

City of Hamtramck Downtown Development Authority Board Of Directors Meeting - Minutes

Wednesday, January 18, 2023 • 6:05 PM
Conference Room (3rd Floor, City Hall) • Hamtramck City Hall, 3401 Evaline St.

Mission Statement: The City of Hamtramck's Downtown Development Authority supports people, projects, and partnerships that further the economic growth and stability of a thriving Hamtramck.

Decision

Task/Commitment

Event

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** 6:13 PM
2. **Roll call (TBD):** (In Attendance) / (Absent)
 - o Mayor Ghalib / Ahmad Al-Hasan / Milo Madole / Andrew Kopietz / Shamiran Golani / Joan Bittner / Anwar Hassan / Karen Majewski / Andrew Dow
3. **Pledge of allegiance to the flag:** Completed
4. **Public comment** (3 minutes per person limited to DDA issues); N/A
 - o **Tim Price:** We should promote the DDA meeting more with monthly FB posts. It'll engage our community better.
 - o **Lynn Blasey:** Monthly "ComuniTEA" event, sponsored by APIVote and Balkan House. Meets at Oloman Café first Saturday of each month, 11-1pm. Objective is for people to gather and get to know each other
5. **Approval of agenda:**
 - o 1) Ahmad A proposes adding "social media" to the agenda
 - o **Karen M motions** to add "social media" to the agenda
 - o **Anwar H seconds**
 - o Motion passes unanimously
6. **Approval of minutes**
 - o December 14, 2022
 - o **Karen M motions** to approve minutes
 - o **Anwar H seconds**
 - o **Motion passes unanimously**

SECTION I: AGENDA ITEMS – For Discussion/Action/Information

- **Discuss options for 2023 Schedule & Vote to adopt a Schedule for 2023** – Options include *third Wednesday of the month at 6pm* & *third Thursday of the Month at 6pm*
 - o Ahmad: Karolynn and Andy both having hard time meeting on Wed. Thurs is better.
 - o Ghalib: I can do that
 - o Shamiran: Thursday is harder for me. I can make maybe 50 to 60% of those.
 - o Ahmad: Maybe try Thursdays just for next two months?
 - o Karen: Joan and Andy live in Hamtramck so they should be able to make it.
 - o Andy D: Thursday is the worst night for me. It's very hard given that I have only 2 employees right now

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- Reuben: If the meetings aren't moved Andy K can't make it and then you'll have to fill the secretary position too.
- Andy D: It's not ideal but I can try. Andy K is more important
- Shamiran: Yeah, Andy is more important.
- Ahmad: Do folks want to do Thursday just for the next 3 months or for the whole year?
- Andy D: We can move it back to Wed later in the year if we want to. It's easy.
- Karen: open meetings act only requires 48 hour notice.
- Ghalib: Does changing it to 7pm make it easier so we can keep it on Wed?
- General agreement that a late meeting would be harder for people
- **Shamiran G motions to move meetings to third Thursdays of the month at 6:05pm**
- **Andy D seconds**
- **Motion passes unanimously**
- **Elect Officers**
 - Karen: I'd like to nominate Ahmad to be chair again. I think you've done a really good job.
 - Ahmad: I'm willing to do it again
 - Andy D: I'll do vice Chair
 - Milo as treasurer
 - Andy K as secretary
 - **Karen M motions for slate vote of Ahmad as chair, Andy D as vice-chair, Milo as treasurer and Andy K as secretary.**
 - **Anwar H seconds**
 - **Motion passes unanimously.**
- **Arab American Women's Business Council** — Presentation by Reda Taleb
 - Reda Taleb canceled earlier in the day due to illness
 - **Tim Price: We'll do a social media campaign with her**
- **Discuss Merchant Meeting**
 - Ahmad, Tim, Milo met and walked Downtown and noticed lots of challenges.
 - i. Remas would be too hard on the business because it'd necessitate closures
 - ii. Bringing tables to X would be too difficult
 - iii. Woodward Throwback has too many valuables to have that many people
 - iv. Polish American Historical Museum would probably be the best
 - Shamiran: do they have the tables and capacity for 75?
 - Ahmad: Yes
 - Anwar: Remas could do 75
 - Ahmad: the problem is we'd need all those people in at once so it'll definitely shut down your restaurant for a bit
 - Ahmad: do we need a budget?
 - Andy D: I think we passed a budget last meeting, right?
 - **Consensus builds around Polish American Historical museum**
 - Ahmad: we voted for between \$1000-\$1500 with the **organization committee** making the final decision. They'll hold a meeting and make a decision.
 - **Andy D: I'll call the journalist again to bring him to the merchant meeting. Will do after we confirm the date.**
 - No motions
- **Discuss Social Media (Added agenda item)**

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- **Karen M motions** to **compensate Tim Price \$150/month or \$1800/year paid quarterly for social media work.**
- **Shamiran G seconds**
- **Motion passes unanimously**
- Tim returns and Ahmad expresses a lot of appreciation for all the work Tim does. Says they hope to pay more as the budget grows because Tim is more than worth it.
- **Open discussion (Merchant Meeting and Social Media Campaign)**
 - Tim: social media campaign with 30 second introductions to businesses in the DDA is going very well. We're going to do three at a time. Joan and Ahmad have already done theirs. Andy K is coming up with graphics for annual reports. The annual report will have QR codes and be very interactive.
 - Shamiran: the other thing is we're trying to come up with is a new name for the Merchant Meeting
 - Tim: we also created a LinkedIn because that's an important demographic to tap into. And later expand into TikTok
 - Ahmad: John asked me what I wanted the videos to do, and I said I wanted everyone to know who the board of the DDA is. I introduced the DDA, Mayor will welcome new businesses, Joan will talk about our diversity.
 - **Ahmad: I'll bring up the merchant meeting name change with Andy K**
 - Shamiran: with merchant meeting I'm hoping to have businesses to get to know their neighbors and find out what the issues are so we can be more proactive about addressing them. Don't want the merchant meeting to be just getting to know various nonprofits.
 - i. Another thing is that a friend of mine is an Emergency Manager for the State of Michigan and I thought about having her come to promote calling and lists in case of emergency
 - ii. **Shamiran G will invite the friend to come to the merchant meeting**
 - iii. **Get to Know Your Neighbor as a topic for the Merchant meeting. This will be something for Karolynn to add to the merchant meeting agenda.**
 - iv. Shamiran: This is key for small businesses too. We want to thank our merchants and let them know how important they are to our community.
 - v. Ahmad: I think Main Streets takes us to that. It elevates our businesses. That's how we're giving back to our businesses by doing Main Streets.
 - vi. Ahmad: I'd keep the name Merchant Meeting and just have meeting people be a part of it.

SECTION II: OTHER ITEMS

1. Public comment & introduction of the public (3 minutes per person limited to DDA issues)

- **Lynn: Stephanie Chang and Abraham Aiyash are hosting an open house Friday the 20th at 2:30pm at Dose of Sugar**
- Lynn: they're both looking for offices here in Hamtramck
- Andy D: I found a large commercial spot but it might be too big for them
- Ahmad: They need a small budget friendly place. They're willing to share.
- **Lynn: I might now someone who's willing to share. I'll mention it to them at the event on Friday**
- **Tim: Roundtable on Movement Festival at Planet Ant on 3rd Thursday of the month 6pm.** Will change now that this will be the DDA meeting time. The roundtable will explore how

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Hamtramck businesses can take advantage of Movement since it's coming up.

2. Chairman's Report (2 minutes)

- Ahmad: thanks for trusting me with another year.

3. Member's Report (5 minutes)

- Karen: Paczki Day is coming up. It's Feb 21st. The run is the 18th. John Grossi is going to contact all of you to be sponsors. Depending on the level you pay in at you'll at least get your name on the t-shirt.
- Tim: Do you know if Tour Detroit gives any of the money they make off hosting the run back to the city?
- Andy D: they actually end up giving it back to the DDA. Or at least they have in the past
- Ahmad: do we want to sponsor so that we keep that coming?
- Shamiran: The businesses in the DDA are actually giving up a lot with this run. Everyone shuts down. It would be good from the DDA to be there to talk. They'll probably appreciate more speakers too.
- Ahmad: Do we want to sponsor the run as a board?
- Shamiran: no we're all sponsoring separately. No need for the DDA to do so also
- Andy D: When it's over I think the money has come back to the DDA for bicycles lanes or transportation:
- Ahmad: I think it was like \$10k my first year.
- **Tim: I'll be sure to promote it on social media.**

4. Staff Announcements

- None

5. ADJOURNMENT

- Shamiran G motions to adjourn.
- Andy D seconds
- Passes unanimously
- Adjourn 7:08pm

PLEASE NOTE: This notice is posted in compliance with PA 267 of 1976 as amended (Open Meetings Act), MCLA 41.71 a (2)(3), and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The city of Hamtramck will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting to individuals with disabilities at the Meeting or Public Hearing upon 10 days notice to the City Clerk's Office. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Hamtramck City Clerk by writing or calling the Clerk's Office at (313) 870-0343.