

Informational Meeting

September 19, 2022



PA 57 of 2018

Informational Meetings

Downtown Development Authorities are required to hold informational meetings annually for the purpose of informing the public of the goals and direction of the authority, including projects to be undertaken in the coming year.



TIF and Development Plan

- The goals and direction of the Comstock Center DDA are defined by the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and Downtown Development Plan created in 2019.
- The full document is available on the Township website, as required by law.



Board of Directors - 2022

- Sandra Katje, Chair
- Jon Koets, Vice Chair
- Jeffrey Townsend Secretary/Treasurer
- Randy Thompson, Township Supervisor
- Roger Tuinier, County Commissioner
- Ryan Davis
- Steve Deisler
- Evan Kowalski
- Matt Norman
- Jackie Sokolowksi
- Mike Sokolowski



DDA Participation Events

- Steering Committee representative on the Economic Development & Marketing Strategy.
- National Night Out at Merrill Park with the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Department including a food truck, water and ice cream.
- Redevelopment Ready Community Certification Event.
- Movie Night at Merrill Park.



2022 Projects

- Began implementing the *Beautify Comstock Center* initiative toward a full downtown revitalization *plan*.
- Established four welcoming gateways to Comstock Center with signs and plantings.
- Contracted the placement and maintenance of 30 planters around Comstock Center and the gateways.



Projects (cont'd)

- Cut back the overgrowth on the four quadrants of River Street bridge over the Kalamazoo River.
- Seasonally change banners on poles in Comstock Center.
- Formalize duties and tasks of the DDA Board members and Director.



2023 Projects

- Along with Township Administration, work with MEDC on the marketing, funding, and designs for a priority redevelopment site in Comstock Center.
- Focus on implementing DDA elements of the Economic Development & Marketing Strategy.
- Engage further with the local business and property owners.



2023 Projects (cont'd)

- Continue efforts that implement the *Beautify Comstock Center* initiative.
- Place and maintain planters and maintain the gateways.
- Pursue grants and donations.
- Seasonally swap the banners.



Grants

- \$21,000 grant from the MEDC for the creation of an economic development marketing & branding strategy with the Township.
- For *Beautify Comstock Center* initiative:
 - \$10,000 from Irving S. Gilmore Foundation
 - \$10,000 from Consumers Energy Foundation
 - \$5,000 from Harold & Grace Upjohn Foundation



Donations

- \$29,000 planter donation from Landscape Forms for the *Beautify Comstock Center* initiative.
- Soil donations from Michigan Grower Products for the planters placed around Comstock Center.



Awards

- Received the 2021 Planning Excellence Award from the Michigan Association of Planning for the *Comstock Center Place Plan for Prosperity and Redevelopment.*



Meetings & Contact Information

- The Comstock Center DDA meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 5:30 p.m.
- Jodi Stefforia, Director
Comstock Center Downtown Development Authority
- Email: [jstefforia @comstockmi.gov](mailto:jstefforia@comstockmi.gov)
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Thank you!

