

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY/MAIN STREET
CITY OF OTSEGO
OTSEGO CITY HALL
August 15, 2022
7:30 A.M.

A Regular Meeting of the Otsego Downtown Development Authority (D.D.A.)/Main Street Board was held Monday, August 15, 2022.

Chairman Bennett called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. with the following members present: Olivia Andrade, Marissa Andrus, Toby Esterline, Sarah Knash, Jason Smith and Stacey Withee. Absent: Sandy Foster. Also present: City Manager, Aaron Mitchell; Finance Director/Treasurer, Matt Storbeck; Main Street Manager, Kahler Sweeney; and Economic Development Director, Dave Rayman.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MINUTES

Member Withee moved to approve the Regular Minutes of July 11, 2022, seconded by Member Andrus. CARRIED

TREASURER'S REPORT

Member Withee moved to accept the July 2022, Treasurer's Report, seconded by Member Andrade. CARRIED.

TEAM LEADER UPDATES

No Team Updates.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Main Street Manager Sweeney stated that this would be his last meeting. He thanked the Board and commented that he is very proud of what has been accomplished. He reported on the following:

- Vibrancy Grant
- Art Thing Meeting
- Plain Art Painting Event

Chairman Bennett gave an update on the upcoming Gus Macker event. He commented that volunteers are still needed. He gave an overview of the weekend time-line. City Manager Mitchell commented that the Charity Game will need to be promoted. Member Andrade asked if there would be police officers on duty during the event. City Manager Mitchell stated that there will be a patrol officer and an officer at the event.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. FUTURE OF DDA

At this time, City Manager Mitchell congratulated Main Street Manager Sweeney on his new job and wished him good luck on his new endeavor. A discussion took place regarding where future events go and how will the funding be handled. City Manager Mitchell commented that funds can not be given to another entity that is not a legal 501C3.

He stated that there are three options:

1. Give to a 501C3
2. Give events to civic groups; or the events will go away.
3. Main Street events end.

He stated that at this time, the 501C3 option is not an option, as it is not formed yet. City Manager Mitchell stated that civic groups (such as the Chamber, Rotary, etc.) could take over some of the events, like the Rotary is taking over the Trail for Treaters. He commented that after this meeting there will be only two more events – the Art Thing and Hometown Christmas.

At this time, Main Street Manager Sweeney gave an update on the status of the 501C3, stating that the paperwork has been filed, but wasn't sure how long it would take.

A brief discussion took place regarding the maintenance needs in the DDA District, noting that there are more projects than available funding.

The Gus Macker event was discussed and who could possibly take the event over. Chairman Bennett commented that the OPS Foundation might be interested in taking over the event, but they have questions about liability issues.

Chairman Bennett commented that he would like to see the 501C3 take over the events and not rely on other entities to take them over.

Member Andrade asked if there is a delay in the 501C3 what happens to the Main Street funds, and where will the Gus Macker proceeds go. City Manager Mitchell stated that the funds can't be given to a 501C3 that is not legally formed. Member Andrade asked what if a group puts on an event and no money goes through the City. City Manager Mitchell stated that is fine, but the City's name and Main Street's name can't be used in conjunction with the event.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding the establishment of the 501C3. Chairman Bennett commented that a meeting should be set up with himself, Scott Reitenour, City Manager Mitchell, and Finance Director Storbeck.

Member Andrade asked about the Main Street Facebook and Instagram Page. City Manager Mitchell stated that these pages can't be transferred to the 501C3, as they are City owned pages. He commented that he will confer with the City's Attorney regarding options.

Main Street Manager Sweeney commented that he is a big proponent for the TOP 501C3, and that it is in the State's hands.

A discussion took place regarding the various scenarios of how former Main Street events would/could transition and take place.

ECONOMIC DIRECTOR REPORT

Economic Development Director Dave Rayman provided a written report.

MEMBER COMMENTS

City Manager Mitchell gave an update on the current road projects and how they will affect Gus Macker and the Creative Arts Festival. Chairman Bennett asked if the City is replacing lead water services. City Manager Mitchell indicated that the City has a plan and some have been replaced with more to be replaced each year. City Manager Mitchell also stated the Washington/Dix Street will be re-done next year.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Nick Breedveld, 1101 Barton – he commented that when he brought up the DDA and Main Street, he wasn't against it, but it needs to be done legally and properly. He stated that if you can't answer the questions, it's not a good thing.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Member Withee, seconded by Member Andrus.
8:13 a.m.

Angela M. Cronen, MMC
City Clerk