

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

September 26, 2023, 8:00 AM

Zoom Meeting

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: ROGER AHN; JON CARLSON; JIM CURTIS; RON DANKERT; JEFF HARSHE; KATIE MAREK; RICHARD MITCHELL; TOM MURRAY; EDWARD SHAFFRAN; MIKE VAN PATTEN

BOARD MEMBER ABSENT: JIM BEUCHE; MICHAEL WATTS

OTHERS PRESENT: ROB SPEARS, BETSY JACKSON

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Ed Shaffran called the meeting to order via Zoom, at 8:01 a.m. A quorum was present.
2. **Public comments:** No public comments.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** MOTION to approve the minutes of July 25, 2023 was made by Mr. Roger Ahn. SECONDED by Mr. Jim Curtis. CARRIED by unanimous vote.
4. **Financial Report:** Mr. Rob Spears reported that, to date, the BIZ has \$192,559.95 in savings and \$2,017.66 in checking. MOTION to receive the financial reports for July and August was made by Mr. Mike Van Patten. SECONDED by Ms. Katie Marek. CARRIED by unanimous vote. Ms. Betsy Jackson asked the board to reconfirm the email vote of support for the amended budget for FY2023-2024, based on the board vote to forego the Summer assessment. MOTION to reconfirm was made by Ms. Marek. SECONDED by Mr. Jeff Harshe. CARRIED by unanimous vote.
5. **Old Business:**
 - a. Letter of support for Maura Thomson’s appointment as permanent CEO of A2DDA. MOTION to approve submission of letter of support to the Ann Arbor City Council was made by Mr. Shaffran. SECONDED by Mr. Tom Murray. CARRIED by vote of nine board members present, with one abstention.
 - b. MOU with A2Art Center for planter painting project. Ms. Jackson explained the elements of the MOU. A friendly amendment was made to prohibit political and religious speech and/or images from selected designs. MOTION to approve the MOU was made by Mr. Shaffran. SECONDED by Mr. Dick Mitchell. CARRIED by unanimous vote.
7. **Discussion Items:**
 - a. Increasing homelessness in BIZ Zone. The board discussed the increasing presence of homeless encampments in downtown and the negative effect on business, as well as the housing-vulnerable population. Ideas included reaching out to A2PD and City Council; advising property owners and tenants about current loitering and trespass laws and how to report infractions; and reaching out to find potential collaborations with the mental health and social service organizations. No further action was taken.
 - b. Decision items for BIZ renewal. Ms. Jackson reviewed the elements of the BIZ Zone Plan that need to be decided in order to move forward with the ten-year renewal process. Ideas and questions include:
 - Leave the elements of the current Zone Plan “as is,” and consider boundary and service changes sometime after the renewal is approved.
 - Look at ways to incorporate service(s) to address homeless issues within the current scope of service in the Zone Plan.No further action was taken.
 - c. Board membership and Executive Committee appointments. Ms. Jackson reported that the current complement of board members is less one member; Ms. Kathy Macdonald’s has not been refilled. Likewise, the Executive Committee is down two members – The Vice Chair (due to the resignation of Mr. Mike Martin) and the Secretary (due to Ms. Macdonald’s resignation). Ms. Jackson urged the board to put forward candidates for all three positions, as the organization goes into the BIZ renewal process. No action was taken.
8. **Adjournment:** MOTION to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Curtis. SECONDED by Ms. Marek. CARRIED by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Betsy Jackson, assistant to the BIZ board