

**V. TREASURY REPORT**

None.

**VI. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Inkster Farmer's Market (Ekanem Obong of Feeding Inkster Workgroup)**

Feeding Inkster Workgroup (FIW) are in the beginning stages of forming a committee and finalizing a timeline. FIW wanted to take a tour of the location for the farmer's market to determine the number of vendors that can fit into space, access to electricity, vendor applications and other needs that will assist in accommodating various types of vendors. Vice Chairman Wade said that electricity shouldn't be a problem however had questions on who would pay for the electricity. Director Abiolu suggested that an outside meeting be held to address the creation of a logo and marketing materials for

the Farmer's Market. FIW has a meeting with Eastern Market on Feb 27<sup>th</sup> about being a vendor in the Inkster Farmer's Market. FIW also has a meeting scheduled with Chelsea Neblit of Grandmont Rosedale Community Development Corporation who will share the blueprint used for their Farmer's Market. Obong presented information on an application for assistance from a University of Michigan Fellow to become a potential market manager. Obong also shared several grant opportunities from U of M and MSHDA that could assist in funding the Farmer's Market.

**B. TCD Building/Business Inventory**

J. Fields presented Akinyemi with plat maps that help to identify parcels for the city to identify where businesses are since there is no street map showing those businesses. J. Fields suggested that DDA members meet business owners in the DDA. Abiolu asked about the parcel ID numbers and J.Fields explained that those numbers only help to identify the properties however in order to identify the owners it will require physically going in many times and speaking with the people there. Wade asked if TCD incorporates all of DDA. The answer was yes, it does incorporate all of the DDA.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Presentation for TNT Couture Designs and Tabitha's Enterprises (Ms. Tamer Edison and Mr. Lloyd Banks)**

Tamer Edison is a seamstress designer with 30+ years industry experience. Ms. Edison is looking to start a manufacturing business that manufacturers clothing items through which she will also create an academy of fashion design in Inkster. Both will operate cooperatively where participants/employees will gain workforce development skills and hands on working experience. Participants will also learn how to operate industrial machines as well as smaller traditional machines. This plan anticipates that it will be able to employ a minimum of 20 individuals to start. The intent is to begin in the homeless shelters and schools to train with intention to hire after the program in completed. The academy hopes to partner with schools for internships. The long term goal include adding a storefront where prom dresses and bridal gowns will be featured. Ms. Edison presented the board with their five-point plan. She is looking for support by way of a location to house the academy/plant (3,500 sq ft) and a training grant.

**B. Update on Proposed Inkster Cultural Arts District (Mr. Paul Carr)**

Carr spoke of the closed-door meeting that was held in January where Chairman Akinyemi and Secretary Onomake presented Inkster to the Detroit Artist Collective which are the who's who of the creative community as a viable alternative to Detroit for artistic expression and cultural development. Carr, thanked Inkster native Cornelius Harris of Underground Resistance for being present at both the aforementioned meeting and the DDA meeting. Carr spoke of the Planning Commission meeting held January 9th where the discussion of code being updated and modified to aid in the creation and promotion of the creative/cultural arts district. From the closed-door meeting, multiple artists pledged their support through letters of commitment as a means of possibly obtaining foundation funding to build the cultural arts district. Currently 4 businesses have donated their wall and roof space for creation of murals. Further Carr's organization R.A.F.T has reached out to community members to obtain a history of Inkster to ensure that the murals and other art work is reflective of the people and story of the community. The objective is to work collectively with the Inkster Creative networks as they are imperative to this process. R.A.F.T has also spent 2

days in January obtaining drone footage of the area of interest for the cultural arts district which they are creating mock ups of to give a prospective vision of what the completed area will look like. Phase 1 will be murals, Phase 2 will be moveable pliable art work and Phase 3 will be permanent changes to the area where events can be held.

**C. Update Inkster Summer Fest**

Summerfest committee stated that they have created a sponsorship letter and have begun applying for sponsorships for the July 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> festival. Mayor Pro-Tem Williams stated that this is a community sponsored event, that they have funding and are still receiving donations. Williams gave a breakdown of the format of the 2 day festival beginning Saturday and ending Sunday. In the past John Mason and Company emceed on Saturday with R & B and Jazz legends performing and Sunday's focus was Gospel. They are still looking for vendors of all types food and otherwise. The proposed budget is \$60,000. Next meeting is 5 pm February 24<sup>th</sup>.

**VIII. MISCELLANEOUS**

**A. Adoption of 2016 Attendance Report**

**MOVED** by Wade, Seconded by Cimeot to adopt the 2016 Attendance Report. **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

**B. Adoption of Annual Report**

**MOVED** by Abiolu, Seconded by Adams to adopt the Annual Report. **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

**C. Adoption of 2017 Annual Meeting Calendar**

**MOVED** by Abiolu, Seconded by Wade to adopt the 2017 Annual Meeting Calendar. **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

**D. Election of Officers**

Chairperson:

**MOVED** by Wade, Seconded by Cimeot for Akinyemi to serve as Chairperson. **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**

Vice Chairperson:

**MOVED** by Wade, Seconded by Cimeot for Abiolu to serve as Vice Chairperson. **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**

Treasurer:

**MOVED** by Abiolu, Seconded by Cimeot for Onomake to serve as Treasurer. **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**

Secretary:

**MOVED** by Adams for Theis (**declined**) to serve as Secretary. She declined the nomination. **MOVED** by Cimeot, Seconded by Onomake for Adams to serve as Secretary. **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**

**E. Other**

Akinyemi inquired about the Mayor's mention of façade grants for façade improvements during the State of the City Address. Fields noted that funding is not currently available but the city is in search of funding sources. Funding was previously provided by the DDA.

This spoke of the joint Town Hall Style Meeting between the Inkster Chamber of Commerce and City of Inkster scheduled on March 14<sup>th</sup> @ 6 pm.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT - 7:21 pm**

**MOVED** by Cimeot, Seconded by Wade to adjourn the DDA meeting held on February 21, 2017. **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

  
Akindele Akinyemi, Chairman

  
M. Jeannie Fields  
Director of Special Projects

  
Rerhi Onomake, Secretary