EAST DEARBORN DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

DEARBORN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

CITY OF DEARBORN | ABDULLAH H. HAMMOUD, MAYOR

East Dearborn Downtown Development Authority

Joint DDA Board Meeting
October 21, 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, Director Rana Saad, Director Maria Willett, Director Siham Said

MEMBERS ABSENT: Director Steven Witkowski, Secretary Treasurer Jennifer Lorenz

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 Rezq (ED), Chelsea Jones (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 10:21 AM.

3. ROLL CALL

A role call for Board Members was conducted by Mayor Abdullah Hammoud. A quorum was present.

4. APPROVAL OF EDDDA MINUTES

A motion to approve the East DDDA meeting minutes of September 28, 2026 was made by Director Kamal Turfeh and was seconded by Director Maria Willett. The motion passed unanimously. Minutes approved.

5. REVIEW AND FILING OF TREASURER'S REPORT

Courtney Skora reviewed the financial statement dated September 30th, 2026.

6. EDDDA DISCUSSION ITEMS

a) **FY2028 Budget:** Economic Vitality Manager, Laura Aceves-Sanchez, discussed the proposed Fiscal Year 2028 (FY28) draft budgets for both the East, highlighting revenue

projections, administrative expenses, and key allocations across maintenance, events, and business incentive programs. This generated board discussion regarding potential revisions to the Dearborn Forward grant structure, marketing strategies, and infrastructure priorities. Laura concluded that a finalized FY28 budget would be brought for a formal vote at the next scheduled meeting.

7. DDDA ACTIVITY UPDATES

a. **Events Update:** The Special Events and Outreach Manager, Amanda Sancen, provided a recap of signature event programming, reporting strong attendance growth for the Dearborn Summer Market, and Movies in the Park, both of which remained within budget. She highlighted upcoming fall activities, positive feedback from Dearborn Coffee Week, and plans to shift wellness funding toward long-term pocket park activations. Looking ahead to winter programming, Amanda proposed transitioning future events like the Jingle Bell Bash from single-park setups into a district-wide model across parks, museum grounds, and library spaces to boost foot traffic for surrounding businesses.

8. CITY UPDATES

N/A

9. CALL TO BOARD

N/A

10. CALL TO AUDIENCE

None.

11. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mayor Abdullah Hammoud and seconded by Director Maria Willett at 11:23 AM. A voice vote was passed unanimously. Motion was approved and the meeting was adjourned.