



East Dearborn Downtown Development Authority

Joint DDA Board Meeting
March 18, 2026; 10:00 AM

Dearborn Administrative Center, Council Chambers
16901 Michigan Ave, Dearborn MI 48126

MEMBERS PRESENT: Director Kamal Turfeh, Director Siham Said, Director Zaineb Hussein, Director Steven Witkowski, Secretary Treasurer Jennifer Lorenz, Director Rana Saad, Mayor Abdullah Hammoud

MEMBERS ABSENT: Vice-Chair Jay Kruz, Director Mariam Jalloul

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT: CITY OF DEARBORN: Jordan Twardy (ED), Lara Rayshouny (ED), Rebecca Schultz (Legal), Amanda Sancen (ED), Courtney Skora (Finance), Mohammed Rezq (ED), Deena Berri (ED)

GUESTS: None

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Secretary Treasurer Jennifer Lorenz at 10:04 AM.

2. ROLL CALL

A role call for Board Members was conducted by Secretary Treasurer Jennifer Lorenz. A quorum was present.

3. APPROVAL OF EDDDA MINUTES

A motion to approve the East DDDA meeting minutes of February 18, 2026 was made by Director Steven Witkowski and was seconded by Director Zaineb Hussein. The motion passed unanimously. Minutes approved.

4. REVIEW AND FILING OF TREASURER'S REPORT

Courtney Skora reviewed the financial statement dated February 28, 2026.

5. EDDDA ACTION ITEMS

a) Resolution ED 26-03-01: Free Comic Book Day at Green Brain Comics Sponsorship Request The Board **approved** a sponsorship not to exceed \$1,000 from the Sponsorship Funding account to support Green Brain Comics' annual Free Comic Book Day, scheduled for May 2, 2026. Noting the EDDDA's decade-long history of supporting this event and its proven ability to draw attendees from across the metro area, the Board recognized the sponsorship as an effective



way to increase foot traffic and commerce in East Dearborn. As part of the agreement, the EDDDA will receive sponsor recognition, including logo placement on all printed and digital materials, as well as formal verbal acknowledgments during the event's opening and throughout the day. Director Kamal Turfeh made a motion to approve and was seconded by Director Zaineb Hussein. A voice vote passed unanimously. Motion approved.

6. JOINT ACTION ITEMS

- a) **Resolution ED 26-03-02: Renewal of agreement for capture of Library Millage:** The WDDDA Board approved a ten-year renewal of the Agreement for Capture of Library Millage, extending the Authority's ability to capture tax increment revenues generated by the library millage. The original agreement, established in 2017, is set to expire on June 12, 2027. Noting that the Library Commission already executed this renewal on February 19, 2026, the Board approved the renewal of the agreement which would commence on June 12, 2027, and formally authorized the Chairperson to execute and notarize the renewal agreement on behalf of the WDDDA. The motion was made by Director Zaineb Hussein and seconded by Director Kamal Turfeh. A voice vote passed unanimously. Motion approved.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a) **Phase 2 of DTE Light Posts Project Update:** Program Manager, Lara Rayshouny, gave an update on Phase 2 of the Michigan Avenue DTE Light Posts project, reporting that the purchase agreements with DTE Energy were finalized and payment was submitted. The project will replace the existing special-order posts with DTE stock "Arlen" posts while reusing the current LED fixtures. She noted that a preconstruction walk with DTE will be scheduled in the coming weeks before construction begins.
- b) **Banner Design:** Program Manager Lara Rayshouny provided an update on a structured rollout for the downtown seasonal banners, proposing a rotation of the following themes and seasons: Winter/Christmas, Spring, Summer, Fall, and Ramadan. To prevent hanging errors, the Board discussed transitioning from text-heavy, bilingual designs to simple, iconic imagery. Possible strategies include installing banners toward vehicular traffic on Michigan Avenue.
- c) **Oasis Kitchen Mural:** Program Manager Lara provided an update on the Oasis Kitchen mural, the first to be funded through the Dearborn Forward Grant Program.

8. DDDA ACTIVITY UPDATES

- a. **Business Liaison Updates & Data Reporting:** Program Manager Lara Rayshouny informed the board that there is currently no Business Liaison for East downtown. She assured the board that the team is covering the business liaison responsibilities in the interim and will update the board as next steps are determined.
- b. **Events Update:** The Special Events and Outreach Manager, Amanda Sancen, provided an update



on Dearborn's Night of Innovation and Bet On Dearborn Resource EXPO. She also reviewed the current Event Deck. She highlighted programming for the Downtown Dearborn Movies series, noting a new arrangement with the Splash & Snack Food Truck to provide popcorn for attendees. Additionally, she announced a \$2,500 sponsorship secured from DTE for the Trick or Treat event and briefly discussed participation in Placemaking Week 2026.

9. CITY UPDATES

None.

10. CALL TO BOARD

None.

11. CALL TO AUDIENCE

None.

12. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mayor Abdullah Hammoud and seconded by Director Kamal Turfeh. A voice vote was passed unanimously. Motion was approved and the meeting was adjourned.