

**MAIN STREET AREA BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT ZONE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MINUTES**

November 29, 2022, 8:00 AM
Zoom Meeting

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: ROGER AHN; JIM BEUCHE; JON CARLSON; JIM CURTIS; JEFF HARSHE; MIKE MARTIN; RICHARD MITCHELL; EDWARD SHAFFRAN; MIKE VAN PATTEN; MICHAEL WATTS
BOARD MEMBER ABSENT: TOM MURRAY; RON DANKERT
OTHERS PRESENT: ROB SPEARS

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Ed Shaffran called the meeting to order via Zoom, at 8:02 a.m. A quorum was present.
2. **Public comments:** There were no public comments.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** In Ms. Betsy Jackson's absence, minutes for the September 27, 2022 board meeting were not taken. No action taken.
4. **Financial Report:** Mr. Rob Spears reported the BIZ had \$308,345.04 in savings and \$5,594.32 in checking. Five parcels still owe the Summer assessment, totaling \$695.36. The Executive Committee had approved maintaining the Winter assessment, rather than skipping it this year; as a result, Rob sent the Winter assessment to the City Treasurer, amounting to \$144,940.21. MOTION to receive the September and October financial reports was made by Mr. Mike Martin. SECONDED by Mr. Michael Watts. CARRIED by unanimous vote.
5. **Old Business:**
 - a. Landscape Update – Mr. Shaffran reported that the BIZ needs to decide about expansion and location of the concrete planters. No action taken. Also, see item c. under New Business.
7. **New Business:**
 - a. Open board seat – With the resignation of Kathy Macdonald, the board has one seat open, as well as the position of board secretary. Kathy has been asked to check with the new owner of the property, to see if she might serve as their representative on the board. No action was taken.
 - b. Banking changes – Mr. Shaffran proposed switching BIZ banking, from Chase to Bank of Ann Arbor, in order to support local banking and more seamlessly move funds electronically to vendors. MOTION to approve the transfer of banking accounts from Chase to Bank of Ann Arbor was made by Mr. Shaffran. SECONDED by Mr. Mike Van Patten. Motion was CARRIED, with Mr. Martin, Mr. Jim Beuche, Mr. Dick Mitchell, and Mr. Roger Ahn abstaining.
 - c. Landscaping and Main Street Construction in 2023 – Discussion about how to improve the appearance of the BIZ district and help to manage the negative effects of the upcoming Main Street reconstruction included the following issues, questions, and ideas:
 - Should the BIZ consider offering to MSAA to take over responsibility for the tree planters on Main Street? Mr. Shaffran estimated that the cost for that could range from \$20,000-40,000/year. (Shaffran)
 - Who is responsible for trees that die and need to be replaced? Who maintains them? (Curtis) Mr. Shaffran answered that the City is responsible.
 - Main Street is looking pretty shoddy. Should the BIZ take advantage of the upcoming construction period to look at ways to update everything in a comprehensive way? (Beuche) Ms. Jackson added that this idea could be explored as part of the BIZ renewal, which needs to begin the planning stage in 2023.
 - What about working with the merchants and restaurateurs to advocate for business needs during the construction season? (Harshe)
 - Perhaps the BIZ should advocate for free parking in the BIZ district during Main Street reconstruction. (Carlson)
 - Should the BIZ create a subcommittee to focus on the issues and ideas that will help mitigate the negative effects of the construction period? (Carlson) Mr. Jon Carlson volunteered to sit on such a subcommittee.No action was taken.
8. **Adjournment:** MOTION to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Jim Curtis. SECONDED by Mr. Jeff Harshe. CARRIED by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Betsy Jackson, in the absence of a BIZ Secretary