



Evart Downtown Development Authority

Chair, Alan Bengry
Treasurer, Lynn Salinas
Mark Sochocki
Dan Boyer

Vice-Chair, Gary Hartsock
Secretary, Brian Youngs
Corey Juliano
City Manager, Pepper Lockhart



Director, Todd Bruggema
www.evartmainstreet.com (231) 734-0185

REGULAR DDA MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 14th 2025 @ 8:00AM

Location: Taylor Insurance conference room

1. Meeting called to order by Bengry at 8:00 a.m.
2. Attendance: Present: Alan Bengry, Gary Hartsock, Lynn Salinas, Dan Boyer, Corey Juliano, Mark Sochocki, Pepper Lockhart, Todd Bruggema (Director)
Absent: Brian Youngs
3. Introduction of Guests: Angela Hunter (Farmers Market Manager), Teijin Wing (student advisor)
4. Citizens' Comments- None
5. Approval of agenda- Moved by Hartsock, supported by Salinas to accept the agenda as presented
Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Results: Carried
6. Approval of minutes – Moved by Sochocki, supported by Hartsock to approve the minutes of the September 9th, 2025, meeting.
Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Results: Carried
7. Approval of vendor's list- Moved by Lockhart, supported by Salinas to approve the vendors list in the amount of \$4,251.73 for the DDA and \$1559.00 for the farmers market.
Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Results: Carried
8. Treasurer's report
9. President's comments-reminder to correct the DDA meeting times in the city newsletter
10. Committee updates
Economic
Vitality/Design
 - a. Farmers Market-June sales were \$17,253, Amish singers performed. Some issues arose regarding the Family Day and the food and petting zoo. Angela reported that Ebel's donated 250 hot dogs and buns and one of the vendors donated use of their grill. Approximately 50 kid's crafts were created.
 - b. Pop-Up-has been toured by an individual that would like the DDA to consider a long-term 5 to 10 year- lease for the property. Discussion determined that the DDA was not interested in such an arrangement at this time.
Promotion/Organization
 - a. Shop Local- Bruggema has requested the materials for the Shop Small event on Thanksgiving weekend.
 - b. Board recruiting- DDA still has one vacancy to fill
 - c. Volunteers-Discussion was held about presenting "thank you" t-shirts to the Bump out garden volunteers. Erica Henry would be willing to make them for \$12 each. Bruggema has the sizes and quantities if we would like to do this. There was consensus on developing a design that could be used for multiple events.
Moved by Hartsock, supported by Salinas, to authorize the Director to purchase T-shirts for volunteers.

Ayes:7 Nays:0 Results: Carried
12. Old Business
 - a. 101 S. Main St. update-Sochocki reported that a CDBG grant has been applied for in the amount of \$700,000. There have also been discussions regarding the City of Evart establishing a Brownfield Authority to access additional funding for this project as well as future projects.

- b. Monster Mash-scheduled for October 31st from 5-7 pm on Main St. Bruggema is trying to arrange for the new fire truck to be on display, as well as an antique engine as well.
- c. Michigan Main Street conference update-Bruggema, Juliano, and Bengry attended in Grosse Pointe and shared some of the highlights of the conference.

13. New Business

- a. Sandy Szeliga presented an opportunity for a potential fund raiser to secure additional music events for the 2026 summer season. Jake Slater would appear at a December concert in the community building. Much discussion was held and the project will be pursued for at least one year to see how things go.
- b. Video presentation by Giffels Webster on the Ewart DDA's strategic plan-a draft plan was reviewed and it was decided that all board members would need to review and give feedback before we are ready to approve the plan. Bruggema will provide the needed documents to all board members to review and to make suggested changes, etc. at the November DDA meeting.

14. Director's Comments-Bruggema asked about continuing the Michigan Trails magazine ad. There was consensus to continue the smaller version of the ad that we did for 2025.

15. City Manager's Comments-Lockhart has been participating in an RRC virtual conference series, this process is now over 90% complete. She is also scheduling meetings with the new MEDC representative.

16. Citizens' Comments

17. Adjournment

Moved by Hartsock, supported by Lockhart to adjourn

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Results: Carried

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Submitted by Alan Bengry

