DOWNRIVER COMMUNITY CONFERENCE REGULAR MEETING – May 5, 2022

Present⁻

Allen Park

Brownstown Twp. Brian Peters, Township Manager

Dearborn

Dearborn Heights Commissioner Joseph E Thomas, Jr.

Ecorse

Flat Rock
Gibraltar Mayor Scott Denison
Grosse Ile Twp Trustee Carl Bloetscher, III
Huron Twp. Supervisor David Glaab
Lincoln Park Mayor Tom Karnes

Melvindale River Rouge

Riverview Mayor Andy Swift Rockwood Mayor Dan Guzzı

Romulus Merrie Druyor, TIFA/DDA Director

Southgate

Taylor Dan Bzura, Chief of Staff

Trenton Woodhaven

Wyandotte Mayor Rob DeSana

The meeting was opened by the Chair, Supervisor David Glaab, at 6:09 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call and introductions.

Agenda: Motion by Mayor Guzzi, supported by Mayor DeSana, to accept the agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes: Motion by Mayor Guzzi, supported by Mayor DeSana, to accept the minutes of the regular board meeting of 3/3/22 as presented The motion passed unanimously.

Executive-Finance Committee Report:

<u>Executive-Finance Minutes of 3/23/22 & 4/21/22</u>. Motion by Mayor Guzzi, supported by Alternate Brian Peters, to approve the Executive-Finance minutes of 3/23/22 & 4/21/22 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

FY 2021/2022 DCC Audit Presentation Kristin Hunt reported, Partner with Plante Moran Kristin gave an overview of the graphs referenced in the board packet giving the DCC audit highlights, which was presented to the Executive-Finance Committee as well. The audit received an "unmodified opinion;" the highest possible audit opinion. The General Fund had a \$53,368 net decrease in fund balance, bringing the fund balance to \$14,356; adding that \$9,801 of the fund balance is assigned for use in 2022. She recommended that a long-range budget plan should be used to develop a strategy to break even or add to the fund balance before it is exhausted The Workforce Development Fund, Transportation Fund, Weatherization Fund, and Mental Health First Aid fund had fund deficits at year-end, due to GASB 33 timing difference. The Building Fund had an increase in net position of \$21,317 - net position is now at \$428,014, with an unrestricted net position of \$155,967. The rent charged to grants was more than the actual costs incurred. The expenses for the building fund include depreciation of \$40,152. Kristin gave an overview of the graph reflecting Building & Grounds Fund - Net Position for years 2012-2021. She gave an overview of the Central/General Fund balance from 2017-2021, noting to exercise extra caution this next year on this account as it is the only discretionary funds available – now at \$14,356. She gave an overview of trends in grant revenue from 2014-2021. DCC had \$6.6 million in Federal expenditures in 2020/2021 which are reflected on the SEFA: \$3.3 million is passed through SEMCA, \$2.3 million is passed through DESC; and \$1 million is from other sources (EPA Brownfield; Weatherization).

Audit (continued).

The federal compliance audit had one internal control finding related to rent. Rent charged during fiscal year 2021 exceeded the actual costs for the year in the building fund. Kristin noted it may have resulted from the difficulty of trying to cover large building maintenance repairs (i.e., imminent roofing repairs needed) and inability to get contractors during certain times. It did not rise above the questioned threshold costs, so this is just an internal control finding. All programs are charged are allocated a portion of the rent were impacted. There was a financial statement finding related to journal entries that were required during the audit. All resulted in an unmodified opinion for all programs, which is the highest possible audit opinion. Kristin thanked everyone involved in the audit process.

Motion by Mayor Guzzi, supported by Mayor Karnes, to approve the audit as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

<u>SEMCA's Workforce Development Board Appointment:</u> Chair Glaab reported there is one vacancy on SEMCA's Workforce Development Board. Motion by Mayor Guzzi, supported by Alternate Bzura, to appoint <u>Christina Pizzo</u> of Henry Ford Health System to fill the vacancy, along with her alternate, <u>Astacia Hahn</u>, from the business sector to SEMCA's Workforce Development Board for the remainder of Beth VanSteenkiste's term, through 6-30-23. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

<u>Welcome new Board Alternates</u>: Chair Glaab welcomed Chief of Staff Dan Bura of Taylor and Commissioner Joseph E. Thomas, Jr. of Dearborn Heights.

<u>GLWA-Highland Park Update</u>: Chair Glaab read the resolution that CWW communities approved as well as DCC communities of Taylor, Rockwood, Dearborn Heights, and Huron Township; with Riverview now considering. He asked that if any communities pass the resolution, to let Cari Johnson know. He referenced an article in the paper about the Grosse Pointe communities voting to not pay. Legal Counsel Kurt Kobiljak said the issue won't be resolved quickly; Highland Park has multiple issues.

New grant opportunities: Jim Perry reported that DCC is applying for a couple new grants. Lisa Wayne reported that we currently have nine grants pending. Staff will be meeting with the DPS Directors' group to help refer individuals to communities. She said that training funding of \$200,000 would help communities with the referral process for CDL-A training and police training. Jim added that \$.5 million would be for police for cameras and other items.

Grade Separation funding Jim Wagner, Brownfield Board Chair, reported that a letter was sent to Senator Stamas regarding \$130 million for grade separation efforts. We are hopeful funding will come Downriver.

EDA has more funds available to focus on the Downriver riverfront communities from River Rouge to Trenton, related to coal plants. \$2.2 million for Economic Development. A meeting is scheduled the week of May 16th with Great Lakes & St. Lawrence Initiative regarding possible funds available.

Remarks from the Audience

- 1) Robert Pawlowski: Emphasized that it's an election year and SMART services will be on the ballot, he wants to educate everyone about the importance of this millage. He thanked everyone for the opportunity to speak.
- 2) <u>Michael Griffey</u> introduced himself; he is running for the 13th Congressional District. He provided background about himself including he is a former high school teacher and principle in Taylor. He thanked everyone for the opportunity to speak.
- 3) <u>Walter Epps</u> is running for Sheriff Don Skidmore and Jim Nardone were present representing Mr Epps who was unable to attend this DCC meeting, but he will be attending the meeting in September.
- 4) <u>Dennis Davidson with the Wayne County Treasurer's Office</u> provided an update that home foreclosures from non-payment of 2019 taxes and utility bills, has been extended until 2023. Flyers were available for board members, which provided additional detail about how to apply for the Michigan Homeowners Assistance Fund (MI-HAF) to call either 211 or visit the website at www.mihaf.michigan.gov.

Motion by Mayor Guzzi, supported by Alternate Peters, to adjourn at 6:33 pm. The motion passed unanimously