DOWNRIVER COMMUNITY CONFERENCE REGULAR MEETING – February 4, 2021

Present:

Allen Park

Mayor Gail McLeod & Mark Kibby, City Admin.

Brownstown Twp. Supervisor Andy Linko

Dearborn Bill Irving, Assistant Corporate Counsel

Dearborn Heights Mayor Bill Bazzi
Ecorse Mayor Lamar Tidwell
Flat Rock Mayor Mark Hammond
Gibraltar Mayor Jim Gorris

Grosse Ile Twp. Supervisor James C. Budny Huron Twp. Supervisor David Glaab Lincoln Park Mayor Tom Karnes

Melvindale River Rouge

Riverview Councilman Chuck Norton

Rockwood Mayor Dan Guzzi

Romulus Merrie Druyor, TIFA/DDA Director Southgate Dustin Lent, City Administrator

Taylor Mayor Rick Sollars
Trenton Mayor Steven Rzeppa
Woodhaven Councilwoman Jan Sikes
Wyandotte Mayor Pro-Tem Rob DeSana

The Chair, Supervisor David Glaab, opened the meeting at 6:24 p.m. (Via virtual Zoom).

Agenda: Motion by Alternate Lent, supported by Councilwoman Sikes, to accept the agenda as presented, with New Business item (Brownfield resolution). The motion passed unanimously.

<u>Minutes</u>: Motion by Mayor Guzzi, supported by Councilwoman Sikes, to accept the minutes of the regular board meeting of 12/3/2020 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

<u>Wayne County Treasurer Eric Sabree</u> spoke on foreclosure prevention. He said tax collections are going well and he is pleased that residents are paying their taxes. He emphasized his hope that no one lose their home/business to foreclosure. Some of these folks qualify under 'Substantial Financial Hardship.' He asked that communities to have those folks submit paperwork to the Wayne County Treasurer's Office. He clarified how auction procedures are handled and provided details of the process if someone loses their property. Jim Perry thanked Treasurer Sabree for his support with helping veterans to keep their homes.

Executive-Finance Committee Report:

<u>Minutes</u>: Motion by Councilwoman Sikes, supported by Supervisor Budny, to accept the Executive-Finance Committee minutes of 1/13/2021 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

<u>Fiscal Policies</u>: Motion by Supervisor Linko, supported by Mayor Karnes, to accept the Fiscal Policies as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

<u>Election of Officers</u>: Chair Glaab reported that nominations were presented at the December board meeting. Motion by Supervisor Budny, supported by Councilwoman Sikes to elect the following slate of officers for another term as presented:

Chairman: Supervisor David Glaab, Huron Township

Vice Chairman: Mayor Lamar Tidwell, Ecorse

Treasurer: Supervisor Andy Linko, Brownstown Township

Secretary: Mayor Dan Guzzi, Rockwood

New Business:

Brownfield Resolution: The USEPA has awarded funding to the DCC again to assess and clean up abandoned or under-utilized sites, acknowledging EPA's commitment to assist communities to revitalize such property and restore economic vitality to the areas where they exist without sacrificing protectiveness. The DCC has been awarded Brownfield Assessment and Revolving Loan Fund grants by the EPA to continue the Brownfield redevelopment of designated sites in the Downriver/Monroe/Washtenaw areas; create employment opportunities and administer assessment grant funds and revolving loan funds within the Downriver Area Brownfield Consortium (DABC) communities. These grants will require the continuation of an advisory board, established in 1996, comprised of representatives from the Cities of Allen Park, Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Ecorse, Flat Rock, Gibraltar, Lincoln Park, Melvindale, River Rouge, Riverview, Rockwood, Romulus, Southgate, Taylor, Trenton, Woodhaven, and Wyandotte; Brownstown Township, Grosse Ile Township, and Huron Township; along with the communities of Monroe and Tecumseh, and community-based organizations of Port of Monroe and Washtenaw County Brownfield Redevelopment Program. The Brownfield Advisory Board acts as the grant administrators for the DCC. Motion by Mayor Guzzi, supported by Mayor Pro-Tem DeSana, to re-approve the membership of the DABC to administer the Brownfield Revolving Loan Fund and Assessment grants by the EPA, and be authorized to sign loan documents/sub-grants, meeting all terms and conditions set by the EPA, while following the policies and procedures of the Downriver Community Conference. The motion passed unanimously.

Informational Items:

1) Reminder - The CWW-DCC Meet & Greet Mixer is scheduled for February 12, 2021 (via Zoom).

Remarks from the Audience:

1) Ron Hinrichs of the Southern Wayne County Regional Chamber thanked Wayne County Treasurer Eric Sabree for speaking today about foreclosure prevention. The Chamber recently had a productive call with Mr. Sabree as well. The Chamber is coordinating efforts to open economic activity. He thanked Jim Perry who has been a great support to the chamber in these efforts.

Chair Glaab thanked everyone for being on the call/meeting today and thanked Ron Goff for IT support and Zoom operations for this meeting.

Motion by Supervisor Budny, supported by Councilwoman Sikes, to adjourn at 6:46 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.