

BATTLE CREEK DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS – Meeting Minutes
Monday December 5, 2022, 3:00 PM
Room 302A, City Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT: Nelson Karre, Ross Simpson, John Godfrey, Cody Newman, Edward Guzzo, Paul Conkey, Rebecca Fleury and Ex-Officio: Commissioner Carla Reynolds

ABSENT: Kim Carter, Kyra Wallace,

OTHERS PRESENT: Ted Dearing – Assistant City Manager, John Hart – Development Director

Call to order: Chair Conkey called the meeting to order at 3:07 pm.

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: Mr. Godfrey moved that the Battle Creek Downtown Development Authority Board of Directors approve the meeting minutes from October 24, 2022. Mr. Newman supported the motion. Unanimously approved.

520 W. Michigan:

Staff and representatives from VOCES shared information on a proposed renovation to DDA owned property at 520 W. Michigan. VOCES is seeking authorization to renovate the interior of the building to support a new early childhood development center.

MOTION: Mr Karre moved that the board approve the alternations presented or something substantially similar contingent on VOCES receiving a special use permit from the city for a childcare operation. Motion approved with Mr. Newman recusing himself from the vote.

VOCES Lease:

After a brief discussion, it was determined that a proposed new lease for VOCES at 520 W. Michigan will be considered at the board's January 23, 2023 meeting.

Project Updates:

Staff briefly discussed efforts to recoup funds expended for the demolition of 34 E. Michigan.

Member/Citizen (Public) Comments: There were no citizen (public) comments. Member discussed an effort among various downtown businesses to organize and advance the interest of downtown merchants including relationship building with the city, DDA and other stakeholders.

Adjourn: 3:50 pm