

**DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
VILLAGE OF KENT CITY
SPECIAL MEETING
Monday, May 18, 2009
8:00 p.m.
83 Spring Street, Kent City MI**

The meeting was called to order at 8:07 p.m. by Chair Kathy Ignasiak.

Members present: Sally Anderson, Andrew Bostwick, Kathy Ignasiak, and John Petruska.

Members absent: Dean Anderson, Jennifer Carlson, Linda Gary and Sharon Olson.

Others present: Mary Portell, Tom Pieper, Steve Buckner and Sandy Wylie.

It was announced that there was not a quorum so no official businesses could be conducted. The members present decided that there would be discussion.

Thank you to Andrew Bostwick for seeking the funding from under ARRA.

Kathy invited the council members to attend the meeting since she and other members had met with the communities of Newaygo, Sparta and Rockford, and since the streetscape was engineered several years ago, Kathy would like everyone's idea of what they think is important.

Blueprints for Michigan Downtowns are an important part of planning thru MSHDA. Elizabeth Gorski advised Kathy that she wished she would have done that first and then started on the streetscape. \$30,000 is the cost - Sparta paid \$15,000. This is a grant.

The Village Master Land Use Plan was updated July, 2005. Plans are required to be updated every 5 years.

Kathy would like to pursue the TEA grant application thru MDOT, and the Master Plan is an important component. This is a two year process.

Our Community Identity – What is it – it needs to be identified for our streetscape.

Farming community Bedroom community – take advantage of M37 & M46.

Could an engineering firm provide us with some of the same information as the Blueprint plan.

Communities have done things to set themselves up. An example: a park that would bring people here. We need to market our area.

Alpine is so close.

A reassuring factor is to have a “safe” community.

Andrew reported the main idea at the MDA Conference Meeting – getting people in the community united and believing.

Other cities have staff that recruit businesses.

Some people like Kent City just as a bedroom community and they would like to see something done with the downtown area now

Easement agreements need to be prepared by the attorney/engineer.

1. Need to hire an engineer
2. Have the plan drawn up
3. Revise it from the original
4. Have an Open House for the property owners to get their input and make sure that all of them are o.k. with the project.

Tom Pieper, Andrew Bostwick, and Kathy Ignasiak went to see Sparta’s old lights. They are anchored in the cement and not easily maintained. They are faded and would not have replacement parts.

Loan – the Village would be the sponsor, not the DDA. Total deposits - \$221,575.43.

Replace sidewalks and curbs, new streetlights and connect the new electrical to the businesses.

There were favorable comments with from those of us that have been in contact with Williams & Works - Small town feel.

- Kathy will contact Williams & Works so she can meet them.
- Move forward with the TEA Application.
- The next meeting will be Monday, June 1st before the council meets.

The discussion ended at 9:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Portell, Appointed Secretary
Downtown Development Authority