

**Village of Pentwater - Downtown Development Authority**  
**Meeting Held at Pentwater Park Place – 310 N. Rush Street**  
**DDA Meeting Minutes – October 13, 2021**

**Call to Order:** Schumaker called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**Attendance Roll Call:** Arvai, Dunn, Graettinger, Haack, Henley, Hodges, Prescott, Ressel-Hodan, Schumaker. **Absent:** MacDonald, McVicker.

**Also present:** Village Manager Chris Brown, Village Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Siok.

**Approval of Agenda as Amended; adding one item to Committee Reports:**

**f. Christmas in the Village, add one item to Unfinished Business: c. Sculpture Walk Agreement and one item to New Business: DDA Survey for Business and Property Owners regarding Marijuana Dispensaries in the C3 District.**

**Motion** by Ressel-Hodan; second by Haack to approve the agenda as amended.

Voice vote: All Ayes: 9; Opposed: 0. Absent: MacDonald, McVicker. Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes from September 1, 2021 as amended, changing the wording on page 3, last sentence under New Business c. originally: “Graettinger said that he proposed even it was legal that we not take a position as the Board.” He asked that it be changed to, “Graettinger said the proposal, even it was legal, we should not take a position as the Board.**

**Motion** by Arvai; second by Graettinger to approve the September 1, 2021 Minutes as changed. Voice vote: All Ayes: 9; Opposed: 0. Absent: MacDonald, McVicker. Motion carried.

**Public Comments:** None.

**Comments from the Chair:** Schumaker commented on a press release regarding Jack Witt, trees getting mulched and money received for Christmas in the Village.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**a. Financial Report:** Arvai shared Financial Reports and Check Disbursements.

**Motion** by Graettinger second by Dunn to approve check disbursements as submitted.

**Roll Call Vote:** Graettinger, yes; Dunn, yes; Arvai, yes; Haack, yes; Henley, yes; Hodges, yes; Prescott, yes; Ressel-Hodan, yes; Schumaker, yes. Absent: MacDonald, McVicker.

Motion carried.

**Motion** by Dunn; second by Graettinger to approve the Financial Reports as submitted.

Voice vote: All Ayes: 9; Opposed: 0. Absent: MacDonald, McVicker. Motion carried.

**b. Bike Share:** Ressel-Hodan spoke about lock issues and possible solutions. Discussion followed.

**c. Marketing/Advertising:** Prescott said he has received about 33 replies. Schumaker said that she has about 59 businesses on her list.

**d. Hancock Improvement:** Ressel-Hodan said mums were replaced. Hodges said that Jensen Farms donated the corn stalks.

**e. Pentwater Public Arts Project:** Schumaker reported the website for a call to artists is called: CAFE and that she met with the Pentwater Art Council getting the agreement signed. Discussion followed.

**f. Christmas in the Village:** Schumaker said the Marketing goal is \$3500 and have received \$2200 from responding businesses at this time. She said the bonfire events are planned at the top of the Village Green: December 4, 11, 18; 11 AM to 2 PM. She said the number one goal is to get shoppers in town. Discussion followed.

### **Unfinished Business**

**a. Sound System on the Village Green:** Hodges is working on contacts. Discussion followed.

**b. 2022 Truth in Taxation Hearing Discussion:** Schumaker said the DDA is keeping this on the agenda until we get through the process.

**c. Pentwater Sculpture Art Walk Agreement:** Schumaker said the agreement, PENTWATER PUBLIC ARTS 2022 EVENT, is effective, October 8, 2021, and was signed by the DDA Chair, herself, and Pentwater Art Council Chair, Janet Nelson.

### **New Business**

**a. DDA Survey for Business and Property Owners regarding Marijuana Dispensaries in the C3 District:** Schumaker proposed creating and sending a survey. She asked what questions would be helpful to know to share with Planning Commission and Council. Schumaker read the purpose as the DDA. Discussion followed.

**Motion** by Hodges, second by Dunn to create a survey asking members of the DDA C3 District whether they are in favor or opposed of having dispensaries in the Pentwater C3 District; this is for information gathering only. DDA has not made a position pro or against. **Roll Call Vote:** Hodges, yes; Dunn, yes; Arvai, yes; Graettinger, no; Haack, no; Henley, yes; Prescott, yes; Ressel-Hodan, yes; Schumaker, yes. Absent: MacDonald, McVicker. Ayes: 7; Opposed: 2. Absent: MacDonald, McVicker. Motion carried.

Schumaker asked to create the questions now. She started with, "As information gathering only, the DDA is not in favor or opposed..." Are you in favor, Yes or No.

Discussion followed. Graettinger suggested a disclaimer. Ressel-Hodan will create the survey and was asked to read the disclaimer and question; "You are in the DDA District. The survey is for informational purposes only. The DDA is not taking a formal position.

Question: Are you in favor or opposed to a dispensary in the DDA District?"

Discussion followed

**Motion** by Graettinger, second by Haack for the wording of survey as follows: "The survey is for informational purposes only. The DDA will not be taking a formal position. Question: Are you in favor or opposed to a dispensary in the DDA District?"

**Roll call Vote:** Graettinger, yes; Haack, yes; Arvai, yes; Dunn, yes; Henley, yes; Hodges, yes; Prescott, yes; Ressel-Hodan, yes; Schumaker, yes. Absent: MacDonald, McVicker. Motion carried.

**Board Comments:** Hodges commented on the Village Green not becoming a parking lot.

**Public Comments:** Chris Conroy, 560 S. Hancock Street, commented on: Chamber; working hard on events; marijuana dispensaries, newspaper article indicating the DDA did in fact support or endorse the program: also, on News 9&10, and DDA agenda and minutes online.

Schumaker in response said, "We did not." She read the article aloud and said, "We did not give input; that was reported wrong." Conroy asked if a retraction has been discussed. Ressel-Hodan said, "No, I asked the question, and the reporter refused." Discussion followed. Graettinger said, "This is serious, I move that we ask the paper for a retraction, we can't be represented like that." Haack added, "We demand a retraction."

Motion to demand Oceana Herald Journal make a retraction of the September 16, 2021 false statement, that the DDA has not taken any position and will not make a formal position regarding dispensaries in the Village by Graettinger, second by Haack. Discussion followed. Voice Vote: Ayes: 9. Opposed: 0. Absent: MacDonald, McVicker. Motion carried.

**Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 11:40 AM by Schumaker.

Next Regular DDA Meeting is scheduled December 8, 2021; 10:00 AM; at Park Place.

Respectfully submitted,

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Barbara Siok, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer

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Date