

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

**Wednesday, May 3, 2006
7:30 – 9:00 AM
Fremont City Hall
Council Chambers**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 AM.

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

Welcoming Remarks

Chair Vredeveld welcomed the DDA.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Marianne Boerigter, seconded by Ron Vliem and carried to approve the minutes from the following meetings:

- April 19, 2006 DDA meeting
- April 19, 2006 DDA Public Art Subcommittee

Update on Proposed Community Calendar

Chair Vredeveld explained that the City is working to create a community calendar on the City's website. Michele Ribant reported that in order to keep the calendar up-to-date, she will coordinate with the Chamber, local non-profits, churches, schools, etc. to set up a system for them to report any special events their organization is planning.

Discussion on Downtown Fremont Enhancement Plan

Rick Stout reviewed the cost of the improvements for the four core commercial blocks in downtown. He said the preliminary cost estimate for parking lot improvements to all four lots came to approximately

\$3.7 million dollars; this figure includes the cost of the Market pavilion. Miscellaneous improvements (intersections, wayfaring signage system and side-street lighting) are an additional \$512,000, which brings the cost of the Enhancement Plan to approximately \$4.2 million dollars.

With regard to the downtown streetscape furniture, the DDA made the following decisions:

- **Color:** The color of the furniture will be black.
- **Benches:** The DDA selected the Victorian looking benches priced at \$1,150 each. As a back-up, the DDA liked the bench by the same manufacturer priced at \$1,950. Mr. Stout indicated that at the next DDA meeting he will bring pictures of the whole family of furniture for each of the bench styles selected.
- **Planters:** The DDA decided it would be appropriate to use different style planters in different locations depending on the character of the space.
- **Trash enclosures:** The DDA decided that the trash enclosures would be made of masonry with a metal gate. Each enclosure would have a roof over the top to do the following:
 - Make the enclosure aesthetically pleasing
 - Cut down on odors
 - Keep the elements (rain, snow, etc.) out
 - Prevent illegal dumping
- **Concrete surface material for alleys:** The DDA was interested in looking at more examples of stamped and colored concrete, so Rick Stout said he will provide more examples.

Update on Spring Clean-up

The Chair reminded that the spring clean-up will take place on Friday and Saturday, May 12 & 13, 2006. Gerry Rich offered to provide refuse containers for the downtown merchants to use during the spring clean-up event. Michele Ribant indicated she would arrange for containers to be available for the recycling of cardboard.

Update of Refuse/Recycling Coordination

Ms. Ribant reported that she only received five surveys back from downtown property & business owners on the refuse/recycling project. She said that the City will meet with Allied Waste to see if there is some benefit financially if downtown business owners jointly contract with Allied Waste for refuse service. She stated that she will also look into starting a recycling program downtown and that she would work with a local company to design & implement such a program.

Next Meeting

Lon Vredeveld informed that the next DDA meeting would be at **3:00 PM** on Wednesday, May 17, 2006. He indicated that a historical architect, Robbert McKay, from the State Historic Preservation Office would give a presentation on the benefits and responsibilities of establishing a historic district.

Adjournment

There being no further business of the Board, the DDA adjourned at 9:16 AM.