

**DOWNRIVER COMMUNITY CONFERENCE**  
**REGULAR MEETING – October 6, 2016**

**Item #3**

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Present:

Allen Park	Mayor Bill Matakas
Brownstown Twp.	Temp. Alternate – Trustee Brian Peters
Dearborn	Alternate Bill Irving, Asst. Corporation Council
Dearborn Heights	Mayor Dan Paletko
Ecorse	Mayor Lamar Tidwell
Flat Rock	Mayor Jonathan Dropiewski
Gibraltar	Mayor James Gorris
Grosse Ile Twp.	
Huron Twp.	Supervisor David Glaab
Lincoln Park	Mayor Tom Karnes
Melvindale	Mayor Pro-Tem Wheeler Marsee
River Rouge	Mayor Michael Bowdler
Riverview	
Rockwood	Mayor Dan Guzzi
Romulus	Delegate Tim Keyes, Ec. Dev. Director
Southgate	Mayor Joseph Kuspa
Taylor	Mayor Rick Sollars
Trenton	Alternate Jim Wagner, City Administrator
Woodhaven	Councilman Dan Duderstadt
Wyandotte	

The meeting was opened by the Chair, Mayor Dan Guzzi 6:15 p.m. with introductions of any newcomers.

Agenda: Motion by Supervisor Glaab, supported by Alternate Jim Wagner, to accept the agenda as presented, adding resolution supporting the EDA grant application. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes: Motion by Mayor Tidwell, supported by Supervisor Glaab, to accept the minutes of the regular board meeting of 9/8/2016 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Presentation:

Tax Payers for Michigan Constitutional Government (TMCG): Steve Duchane, from the City of Eastpointe, gave details about the forming of TMCG. TMCG is a group of with 20 municipalities who believe the State is not appropriately funding local government. He distributed information for the board to review, that included the Headlee Amendment passed by Michigan voters that requires the State of Michigan to pay a minimum of 48.97% of monies raised through State taxes to local governments. TMCG filed a lawsuit against the State of Michigan. Discussion followed regarding fees involved to join this effort, and the cuts at the local level. TMCG's website is [www.michcongov.org](http://www.michcongov.org). Mayor Kuspa thanked Steve Duchane for coming, expressing the importance of getting the information out there. He added that the City of Southgate is supporting.

Executive-Finance Committee Report:

Minutes of 9/27/2016: Motion by Supervisor Glaab, supported by Mayor Matakas, to accept the minutes of the Executive-Finance Committee held 9/27/16 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Fiscal Policies: Motion by Supervisor Glaab, supported by Mayor Paletko, to accept the Fiscal Policies as presented. Discussion followed related to the need to number the pages, background checks for contractors, conflict of interest reviewed by legal counsel; room rental rates. The motion passed unanimously.

The Senior Alliance Board Appointments: Jim Perry thanked the members who serve, as it is not always easy to find volunteers willing and able to give their time and energy. Motion by Supervisor Glaab, supported by Mayor Sollars, to accept the re-appointments to the TSA Board: Mayor Kyle Stack and Jack Frucci, each for a 3-year term ending 10/1/2016. The motion passed unanimously.

DCC's Application to the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Agency (EDA), for an Economic Recovery Strategies Proposal: Paula Boase reported. The DCC is submitting an application to the Economic Development Administration for a FY 2016 Economic Development Assistance Program using funds available through the POWER + Initiative. The application is being submitted on behalf of the communities of River Rouge, Ecorse, Trenton, Wyandotte, and Riverview, the communities in the region that will experience negative economic impacts as a result of the closure of the DTE coal fired power plants in Trenton and River Rouge. These impacts are in addition to the declining manufacturing economy that the region has experienced over the previous five years. DCC is applying for \$100,000 in assistance to carry out a project titled 'Assessing and Creating a new Economic Development Strategy for the Downriver Region in Detroit - Responding to Power Plant Closures and Industrial Decline'. DTE Energy is providing \$100,000 in funding to match this request for a total budget project of \$200,000. Motion by Mayor Bowdler, supported by Alternate Wagner, authorize DCC to apply for the EDA grant as presented, with Sue Pilon, Chief Operating Officer-Administration, the authorized representative of the DCC to submit the application, and James S. Perry, Executive Director, the authorized representative of the DCC to sign all grant agreements. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

CDBG. As a follow-up from discussions at the DMA board meeting, motion by Mayor Joseph Kuspa, supported by Mayor Dropiewski, to ask DCC to seek an active role in competing for CDBG funds directly to help the smaller member communities. Discussion followed of DCC board members attending the October 20<sup>th</sup> Wayne County Commission Meeting of the Whole to address concerns related to proposed changes in the CDBG Program. Commissioner Ray Basham encouraged board members to attend the meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> to voice questions/concerns. He also encouraged DCC and the Conference of Western Wayne communities to work together to make a bigger united impact. Alternate Wagner referenced a meeting hosted in Allen Park last week between the communities, and he believes they arrived at an agreement to resolve the concerns related to proposed changes in the CDBG to be presented at the October 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Information:

Two articles from the News-Herald were included in the packet for information: Jim Perry referenced the two news articles in the packet for board review, related to veterans: 1) Changing Lives: Veterans service office located inside DCC has helped more than 3,500 clients since 2014, and Small Business Development Center opens veteran only office in Southgate.

Remarks from the Audience:

Commissioner Ray Basham: The wooden remnants of a centuries-old military road known as Hull's Trace Road is a piece of Michigan's history that dates back over 200 years from its pre-statehood days and factored in one of America's earliest wars. But state law prevents the Michigan Department of Transportation from adding the entire road, including the section built with the wooden logs built to supply American forces in the War of 1812, to a program aligned with the award-winning Pure Michigan marketing campaign. Mr. Basham asked the board for a resolution of support to the Wayne County Commission to have the road designated as part of the State's Pure Michigan Byways program. He emphasized the importance of our legislators promoting our state's tourism.

State Representative Bill LaVoy commended Commission Basham for explanation and efforts to promote the historic designation of Hull's Trace road – stating this is a great tourism driver! He expressed his support in working with the DCC member communities. He is trying to build a Wayne County Caucus to have a more cohesive voice for this area.

Eric Sabree, Wayne County Treasurer Provided updates on Ray Wojtowicz's health; distributed fliers about option to pay taxes on a kiosk at payment centers; and said fliers are being distributed to homes with information about avoiding foreclosure.

Fast Track: Mayor Mike Bowdler announced that the Michigan Supreme Court is coming to River Rouge on October 19<sup>th</sup>, where 22 communities and 23 school districts are participating. They visit two cities per year and River Rouge is pleased to host this year, and invited the DCC member communities to attend. Please contact his office if you want to attend the special luncheon.

40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration: Jim Perry said the DCC will be celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary next year, and DMA celebrates 50 years. We are planning a special dinner to celebrate on April 6<sup>th</sup> at Crystal Gardens (date was later moved to March 30<sup>th</sup> due to scheduling conflicts). More details to follow

Motion by Supervisor Glaab, supported by Mayor Tidwell, to adjourn at 6.58 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.