

**DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (DDA)  
FAÇADE / HISTORIC PRESERVATION SUBCOMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

**April 29, 2008  
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM  
Fremont City Hall  
Council Chambers**

**Call to Order**

The Façade/Historic Preservation Subcommittee meeting was called to order at 4:01 PM.

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| <b>Members Present:</b> | Marianne Boerigter | Director, Newaygo County Council for the Arts/Dogwood Center for the Performing Arts |
|                         | Bonnie Erber       | DDA Marketing Subcommittee Chair   |
|                         | Peter Lance        | Community Member   |
|                         | James Rynberg      | Fremont City Mayor   |
|                         | Ron Vliem          | Executive Director, Fremont Area Chamber of Commerce                                 |

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| <b>Members Absent:</b> | Gerry Rich | Downtown Property/Business Owner |
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| <b>Staff Present:</b> | Michele Ribant | Fremont Neighborhood & Economic Development Director |
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| <b>Guests:</b> | Joan Obits | Downtown Business Owner |
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**Opening Remarks**

Marianne Boerigter welcomed the Subcommittee and Joan Obits, an applicant to the Fremont Façade Improvement Program.

**Consideration of a Funding Request for the Fremont Façade Improvement Grant Program – 28 W. Main Street (Front, rear and east side facades)**

Joan Obits explained that she is requesting approval of a grant award in the amount of \$1,148.00 to paint the front, rear and east side facades of the building downtown Fremont located at 28 W. Main Street. She indicated that she will also be painting the west side façade even though that façade work is not covered by the grant. She explained that she would paint all four facades bungalow gold and the trim on the doors and windows will be painted olive fog and olive shadow. Ms. Obits presented paint color cards, and the Subcommittee compared the colors proposed to the colors outlined in the façade design guidelines, and it was determined that the colors were an appropriate fit.

A motion was made by Bonnie Erber, seconded by Ron Vliem and carried to approve funding in the amount of \$1,148.00 to paint the front, rear and east side facades of the building located at 28 W. Main Street in Downtown Fremont as part of the Fremont Façade Improvement Grant Program and to approve the paint color choices (bungalow gold, olive fog and olive shadow).

Note: According to the Façade Improvement Program Guidelines, if the estimated project cost is not expected to exceed \$6,000, the DDA Façade/Historic Preservation Subcommittee may approve an application with a funding request up to \$3,000 without the approval of the full DDA, but with City staff representation on the Subcommittee and with its approval. The intent of this provision is to be customer-service oriented so that smaller projects (e.g., awnings) can be approved in a timely fashion.

### **Status of Funding Requests for Fremont Façade Improvement Grant Program**

Chair Boerigter reviewed the status of funding requests for Fremont Façade Improvement Grant Program. She indicated that the work on the following buildings has been completed:

- 19 W. Main Street (Giuseppe's Restaurant)
- 46 W. Main Street (Koffee Kuppe – new lights)
- 33 E. Main Street (Allstate Insurance)

She indicated that the following projects are due to be completed this summer (2008):

- 13 E. Main Street (The ArtsPlace)
- 12 W. Main Street (Awards & More)

Ms. Boerigter said that the Zharts still need to come before the Subcommittee and present a design plan.

The Subcommittee discussed how long an applicant has to complete a project. Ms. Ribant reported that they have a year to complete the project. The Subcommittee wanted to make it clear that an applicant has a year from the date the contract is approved to complete the project.

A motion was made by Peter Lance, seconded by Bonnie Erber and carried to amend the Fremont Façade Improvement Grant Guidelines to make it clear that an applicant has a year from the contract approval date to complete a project and be eligible for reimbursement.

### **Update on Listing Downtown Fremont on the National Register of Historic Places**

Michele Ribant reported that she has been given a few names of individuals who have knowledge of the history of the buildings downtown Fremont and that she needs to focus this summer on the creating a nomination for the downtown to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

### **New Business**

Michele Ribant indicated that MSHDA has a Façade Improvement Grant Program that would allow the City to leverage the \$40,000 that is proposed in the 2008/2009 DDA budget in relation to Fremont's Façade Improvement Grant Program. She advised that the funding would be based on job creation and that she still needs to look into it if the Subcommittee was interested. The Subcommittee gave Ms. Ribant the approval to research the grant opportunity that would benefit the community.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the DDA Façade/Historic Preservation Subcommittee meeting will be scheduled on an as-needed basis.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business of the Subcommittee, the meeting adjourned at 4:40 PM.