

**MEETING MINUTES
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (DDA)**

**Wednesday, March 8, 2006
7:30 AM – 9:00 AM
Fremont City Hall
Council Chambers**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 a.m.

Members Present:	Lon Vredeveld	DDA Chair
	Marianne Boerigter	Director, Newaygo County Council for the Arts
	Kim Deur	Downtown Business Owner
	Lorna Kosztowny	Downtown Property Owner
	James M. Rynberg	Fremont Mayor
	Ron Vleim	Executive Director, Fremont Area Chamber of Commerce
Members Absent:	Ryan McNally	Downtown Attorney
	Gerry Rich	Downtown Business/Property Owner
	Ric Zahrt	Fremont Business Owner
	Rob Zeldenrust	Main Street Business Operator
Others Present:	Dusty Bitson	Downtown Fremont Business Owner
	Rebecca Laing-Austin	Downtown Fremont Business Owner
Staff Present:	Richard Rought	Fremont Zoning Administrator
	Michele Ribant	Fremont Neighborhood & Economic Development Director
	Chris Yonker	Fremont City Manager
Presenter:	Bob Pinder	Director, Recycling for Newaygo County
Consultants Present:	Rick Stout	Fleis & Vandenbrink

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the minutes from the February 8, 2006 DDA meeting and the February 22, 2006 Parking and Public Art/ Signage Subcommittee meetings.

Presentation on Recycling

Bob Pinder outlined the recycling opportunities that are currently available in Fremont. He gave an overview of the services provided by the Recycling for Newaygo County Collection Center, CMS, and Fremont Metal & Paper. It was agreed that the downtown business community would have to be educated on the benefits of recycling; it is easy to do, and it is good for the environment.

Update of Research on Using Common Refuse Service Downtown

Michele Ribant reported that she contacted Allied Waste and found out that according to Allied, 90% of the downtown businesses use their service and many of them are under contract with Allied already. She indicated she is working with Allied to determine what the current and possible future volume of refuse is within the downtown commercial core so that we know how to design our refuse enclosures. She is also researching the possibility of contracting with one firm for refuse pick-up.

After some discussion, the DDA concluded that the refuse enclosures should be centrally located within each block and away from the rears of the buildings. The DDA also agreed that they wanted the refuse enclosures to be built of concrete and brick.

Discussion of Spring Clean-up

It was decided that the downtown spring clean-up would take place as follows:

Friday, May 12, 2006: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (Business community)

Saturday, May 13, 2006: 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. (Business community; high school kids will be recruited to assist in the clean-up.)

Presentation by Fleis & Vandenbrink

Rick Stout presented the DDA with pictures of various streetscape elements (benches, flower pots, fencing, etc.) grouped by style. He also had pictures that showed different styles of one element (e.g., flower pots) all in one picture. He asked the DDA to look at the styles/groupings and provide feedback as to which styles/groupings were appealing.

Recommendations by the Farmers Market Committee regarding the New Market Pavilion

A copy of the handout entitled, “Considerations for Establishing a Permanent Farmers Market Pavilion” dated January 26, 2006 was provided to each DDA member. Michele Ribant informed the DDA that the Fremont Farmers Market Committee made the recommendations.

After some discussion, Marianne Boerigter made a motion, Ron Vliem seconded the motion, and the motion carried to approve the recommendations as outlined in the handout entitled, “Consideration for Establishing a Permanent Farmers Market Pavilion” dated January 26, 2006 with an amendment that would allow the City of Fremont to assess a reasonable fee (e.g., 25.00) to users of the Market Pavilion.

Feedback on Meeting with Group of Downtown Property/Business Owners

Ron Vleim and Michele Ribant shared their views on how the first meeting with Downtown Property/Business owners went in terms of communicating how the DDA would like to enhance the aesthetics of the rears of downtown buildings and make them more pedestrian-friendly. Both said the meeting was valuable in that the business/property owners shared their views openly and were willing to cooperate.

Next Meeting

The next DDA meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 22, 2006 in the Council Chambers of the Fremont City Hall from 7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:21 a.m.