



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: Mayor Abdullah Hammoud, Director Kamal Turfeh, Vice-Chair Jay Kruz, Director Zaineb Hussein, Secretary Treasurer Jennifer Lorenz, Director Rana Saad,

MEMBERS ABSENT: Director Siham Said, Director Steven Witkowski

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

GUESTS: None

1. PA57 PRESENTATION

Program Manager, Lara Rayshouny presented a summary of the projects and activities conducted throughout the year.

2. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Abdullah Hammoud at 10:17 AM.

3. ROLL CALL

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

4. APPROVAL OF EDDDA MINUTES

A motion to approve the East DDDA meeting minutes of May, 20 2026 was made by Director Kamal Turfeh and was seconded by Vice-Chair Jay Kruz. The motion passed unanimously. Minutes approved.

5. REVIEW AND FILING OF TREASURER'S REPORT

Courtney Skora reviewed the financial statement dated May 31, 2026.

6. EDDDA ACTION ITEMS

a) Resolution ED 26-06-01: Acceptance of the Watering Proposal of the Planter Beds: The EDDDA Board approved approved the 2026 seasonal planter bed watering proposal from Parrott



Landscaping for a total of \$17,700 from the Planting Materials Account. The approved cost is distributed across two fiscal years: \$6,000 allocated from the FY 2026 budget (covering 20 visits in May and June) and \$11,700 allocated from the FY 2027 budget (covering 39 visits from July through September). Under this agreement, Parrott Landscaping will provide hand-watering to the planter beds at a rate of \$300 per visit. Additionally, city staff in coordination with the Executive Committee are authorized to approve further weather-dependent watering visits at the identical \$300 per-visit rate if seasonal conditions require them. Director Kamal Turfeh made a motion to approve and was seconded by Vice-Chair Jay Kruz. A voice vote passed unanimously. Motion approved.

7. JOINT ACTION ITEMS

- a) **Resolution ED 26-06-02: Sanitation Study Project Award and Execution:** The EDDDA Board approved the authorization for Economic Development staff, based on the voting and recommendations of the RFP Evaluation Committee, to award a contract and execute a comprehensive Sanitation Study & Waste Management Strategy for an amount not to exceed \$125,000, funded from account 297-6100-911-34.90. This study aims to resolve critical dumpster overflow crises caused by the rapid growth of local food-and-beverage hubs, while establishing a unified sanitation policy and cost-sharing framework for both the West and East downtown corridors. Following a Request for Proposals (RFP) review by an evaluation committee consisting of Economic Development, DPW, and DDA board members. The motion was made by Director Kamal Turfeh and seconded by Mayor Abdullah Hammoud. A voice vote passed unanimously. Motion approved.
- b) **Resolution ED 26-06-03: FYE 2027 Budget Approval:** The EDDDA Board approved the formal adoption of the Fiscal Year Ending (FYE) 2027 operating budget as required by Public Act 57. This action re-affirms the three-year budget for FYE 2026-28 originally approved by the EDDDA Board in November 2024 and officially adopted by the Dearborn City Council on May 20, 2026. The motion was made by Director Kamal Turfeh and seconded by Secretary Treasurer Jennifer Lorenz. A voice vote passed unanimously. Motion approved.
- c) **Resolution ED 26-06-04: 2026–2027 Holiday Light Decoration Contract Approval:** The EDDDA board approved a contract with Light Up Columbus for district lighting design and installation services for an amount not to exceed \$70,000, funded from the "Holiday & Ramadan Lights" account. To maximize efficiency and generate cost savings, the contract implements a unified holiday lighting scheme serving both the Christmas and Ramadan seasons, which includes at least tripling the light density on streetscape trees. The agreement enforces strict quality assurance provisions, including a mandatory "prototype" wrapped tree for City approval, pre-approval of all pole mount color temperatures, and a contractual requirement to utilize a licensed electrician for GFI safety checks. The motion was made by Secretary Treasurer Jennifer Lorenz and seconded by Director Rana Saad. A voice vote passed unanimously. Motion approved.
- d) **Resolution ED 26-06-05: Authorizing Payment for MEDA Online Webinar:** The EDDDA board approved a \$30 payment from the FY 2026 Travel & Training account to fund staff attendance at an online webinar hosted by the Michigan Economic Development Association



(MEDA). The training focuses on Brownfield Redevelopment in Michigan, providing valuable professional insights to help staff better support the local business district. The motion was made by Director Kamal Turfeh and seconded by Secretary Treasurer Jennifer Lorenz. A voice vote passed unanimously. Motion approved.

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a) **Phase 2 of DTE Light Posts Project Update:** Economic Vitality Manager, Laura Aceves-Sanchez, gave an update on Phase 2 of the Michigan Avenue DTE Light Posts project.

9. DDDA ACTIVITY UPDATES

- a. **Events Update:** The Special Events and Outreach Manager, Amanda Sancen, provided an update on preparations for the outdoor Downtown Dearborn Movies series, confirming that coordination is moving forward smoothly for both the June event and the upcoming July dates. Additionally, she informed the board that strategic sessions for Dearborn Coffee Week have officially commenced, and she provided the board with a date change for the winter Ice Sculpture Walk to be held on January 4, 2027.

10. CITY UPDATES

Mayor Abdullah Hammoud highlighted several activities drawing major community turnout and media attention. The city-wide World Cup Watch Parties have drawn massive crowds. Additionally, the district continues to welcome retail growth, including a new international fragrance market storefront launching at Michigan Avenue and Military Street, and substantial foot traffic from the "Wall of Tears" memorial art exhibition currently on display at PEACE Park East.

11. CALL TO BOARD

None.

12. CALL TO AUDIENCE

None.

13. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mayor Abdullah Hammoud and seconded by Director Jennifer Lorenz at 11:29 AM. A voice vote was passed unanimously. Motion was approved and the meeting was adjourned.