

**Northville DDA
Regular Board Meeting
July 28, 2026**

Called to order at 8:31am in Meeting Room A, City Hall, 215 W. Main, Northville, MI.

ROLL CALL

Present: Margene Buckhave, Mike Jafaar, Robert Miller, Shawn Riley, Brian Scherle, Jim Long, David Cole, Brian Turnbull

Absent: Ryan McKindles, DJ Boyd

Also Present: DDA staff Kate Knight, Stacy Pearson, City Manager George Lahanas.

Barbara Moroski-Browne, Fred Sheill

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Turnbull, **Seconded** by Scherle, to approve the agenda and consent agenda.

Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Knight updated on first floor use workshop. More than 30 stakeholders have participated thus far in consultant- facilitated stakeholder workshops to engage downtown property owners and businesses regarding the proposed first floor uses ordinance. Held in back-to-back discussion format events, on Wednesday evening and Thursday morning, planning consultant Giffels Webster will aggregate a report with the goal of providing feedback on the proposed ordinance to City Council. Ordinances are the City's purview and when the focus is downtown, it is a stronger and more effective result to partner with the DDA in engaging district stakeholders. Feedback was positive regarding the process, regardless of individual stakeholder perspective.

The DDA hosted a retail readiness workshop for downtown merchants with TechTown business strategists on July 27, at Genitti's. Led by small business strategists and retail specialists, TechTown comes to us through their Wayne County Small Business Initiative, and we are following DDA District program experiences with peer walkable downtowns, through their Main Street Tour. This is the DDA's first technical assistance partnership with TechTown.

Attendance is strong for downtown programming, measured in... trash. Two weeks ago, July 10-12, with beautiful weather, concerts, Concours Northville, and other wellness programming (including Pregnancy Bar hosting pre-natal yoga and Gazelle's Lemonade Run, partnering with Rebecca's for post-race ice cream), our staff pulled more than 180 bags of trash. Last week, unprecedented wildfire smoke conditions created a public safety hazard with air quality. We kept the bollards down, canceled all cultural programming downtown, and pulled 12 bags of trash.

DDA staff continues to field questions and conversation around properties new to the commercial real estate market. The first round of offers are in consideration stage for the former Comerica Bank properties on Main Street and Dunlap. This month, 101 E. Main was listed, as was 345 E. Cady.

The July 4 social media engagement for the parade had more than 55,000 views, a record post on shared platforms, and an effective reach on what is otherwise a quiet weekend for downtown.

Consideration to Approve Cady Connection TAP Grant Landscape Architectural Services

Motion by Scherle, **Seconded** by Buckhave, to authorize DDA Director to execute agreement with GMA for Landscape Architectural Services for the Cady Connection for a Not-to Exceed Fee of \$75,000.

Motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Design: Miller: Town Square Band Shell is next up.

Marketing: Scherle updated that the retail restaurant map / walking map is in development, hosting Tech Town Holiday seminar happened July 27.

Parking: Long: no update

Organization: Riley: One on one meetings with the Board have occurred; Cozart leaving board; position to be posted shortly.

EDC: Cole: – Updates on stakeholder workshop for first floor use, now data collection and info will be brought back to City Council for review.

BOARD AND STAFF UPDATES: Knight acknowledged the City's funding of stakeholder sessions- a benefit for downtown, great partnership with City. Working with Quagliata partner, to follow up with Giffels Webster. Lahanas walked through next steps, data collected from stakeholders and then brought to council as narrative from a survey so council can get an understanding of what to do moving forward with ordinance or not. Knight shared that overall attendees were appreciative of the listening process and involved in good discussion in small group facilitated sessions.

Knight is planning for board training and downtown "best practices" . Plan for a 90-minute meeting Sept 22. Cole and Riley held discussion on DDA board numbers and committees.

Robert Miller shared that he will not be at September meeting due to a pre-determined work meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Turnbull, **Seconded** by Long. **Motion carried** unanimously. **Meeting adjourned at 9:04am.**

Respectfully submitted,
Kate Knight
DDA Executive Director