



**Downtown Development Authority  
Meeting of the DDA Board of Directors**

**July 22, 2025**

The July 22, 2025 meeting of the DDA Board of Directors was called to order at 8:31am in City Hall Council Chambers.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** DJ Boyd, Amy Bonser, Margene Buckhave, David Cole, Aaron Cozart, Mike Jaafar, Jim Long, Robert Miller, Shawn Riley

**Absent:** Mayor Brian Turnbull, Ryan McKindles

**Also Present:** George Lahanas / City Manager, Kate Knight / DDA Director, Stacy Pearson / DDA Assistant Director, Al Maciag / NCFD Police Chief, Barbara Moroski-Browne / Mayor Pro-Tem, Fred Sheill, Mary Keys, Mishelle Lussier, Cindi Brazen, Ed Brazen, Toni Genitti, Sue Grissim (GMA), CJ Thompson (GMA)

**AUDIENCE COMMENT** None

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA**

**Motion** by **Boyd**, **seconded** by **Long** to approve the agenda and consent agenda.  
**Motion carried** unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

Knight gave an overview of recent happenings in downtown in addition to an update on new and incoming businesses to the downtown district. Riley praised the DDA's work over the past week in being agile in response to streets reopening to vehicular traffic.

**GRISSIM METZ ANDRIESE ASSOCIATES (GMA) PROPOSAL FOR CONCEPTUAL DESIGN AND PLANNING FOR FUTURE DOWNTOWN PROJECTS**

Grissim and Thompson presented on the proposed conceptual design and planning for updates and renovations to Town Square, the clock tower, the connectivity area between Town Square and the north side of Main Street, the connection between Town Square south to Cady, and the three adjacent lots on Cady Street. Following the full presentation, Thompson led a discussion on a high level look at proposed budgetary costs for each portion of the project. Knight proposed that the next step be a deeper discussion with a full cost analysis. Boyd interjected a note on public restrooms; Knight committed to bringing staff research to date on the Throne program to the August board meeting. Board

discussion ensued for each portion of the project, with various ideas on how to proceed. Chair Riley called for a show of initial support for the scope presented, with a hand-raise vote on the board's "comfort level with the overall design". After a unanimous decision to move forward, the board as a whole identified the following action plan for the proposed Town Square project:

1. GMA authorized to provide proposal for bid solicitation for miscellaneous hardscape maintenance and repair, as well as implementing power washing and re-sanding of paver joints in town square and all additional miscellaneous updates as outlined by GMA.
2. GMA authorized to provide proposal for west perimeter wall proposed plans with pricing for Option A.
3. GMA authorized to provide proposal for raised tree beds with new capping proposed plans with pricing.
4. GMA authorized to provide proposal to develop further study on band shell, including performance platform in coordination with sounds and lighting design specifics and pricing.
5. GMA approved to provide proposal for construction documents for fountain redesign.
6. GMA approved to provide proposal for lighting as shown in precedent deck in presentation.
7. GMA approved to provide proposal for deeper dive into design and engineering, working with DDA staff and OHM, to understand costs and phasing opportunities for "table top" extension of Town Square through Main Street, including Clock Tower and "canoe".

Knight concluded that this, phase one, with GMA is complete. Board supports proceeding with next steps to solicit professional services for above items; all findings shall be reported back to the DDA by the August 26, 2025 board meeting.

**Motion by Cozart**, seconded by **Buckhave** to authorize Executive Director Kate Knight to move forward with development of furnishings package and basic maintenance as outlined in presentation, work with GMA to develop corresponding proposal for professional services toward fulfillment of reach the numbers and scope of this project. Motion carried **unanimously**.

## **COMMITTEE UPDATES**

**Design Committee** – Miller - None

**Marketing Committee** – Bonser - Small committee meeting last week met to discuss the overall promotion of downtown. The group will be moving forward with ideas to invest in our businesses downtown to include optional opportunities for marketing workshops for business owners and merchants, as well as presenting social media analytics to the board.

**Parking Committee** – Chief Maciag – none

**Organizational Committee** – Boyd – The Officer's Committee will be tasks with bringing budget recommendations to the board in September.

**Economic Development Committee** – Cole – none

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Long brought forward concerns regarding recent reports of local business owners boycotting fellow establishments. The board came to a swift consensus that the DDA does not condone any form of business boycotting within the downtown district.

Knight reported that a public statement was released by the City on July 21, 2025, outlining the City's legal position regarding the ongoing court case, affirming that both the City and the DDA remain within their legal rights to continue on-street dining operations.

Knight reiterated the DDA's commitment to maintaining a positive tone moving forward and emphasized the organization's responsibility to uphold the high standards expected in downtown Northville. Knight acknowledged that the recent expedited reopening of streets to vehicular traffic limited the DDA's ability to provide a cohesive and aesthetically pleasing kit of parts for outdoor dining, and noted that improvements are forthcoming.

Knight also noted that on-street dining has been part of the downtown experience for over a decade and that the Michigan Downtown Association has issued a statement regarding the longstanding best practice of outdoor dining in on-street public space as an important economic development tool. Knight concluded with concerns regarding recent efforts to halt outdoor dining mid-season, characterizing them as punitive in nature.

Jaafar expressed support for both outdoor dining and the re-opened streets, noting that while the current safety barricades may not be visually ideal, public safety remains a priority. Miller commended the board's proactive efforts in addressing future DDA initiatives and improvements to downtown infrastructure. General discussion followed regarding the current outdoor dining setup and street programming, with members reaffirming the DDA's commitment to fostering a vibrant and inclusive downtown district.

Knight posed the question to the board on whether or not it was desirable to repost the city's statement on the court case, to which the board concluded that it was enough to have it for public consumption on the city's socials and it was not necessary for it to be addressed on DDA platforms.

After a brief exchange and pause for clarification, it was unanimously agreed upon that the DDA would reopen the floor to public comment to which there was none.

## **BOARD AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

None

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion by Long, and seconded by Boyd to adjourn the DDA Board meeting.**

**Motion carried** unanimously. **Meeting adjourned at 10:43am**

Respectfully submitted,  
Stacy Pearson, Assistant DDA Director  
Northville DDA

**Parking Committee** – none

**Organizational Committee** – none

**Economic Development Committee** – none

**DDA FUTURE MEETINGS / IMPORTANT DATES**

DDA Board meeting, July 22, 2025, 8:30am, DDA Meeting Room A.

**BOARD AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion by Long, seconded by Boyd** to adjourn the DDA Board meeting.

**Motion carried** unanimously. **Meeting adjourned at** 10:33am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stacy Pearson, Assistant DDA Director  
Northville DDA

