

**CITY OF IONIA**  
**Downtown Development Authority**  
**October 17, 2018 Meeting Minutes**

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**CALL TO ORDER:** The Ionia Downtown Development Authority meeting called to order by Board Chairperson Kirgis at 8:02AM.

**ROLL CALL:** Roll Call revealed the following DDA Board members present: Dave Cook, Margot Cook, Tim Hemenway, Paul Lentz, Brett Patterson, Ron Wilson, and Mike Kirgis.  
Also in attendance were City Manager Jason Eppler, Theatre Manager Gary Ferguson, and DDA Director Linda Curtis. Guests included John Krueger / Main Street Office, Heather Sizemore / The Jewell Box, and Mike Falk / Melrose Pyrotechnics.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS AND INFORMATION:** Mike Falk of Melrose Pyrotechnics provided an overview of changes that could be made for the 2019 fireworks display. It was noted that Melrose Pyrotechnics has successfully presented the Ionia Fireworks since 2003. Proposed changes and upgrades include:

- Melrose staff would work with Gary Ferguson to create a programmed musical component to align with selected shell firing. Currently we have Americana patriotic music that is played during the display. The difference might include more of a choreographed component.
- Shells are electronically fired – not manually. This is standard for Melrose. Electronic firing is much safer for staff than manual ignition.
- The display for the upcoming year would have more special effects than in the past. A specifically designed show would be provided.
- Prior to 2006, the budget for the show was set at \$12,000. Beginning in 2006, the show was reduced to a \$10,000 show. It was recommended that we discuss the option of returning the larger monetary amount. This would increase the overall display quality.
- It was recommended that we limit the show to an 18 – 20 minute display for maximum shells. Attendees lose interest in longer shows.
- Due to regulations for the current launch site, the maximum size of shells is limited to 4 inch. It was suggested that Melrose staff, Director Thomas, Paul Lentz and the DDA Director meet to discuss options to increase the perimeter radius. An additional 70 feet would need to be added to allow for a larger 5 inch shell. Shooting 5 inch shells would affect the price and / or length of the show based on our budget. The display would be greatly enhanced by the larger shells.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** It was moved by Member Lentz, seconded by Member Hemenway to approve the following:

Minutes from the DDA meetings of September 19, 2018.

Accounts Payables for the DDA:

August 26, 2018 – September 25, 2018 in the amount of \$774.61.

Accounts Payables for the Theatre:

August 26, 2018 – September 25, 2018 in the amount of \$11,369.96.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

DDA DIRECTOR UPDATE: DDA Director's report attached to meeting documents.

**THEATRE REPORT:** Theatre Manager Gary Ferguson provided an overview of the past month's activities and upcoming events. A great selection of movie releases is on the Theatre's calendar for the winter season. A Christmas movie project is being discussed that would allow children to attend free if accompanied by a ticket purchasing parent / guardian. Sponsors would assist with the cost of this project. The DDA will assist the Theatre Manager is securing sponsors.

**BOARD DECISIONS AND ACTION ITEMS:**

1. 2019 Meeting Schedule: It was moved by Member Wilson, seconded by Member Lentz.

MOTION CARRIED.

**OTHER:**

1. Wayfinding Sign Project: Sign installation to begin on November 5<sup>th</sup> with the project completed by the end of November – weather permitting.

2. Master Plan update: The Planning Commission continues work on the Master Plan which includes the DDA components.

3. Planning and Zoning – Marijuana dispensaries: The Planning Commission is currently discussing Ordinance amendments and will provide a draft for Council review and future approval.

4. Walkway for M-66 hill: Member Ron Wilson voiced concerns on the lack of a safe walkway for pedestrians traveling south on the M-66 hill. City Manager Jason Eppler noted that discussion was prompted in the past by the City Council to the Townships regarding the issue. The City of Ionia was willing to act as the fiduciary for an Enhancement Grant to assist with the sidewalk project. There was a lack of interest from the other parties at the time of discussion due to the overall cost and the expansive construction plan for the project.

**ADJOURN:**

It was moved by Member Dave Cook, seconded by Member Lentz to adjourn the meeting at 9:02AM.

MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dave Cook, Secretary  
Linda Curtis, DDA Director