



West Dearborn Downtown Development Authority

Joint DDA Board Meeting
June 17, 2026; 10:00 AM

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Tahrik Alcodray, Vice Chair Tom Clark, Secretary Treasurer Sam Abbas, Director Christopher Williams, Director Zaineb Hussein, Mayor Abdullah Hammoud, Director Lola Elzein

MEMBERS ABSENT: Director Karl Makky, Director Hussein Nasser

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 Chair Tahrik Alcodray at 10:15 AM.

3. ROLL CALL

A roll call was conducted by Secretary Treasurer Sam Abbas. A quorum was present.

4. NEW MEMBER WELCOME

Program Manager, Lara Rayshouny welcomed new member Lola Elzein to the WDDDA board.

5. APPROVAL OF WDDDA MINUTES

A motion to approve the West DDDA meeting minutes of May, 20 2026 was made by Chair Tahrik Alcodray and seconded by Director Zaineb Hussein. The motion passed unanimously. Minutes approved.

6. REVIEW AND FILING OF TREASURER'S REPORT

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



7. WDDDA ACTION ITEMS

- a. **Resolution WD 26-06-01: Sponsorship Request - The Pregnancy Bar:** The WDDDA Board approved a sponsorship amount of up to \$2,500 for The Pregnancy Bar to host a collaborative community event supporting new and expectant mothers on September 20, 2026. This funding aligns with the city's broader strategic infrastructure initiatives, which include installing "Expectant Mothers" parking spaces and a dedicated family restroom in Peace Park. Funded through the Sponsorship Funding account, the final amount remains contingent upon staff review of detailed event logistics and a cost breakdown . The motion was made by Secretary-Treasurer Sam Abbas and seconded by Chair Tahrik Alcodray. A voice vote passed unanimously. Motion approved.
- b. **Resolution WD 26-06-02: Watering of Plantings in West Downtown FY'27:** The WDDDA Board approved a total expenditure not to exceed **\$14,700** from the Fiscal Year 2027 Landscape & Maintenance account to fund Parrott Landscaping, LLC for plant establishment watering services throughout July and August. This watering service ensures the successful root development of newly installed streetscape beds, street trees, and parking lot shrubs across the district. City staff and the Executive Committee are also authorized to approve additional weather-dependent watering visits if summer seasonal conditions warrant. The motion was made by Chair Tahrik Alcodray and seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Sam Abbas . A voice vote passed unanimously. Motion approved.
- c. **Resolution WD 26-06-03: Old Mulch Removal and Regrading Services:** The WDDDA Board approved a proposal from Parrott Landscaping for the Garrison Street Mulch & Grading Remediation project for an amount **not to exceed \$2,900**, funded from the landscape maintenance account. This proposal addresses excessive mulch and soil buildup in landscape beds, which is causing material to spill onto sidewalks and parking surfaces, especially during rain. The scope of work involves removing excess material, re-grading approximately 4,596 square feet of bed surfaces to restore proper drainage, and correctively re-grading the bases of 13 sidewalk trees to protect their long-term root health. The motion was made by Chair Tahrik Alcodray and seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Sam Abbas . A voice vote passed unanimously. Motion approved.

8. JOINT ACTION ITEMS

- a. **Resolution WD 26-06-04: Sanitation Study Project Award and Execution :** The WDDDA 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 296-6100-911-34.90. 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 Chair Tahrik Alcodray and seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Sam Abbas . A voice vote passed unanimously. Motion approved.



- b. **Resolution WD 26-06-05: FYE 2027 Budget Approval:** The WDDDA 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 WDDDA Board in November 2024 and officially adopted by the Dearborn City Council on May 20, 2026. The motion was made by Secretary-Treasurer Sam Abbas and seconded by Chair Tahrik Alcodray. A voice vote passed unanimously. Motion approved
- c. **Resolution WD 26-06-06: 2026–2027 Holiday Light Decoration Contract Approval:** The WDDDA 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 Chair Tahrik Alcodray and seconded by Vice-Chair Tom Clark . A voice vote passed unanimously. Motion approved.
- d. **WD 26-06-07: Authorizing Payment for MEDA Online Webinar:** The WDDDA 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 Chair Tahrik Alcodray and seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Sam Abbas . A voice vote passed unanimously. Motion approved.

9. 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.

10. DDDA ACTIVITY UPDATES

- a. **Business Liaison Updates & Data Reporting:** Business Liaison, Deena Berri provided updates about new businesses gearing up to open this Summer. Shawarma Co and High Societe have their grand openings this June. G Grant is expected to open late this Summer, as well as Farooj Abo Al Abed. In addition, there is a short-term retail pop up at what was Global Technical Recruiters. Kilwins is also expected to open this year.



- b. **Events Update:** Special Events and Outreach Manager Amanda Sancen provided updates regarding recent and upcoming district programming. She presented a successful recap of the June 12th Dearborn Summer Market and outlined the plans for the next upcoming market scheduled for July 17, 2026. Additionally, she informed the board that strategic sessions for Dearborn Coffee Week have officially commenced.

11. 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.

12. CALL TO BOARD

Chair Tahrik Alcodray inquired about scheduling an upcoming block meeting focused on developing strategies and reviewing timelines for district alley activation projects in West Downtown.

13. CALL TO AUDIENCE

None.

14. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Chair Tahrik Alcodray and seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Sam Abbas at 11:28 AM. A voice vote was passed unanimously. Motion was approved and the meeting was adjourned.