

## **DDA MINUTES**

### **Regular Meeting**

**October 21, 2013**

**7:00pm**

### **Tuscarora Township Hall**

**Call to order by Chairman Dan Nivelt at 7:03 pm**

**Roll call:**

**Present:** Mike Saker, Cindy Poquette, Dan Nivelt, Diana Mallory, Brett Lindgren, Mike Ridley, Jim O'Donnell, Scott Lange.

**Absent:** Matt Whitener.

**Guests:** Many in attendance.

**Approval of the Agenda:** Two additions have been made to the agenda for this evening's meeting by Chairman Dan Nivelt, and Mike Ridley.

1. Cass Casuchi has curb cut concerns at the entrance of his property.
2. A letter from Kathy Swanson, to all DDA Board Members, requesting answers to a list of questions pertaining to the Streetscape design. (A copy of the letter is attached in this email).

A **motion** was made by Cindy Poquette to approve tonight's agenda with the additions and was supported by Brett Lindgren.

**Approval/Amended Minutes & Financial report:**

**Financials for August 2013:**

Checking account 9/30/2013 ending balance is	<b>\$6,781.39</b>
IMMA savings account 9/30/2013 ending balance is	<b>\$346,914.38</b>
Total D.D.A. available funds equal	<b>\$353,695.77</b>

The **September, 2013 Meeting Minutes** were approved; Diana Mallory made the **motion** and Brett Lindgren supported the motion. **September, 2013 Financials** were also approved; **Motion** made by Mike Saker and supported by Cindy Poquette.

**Update on the Pathway Project:** Cindy reports that the project is going well. There have been a few snags, but those have been taken care of. Owner of the IR Motel had some concerns: A tree had to be

removed and a siezemagraph was done to measure the earth movement to determine how far the pilings will have to be set by MDOT. A piece of culvert was unearthed on the North side and they are also doing some research on why that was discovered. Eight Engineers and Cindy met with the owner of IR Motel to warn him of the noise that will be evident once they begin the pounding of the equipment to construct the bridge. Mike Saker brought up the concern of the lack of lighting in the area of the pathway between Subway and ILHS. We can contact Consumers to see if addition lighting is a possibility. Mike Ridley would like the name of the on-site manager, Cindy advised when she goes to visit her Mother she will get his name.

**Updates on the Streetscape Project:** Cass Casuchi voiced his concern regarding the lack of curb cuts in front of his property at the old car wash location next to the lighting store. 225 feet will be reduced to 15 feet of accessibility to his business property. He is in the process of reconstruction/remodeling of the building. Chairman, Dan Nivelt, will take his requests to the engineers to determine a course of action to meet his needs for parking and accessibility. Cass will be contacted by mail or phone in regards to a possible solution to his concerns.

Focus from this matter veered to the public bringing up the parking issues in town along with complaints of the back in/head out angle parking design. At this point, the public became argumentative and the Chairman had to pound on the table to quiet the forum and get back on track to the subject of the subject at hand. Cindy advised that this was the safest option and maximizes the number of parking spaces to be added and research supports this determination. Cindy also advised that if you went to a small community, she herself, would not drive its backstreets looking for a parking spot, she would, like any other visitor look for a parking spot on main-street. Mike Saker advised because of the current parking issues our town has, it has been difficult to impossible to bring more businesses to Indian River. The example of the prospective Pizza Place North of Pat and Gary's made his point valid. The question of a millage was brought up yet again regarding funding this project. The DDA does not plan to seek for a millage to assist with the payment for this project. Giles Litchner was unable to attend tonight's meeting. He advised that his estimate will be to the Chairman tomorrow, and will be presented at the next meeting if they are received.

Kathy Swanson requests that the letter be addressed in a reasonable time frame to allow the DDA to meet with the appropriate experts to answer the questions thoroughly and correctly. Dan Nivelt advised that there will be a special meeting scheduled (TBA) with the board members as well as the engineers needed to complete this task. Kathy continued to discuss her opinions for all to hear. All opinions will be addressed, but ultimately the safest design plan will prevail. This will not make EVERYONE happy, but we are committed to this project for Indian River's FUTURE regarding safety and maximizing parking which are the ultimate goals. Cindy thought it may be a good idea if the board members that received this letter attempt to answer them to the best of their knowledge and possibly set up a meeting to answer those questions that we DON'T know the answers to. Many DDA members said that they would not have the expertise or knowledge to do so correctly. A copy of the letter will be sent to those engineers in question for them to review and answer the questions in Kathy's letter. A motion was made by the Chairman to set a meeting date once these steps have been completed to review and answer Kathy's questions proposed in her letter.

**New Business:** None

**Public Comment:** A question was asked of the board: "How do you feel about the project as it is proposed now?" Dan advised as long as it goes in and it meets specifications for odors and everything

else that has to go in, he doesn't have a problem with it, but also advised he does not speak for the members of the DDA Board. Mike Saker asked this same attendee if she has walked through town lately and she advised "absolutely, I walked through just the other day" and he asked if she smelled any odors and she stated "nope" and he said you are wrong then you didn't walk through town. She accused Mike of calling her a liar, and he replied I DID NOT call you a liar, I just said you were wrong! At this point the Chair had to take control of the meeting. Diana Mallory advised that she is torn and would not give an answer either way to the public. Mike Ridley reviewed options for saving money for this project in detail. Grinder pumps and gravity options were discussed. Dan Nivelte advised that he feels everyone is aware that the proposal has changed, but will not put the board on the spot to make them share their opinion for or against at this point. Paula asked Dan personally if he owned a restaurant if he would have concerns about grinder pumps going in close to that restaurant and he advised yes he would have concerns about odors. If the grinder pump goes in where it is proposed she is very concerned about her business. She continued to discuss her concerns and what she would do to try to avoid this from happening. Another brought up concerns about Indian River's future and not caring about the business owners "now", instead we are too concerned about the future. Dan advised that he would not be on the DDA if he wasn't here to help and stated he took offense to her comment about not caring about the "now". The DDA board is still in support because there was not a motion made to determine otherwise. Sally brought up Bay Harbor's issues, of stores and businesses closing because of their current status. The board is willing to work with issues that need attention pertaining to the business owners needs when it comes to the streetscape project. Another question was asked about the pathway project near Subway, being so steep. Cindy advised that it will be done this way to save 2 parking spots for that business. They are limited and losing those parking spots was avoided.

**Motion to adjourn:** Mike Saker **motioned** to adjourn at 8:01 p.m. and Scott Lange seconded the motion.

**Next meeting:** November 2013-Date TBA