

**DOWNRIVER COMMUNITY CONFERENCE  
REGULAR MEETING – September 5, 2024**

**Item #3 (P.1 of 3)**

Present:

Allen Park	Mayor Gail McLeod
Brownstown Twp.	Supervisor Edward Smith
Dearborn	
Dearborn Heights	Mayor Bill Bazzi
Ecorse	
Flat Rock	Mayor Steven Beller
Gibraltar	Mayor Garrett Shumate
Grosse Ile Twp.	Supervisor Jim Budny
Huron Twp.	Supervisor David A. Glaab
Lincoln Park	
Melvindale	
River Rouge	Alternate Karl Laub, Community Development Director
Riverview	Mayor Andy Swift
Rockwood	Mayor Troy Cox
Romulus	Kevin Krause, Director of Community Safety & Development
Southgate	
Taylor	Mayor Tim Woolley
Trenton	
Woodhaven	Councilwoman Jan Sikes
Wyandotte	Mayor Rob DeSana

The meeting was opened by the Board Chairman, Supervisor David A. Glaab, at 7:14 p.m., followed by roll call and introductions.

Agenda: Motion by Mayor Woolley, supported by Supervisor Smith, to accept the agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes of 5/9/2024: Motion by Mayor Bazzi, supported by Supervisor Budny, to accept the minutes of the regular board meeting of 5/9/2024 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive-Finance Committee Report: Chair Glaab reported

- 1) Executive-Finance minutes of 6/24/24: Motion by Mayor Swift, supported by Supervisor Budny, to approve the E-F minutes of 6/24/24 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.
- 2) FY2022-23 Audit Presentation: Kristin Hunt, Senior Partner and Jake Talerek, Senior Manager of Plante Moran, presented the audit. Kristin emphasized that DCC is able to offer programs for all the member communities as they, as individual communities, are unable to due to specialized grants. Kristin and Jake gave details about the audit and explained the audit delay due to more extensive research required for material weaknesses discovered during the audit. An audit graph was distributed to the Board for reference.

Jake then walked the Board through the DCC audit highlights. The audit received an “unmodified opinion;” the highest possible audit opinion. The General Fund had a \$265,074 net increase in fund balance, bringing the fund balance to \$275,809. The Workforce Development Fund and Transportation Fund had fund deficits at year-end, due to GASB 33 timing difference. The Building Fund had an increase in net position of \$313,384 – net position is now at \$619,528, with an unrestricted net position of \$508,905. The expenses for the building fund include depreciation of \$30,213. Operating loss on the building in 2023 was (\$130,171), the first installment from the sale of the building is what caused the increase in net position.

Kristin and Jake gave an overview of trends in grant revenue from 2014-2023. DCC had \$9.7 million in Federal expenditures in 2022/2023: \$4.8 million is passed through the Department of Labor; \$1.3 million through Program Income Expenses for environmental protection; \$1.2 million for U.S. Department of Health and Human Service programs; and \$900,000 from other sources. All resulted in an unmodified opinion for all programs, which is the highest possible audit opinion.

Jake reported that the federal compliance audit had two financial statement findings related to journal entries and employee benefits that were required during the audit.

- 1) One was for material journal entries identified to record a new Brownfield Revolving Fund loan that was issued in the current year as well as adjusting other financing sources, inter-funds, and a liability for line of credit activity that occurred during the year in the fund-based statement.
- 2) The other was DCC was paying for insurance benefits for individuals no longer working at DCC. This was discovered during the audit. An auditor proposed adjustment of \$176,800 was necessary to reduce prepaid assets and write off these uncoverable expenses which are not eligible for grant reimbursement. Since the situation was not identified until March 2024, additional unrecoverable expenses will be incurred for the year ending September 30, 2024. Kristin Hunt gave further details about the discovery of the large fund balance in insurance. She said the only unrestricted funds to cover this are from the sale of the DCC building.

Motion by Mayor Bazzi, supported by Mayor McLeod, to accept the audit as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session Minutes of 6/24/2024: Motion by Supervisor Smith, supported by Councilwoman Sikes, to accept the Executive Session minutes of 6/24/2024 as presented. The motion passed unanimously. Jim Perry explained the purpose of the Executive Session was to talk about our new building and dispatch center. He said it was due to the efforts of the great DCC staff. He thanked the staff for their support, and he said special thanks to Senator Camilleri and his office for all their support with appropriating funds for the new building. He thanked the DCC Board of Directors for allowing DCC to assist their communities with all our programs and services.

Shining Light Award: Jim Perry said he nominated Jazmine Danci, DCC's Economic Development Administrator for the Detroit Free Press and Metropolitan Affairs Coalition (MAC) Shining Light Regional Cooperation Awards, where Jazmine was selected to receive the Dave Bing Young Leader Award. A special event is scheduled for October 15<sup>th</sup> to present the award. All applauded Jazmine for this prestigious award.

Level 6 Management staff: Cari Johnson noted that the By-laws requires the approval of management level 6 staff (and above) promotions and new hires to be approved by the full board. Tara Willoughby is replacing Dan Kempe, who recently retired, as the Weatherization Manager; and Aaron Young (new hire), as the Program Manager of the new WayneLINC Program. Motion by Mayor Bazzi, supported by Supervisor Budny, to approve the promotion of Tara Willoughby to Weatherization Manager, and Aaron Young to Program Manager. The motion passed unanimously. All congratulated Tara (who was present), and welcomed Aaron Young; all applauded.

The Senior Alliance Board Re-Appointment: Motion by Mayor McLeod, supported by Mayor Woolley, to approve the re-appointment of Adam Sterling of Dearborn to TSA Board of Directors for a three-year term, 10/1/2024 to 9/30/2027. The motion passed unanimously.

Oppose the Polluter Pay legislation: John D'Addona, DCC's Brownfield Program Manager, explained the polluter pay legislation is misleading and the 'polluter pay' statute holds responsible parties liable for cleanups of brownfield contaminated sites. The proposed legislation will undermine regulatory certainty and economic opportunities for underutilized and contaminated properties in Michigan. It will return Michigan to a time where the State cannot compete with other states for new industry and jobs on historical brownfield and underutilized sites. The risk for developers and lenders will be too great and developers will almost always choose a greenfield site over a brownfield site. The result will be that brownfield sites will remain vacant with highly reduced tax income and potential for new jobs on former industrial and commercial properties. He asked board members to talk to their elected officials to oppose the new legislation. Discussion followed. Ron Hinrichs said the Chamber is heavily involved in this opposition, stating this legislation would devastate the Downriver area. Mayor Tim Woolley said re-development is very important to this area and we want to continue growth. Motion by Mayor McLeod, supported by Mayor Swift, that the DCC Board of Directors joins the Brownfield Board in opposing the Polluter Pay legislation as detailed in the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

Remarks:

- 1) Cal Kirchen with Congresswoman Dingell's office thanked all the elected officials for their support at the recent public meeting about nuclear waste.
- 2) Debra Bloomfield of Wyandotte said she attended the Chamber's forum featuring Michigan Legislative candidates. She suggested that DCC consider hosting a similar public forum. Ron Hinrichs, Chamber President & CEO, recommended that she reach out to the League of Women Voters, that they would be better suited to arrange this type of event.
- 3) Mayor Bill Bazzi commended Jazmine Danci for her interview on Channel 4 News related to the Ecorse Creek clean-up efforts in Dearborn Heights, and other downriver communities. Discussion followed about the Ecorse Creek efforts. Jazmine said the Ecorse Creek clean-up is a priority project and thanked the Board for the momentum occurring in these efforts.
- 4) Carol Zuniga, CEO of Hegira Health, announced that Hegira Health had just received notification from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) of full certification as a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic which included an invitation to join the state of Michigan CCBCH Demonstration Project. This recognition, and inclusion in the project, brings with it substantial additional funds to support behavioral health services for uninsured and underinsured persons in our Downriver and Western Wayne service areas.

The next DCC Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup> (moved from the 3<sup>rd</sup>), 2024, at 6:00pm.

Adjournment: Motion by Mayor McLeod, supported by Mayor Bazzi, to adjourn at 7:50 pm. The motion passed unanimously