



**CANTON TOWNSHIP
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Minutes of the
June 16, 2021 Meeting**

The meeting was held via videoconference due to Covid-19. It was called to order at 8:04 A.M. by Vice Chair Person, Mark Waldbauer

Present: Anne Marie Graham-Hudak, Dianne Cojei, Kurt Olson, Laura Giove, Mark Waldbauer, Richard Zuniga, Sandeep Narang, Seth Kleinglass, Steve Brock

Absent: Andy Hargreaves, Bart Patterson, Wedad Suleiman

Staff: Amy Hamilton, Kerri Romanko

Guest: Sean Bailey from LeClerc Display

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

MOTION: by Kurt Olson, supported by Anne Marie Graham-Hudak, to accept the agenda as presented.

AYES: All present

APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 21, 2021 MINUTES

MOTION: by Dianne Cojei, supported by Laura Giove, to approve the April 21, 2021 meeting minutes.

AYES: All present

CITIZENS' NON-AGENDA ITEMS

NONE

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Mark Waldbauer asked Amy Hamilton to clarify that the \$4500 OHM invoice was for engineering work. Amy said yes, it was for the Brookline, Elmhurst and Marlowe project. Mark then asked about the \$2500 OHM invoice. Amy explained that it was for the art easement that we've been going back-and-forth with MDOT on. She went on to say that after eighteen months of submitting items they've requested, they finally denied it. She said Auto Zone, at the corner of Canton Center and Ford Rd, is currently being looked into as an option.

MOTION: by Anne Marie Graham-Hudak, supported by Dianne Cojei, to accept payment of bills.

AYES: All present

NEW BOARD MEMBER WELCOME!

Mark Waldbauer introduced himself to the board. Then, each board member did the same, giving a brief description of their background and affiliation with Canton Township.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF PURCHASE ORDER TO LECLERC DISPLAY FOR 2021 HOLIDAY DÉCOR

Amy Hamilton explained that we used to own all of our holiday décor. Over the years it endured a lot of wear-and-tear and replacement was very expensive. LeClerc Display offers a leasing option to municipalities. They maintain and store all of the decorations as well as install and remove them each holiday season. The option of leasing holiday decorations frees up storage for us and gives us the freedom to make changes to the style each year if we want to.

At the April DDA meeting, the board decided to hold off on approval until someone from LeClerc Display could come in to discuss more options and provide more information.

Amy Hamilton described the two original proposals:

1. Twenty-four 6' foot light up starbursts at the main intersections and 3' foot bursts at eighty-one different poles throughout the district.
2. Fifty-two 6' foot starbursts and fifty-three 3' foot bursts alternating throughout the district.

Sean Bailey from LeClerc said they've been decorating downtown Canton since 2016. He showed examples of the two proposals and talked about the option of introducing a new item. He showed pictures of a light-up snowflake and snow burst and said we could still use red garland on the poles as before. Amy Hamilton reminded the group that we chose red garland instead of green because the poles are green making matching garland unnoticeable. Amy mentioned that since a snowflake represents winter they could even stay up a little longer than the holiday season. Sean said they could be installed in November and be removed in February instead of January as we usually do, if the board decided to do so.

Mark Waldbauer asked Sean Bailey how visible the snowflake burst is in the daytime. Sean said they are constructed of a wire frame so they will be less noticeable during the day but the red garland wrapped pole will stand out. He said the snowflakes are more of a light-up night decoration. Sean explained that garland can be put on the fixture itself but the advantage of not having garland on that part gives a much more defined look at night and provides a better visual. Sean said although the snowflake is usually made up of white lights, you could have the option of other colors. He suggested to keep in mind that red garland may clash with the color of the snowflake if you chose something other than white.

The board ultimately decided to do 6' foot snow bursts (red & white bulbs) at the main intersections and 3' foot forked-snowflakes and 3' foot spiral-snowflakes (all white bulbs) alternating between the poles between intersections.

MOTION: by Kurt Olson, supported by Dianne Cojei, to approve a PO to LeClerc for Holiday Décor.

AYES: All present

DDA COORDINATORS REPORT

- **Spring Plantings** – Frank's installed the corner wall plantings this week and we are already getting a lot of positive feedback! Sad news, we lost our irrigation contractor, Jimmy from Programming the Rain. Like most businesses, Jimmy was having a lot of staffing issues and could no longer serve as our irrigation specialist. Frank's has subcontracted Wilcox Brothers out for Troy. They've worked with this company in the past and have had a lot of success.
- **Brookline, Elmhurst, Marlowe** – A preconstruction meeting for the paving of these three streets was held on June 4. Construction is anticipated to start after the July 4 holiday. Kerri and I are working on a mailing to all residents and businesses who will be impacted by the construction. OHM will also be going door-to-door to notify residents of the construction. AI's Asphalt anticipates this project to be completed in six weeks.

Mark Waldbauer asked about the status of rewriting of our contract to make it standardized. Amy Hamilton said it has been completed, Kristen Kolb made the necessary revisions and all parties have re-signed.

- **Canton Continues Digital Flip Book** – New Moon completed the digital coupon booklet last week and it looks great! There's a link to the booklet on Shopcanton.org, the front page of Canton's website and we've pushed it out to all township social media pages. There will also be an article in the July FOCUS.

If you haven't already, please share on your personal pages so we can make sure everyone sees it! Here's the link: https://issuu.com/shopcanton/docs/cantoncontinues2021_5-25b

- **Ford Boulevard Subcommittee Update** - The committee has met twice and narrowed down a lot of the options MDOT sent us concerning the aesthetics of the pending Ford Road boulevard. Two areas of concern are lighting and landscaping. In order to make a more informed decision

on these two areas, I've asked OHM to get me a cost estimate on a light study and a concept design for landscaping. I will explain more about this at the June 16 meeting.

Mark Waldbauer brought up tying the old lights in with the new. He would like consistency between the old areas and the area of the new boulevard. Amy Hamilton said the plan is to replace all of the light poles, making them uniform, LED and on the correct source of electricity.

Anne Marie Graham-Hudak brought up the idea of implementing SMART lighting for the new light poles using broadband. She said local businesses would be able to utilize this, therefore creating additional revenue.

Mark Waldbauer brought up the elimination of the decorative walls. Amy Hamilton said the walls will need to be removed to make room for the boulevard and this would be an opportunity to make the DDA district more walkable.

- **DDA Shredding Event** – We are moving forward with the scheduled shred event on August 21 from 8-10am in the parking lot of Superbowl. Please let me know if you are available to volunteer.
- **New Business Update** – Good news! Gardner White will be moving into the Loves/Art Van building. A Certificate of Compliance has been issued for the following businesses:
 - o **Qahwah House Canton** – 42051 Ford Road (organic coffee shop)
 - o **L'esprit Academy** – 42053 Ford Road (beauty school)
 - o **Kneaded Balance** – 44968 Ford Road (therapeutic message)

ADDITIONAL CITIZENS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

NONE

ADJOURN

MOTION: by Kurt Olson, supported by Dianne Cojei, to adjourn.

MEETING CALLED TO ADJOURN at 9:12 A.M.