

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Fremont Downtown Development Authority (DDA)**

**Wednesday, March 23, 2011**  
**7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.**  
**Fremont City Hall**  
**Council Chambers**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 a.m. by chair Lon Vredeveld.

<b>Members Present:</b>	Lon Vredeveld James M. Rynberg Ron Vliem  Gail Warnement  Chris Youker Rob Zeldenrust	DDA Chair Fremont Mayor Executive Director, Fremont Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, Newaygo Conservation District Downtown Business Owner DDA District Business Manager
<b>Members Absent:</b>	Marianne Boerigter  Kim Deur Sheryl Miller Randy Stasik  Bob Stehouwer	Executive Director, Newaygo County Council for the Arts Downtown Business/Property Owner Downtown Business/Property Owner Chief Executive Officer, Spectrum Health – Gerber Memorial Downtown Business/Property Owner
<b>Staff Present:</b>	Michele Ribant  Todd Blake	Fremont Neighborhood & Economic Development Director Fremont City Clerk/Finance Director

**Approval of DDA Minutes**

A motion was made by Rob Zeldenrust, seconded by Gail Warnement and carried to approve the minutes from the February 23, 2011 DDA meeting.

**Community Updates**

- Ron Vliem reported that the Chamber was a little disappointed with the attendance at the Business Expo on Saturday. He said the attendance on Friday evening was very good. Ron went on to say that while the numbers were disappointing on Saturday, the reports were that the vendors still made quality contacts.

- The Mayor reported that the Diversity Sign business downtown Fremont was sold, and the new business name will be “Diversity Sign and Graphics”, which should open in early April 2011.
- Rob Zeldenrust reported that the last piece of the financing from Co-America for the Fremont Community Digester is in place. He said that construction on the digester should be in full swing the first week in May.
- Michele Ribant reported that Jim Breinling would like to start a volunteer program to care for the flowers downtown Fremont. He wants a group of 5-6 like-minded people that care about their community to be responsible for weeding the flower beds in a section (e.g., block) of downtown. The idea is that the group would meet for coffee and then perform their volunteer function, which would take place on a weekly basis.

### **Downtown Recycling Program**

Lon Vredevelde reported that a downtown commercial recycling program is being implemented in Fremont; it is due to start the first week in April 2010. He said that Mark Ramsey, a local business man, who owns Cart-Right LLC, a recycling company, will be picking up cardboard from the common refuse enclosures located in the four (4) downtown Fremont public parking lots. It was reported that the hope is that the recycling program will grow to include more recyclable items (e.g., plastic) in the future.

### **Vote on Proposed 2011/2012 DDA Operating Budget**

Todd Blake reviewed the proposed budget with the DDA. The following was reported:

- \$100,000 is budgeted to make improvements to the SE DT public parking lot. This funding would allow for new alleyway treatments, new sidewalks along the alley and new surface treatment of the private space.
- \$5,000 is budgeted to fund Fremont Market Pavilion amenities (speaker system and privacy panels)
- \$13,000 is budgeted to fund DDA District Maintenance supplies and materials; a portion of this will be used to fund downtown flowers which in the 2011/12 fiscal year will allow the flower program to be expanded to include flower pots behind the buildings on all four downtown commercial blocks.
- \$40,000 is budgeted to fund the Fremont Façade Improvement Grant Program
- In the future, a report will be generated for the DDA that outlines the available balance in the Fremont DDA revolving loan fund. The fund had \$90,000 initially and all funds have been expended to date with payments from the loans regenerating new funds.

A motion was made by Rob Zeldenrust, seconded by Ron Vliem and carried to recommend to the Fremont City Council approval of the proposed 2011/2012 Fremont DDA Operating Budget and the Fremont DDA 2011 Tax Capture Report for FY 2011/2012 as presented.

Michele Ribant reported that the improvements to be made to the northwest downtown public parking lot in the 2010/2011 DDA operating budget will include the closing of four curb cuts off Dayton and will include the proper underground work that will allow for the installation for decorative street lights in a later phase.

**Unfinished Business**

There was no unfinished business.

**New Business**

Rob Zeldenrust reported that the Fremont Co-operative Produce Company is now the North Central Co-op. He indicated that it is 80% likely that they will invest in a feed processing operation.

Lon Vredevelde said that Bonnie Erber put together a small group of business people in order to come up with an idea for a collaborative service club project (Rotary Club, Lions Club, etc.) within the Fremont community. It also resulted in establishing a downtown retail group, which now meets regularly.

**Next Meeting**

To be determined

**Adjournment**

There being no other business of the DDA, the meeting adjourned at 8:47 a.m.