

**City of Inkster**  
**DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
**(DDA)**  
**NOTES**

A regular meeting of the Inkster Downtown Development Authority was held on **May 16, 2017**, in the Inkster City Council Chamber, located at 26215 Trowbridge, Inkster, MI 48141.

A quorum was not reached. Chairman Akinyemi called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM.

Present: Chairman Akinyemi, Vice Chairwoman Abiolu; Treasurer Onamake; Secretary Adams and Director Theis.

Absent: Directors Cimeot, Ndubuisi, Mitchell, Ogbonnaya and Wade.

Others in Attendance: Nate Ford, Economic Development Director

Public in Attendance: Branden Recker (Green Path); Bobbie Wallace (Inkster UP); Shirley Robinson (Inkster UP); Jason Dixon (All Pro CHSE Management); Tyrone Clemons (RAFT/NABA); Al Spencer (Family First Program); and Justin Ibe.

**Inkster UP**

Inkster UP members (Shirley Robinson and Bobbie Wallace) presented on the organization's mission and goals. Formed in the mid 2000's, Inkster UP is committed to the redevelopment, education and beautification of Inkster. The organization is currently in communication with WCCC-D to bring classes to Recreation Center in the areas of STEM and entrepreneurial and apprenticeship opportunities for licensed electricians. Inkster UP is also interested in partnering with Lawrence Tech for similar opportunities.

Chairman Akinyemi expressed interest in the DDA partnering with the organization as our goals are similar and he already has the connections with WCCC-D.

**Family First Initiative**

Jason Dixon (Family First Initiative) discussed the possibility of bringing new solar energy to Inkster and the history of the organization establishing solar projects in the city of Detroit. The organization has a contract with the state. The goal is to creatively train people to get projects completed. This ensures that people become marketable and skilled in livable wage jobs. Examples of skills include plumbing, carpentry, electrical and welding. Would involve getting businesses to partner and donate needed supplies for projects as well as training people to produce product. This would lead to the creation of jobs and also set the stage for requesting

money from the government through grants. The project would help everyone from millennials to senior citizens. Outcomes include better buying power, collaborations, immediate gratification.

Mr. Dixon would like to start the project in the next 60 days. The DDA would need letters of support. The suggestion was to start with building a solar farm.

Next steps- Draft will be developed with Mr. Ford and forwarded to the DDA. It was also suggested that dialogue be initiated with other municipalities for collaboration and partnerships.

### **Inkster Cultural Arts District Update**

Tyrone Clemons showed models for ideas in utilizing green space in the city and to bring more interest to the city from those who would not ordinarily come to Inkster. Models included converting the concrete area where the old police station is located and painting murals on buildings to give artistic flavor. The intention is to jumpstart interest in the area. Other suggestions include installing benches; having a dedicated space for a farmers market; installing stands for rotating art work, pop up shops and erecting a pavilion for music concerts and festivals. The goal is to partner developers with creative thinkers which would create revenue through music and the arts and give people a reason to visit and support downtown Inkster.

### **Michigan Main Street Update**

There is a Michigan Main Street training in Grand Haven, Michigan on Thursday 5/18/17. No one was available to attend but Vice Chairwoman Abiolu will attend the next one which will be held in Owosso in July, with anyone else who is able to attend.

### **New Business**

Director Theis would like the DDA to receive a balance sheet from the city of what the DDA owes and what we are currently being charged. Mr. Ford will look into this and have the information by the next DDA meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 6:59 PM.