

**From:** [Rebecca Foster](#)  
**To:** [Clerk](#); [Linda Lavey](#); [Julie Durkin](#)  
**Subject:** Pinckney Farmers Market Attn: DDA Board  
**Date:** Monday, March 13, 2023 1:37:42 PM

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Please include in DDA packet.

Dear DDA Board,

I understand that the board recently chose not to move forward with a second year of the Pinckney Farmers Market. I think it's safe to say that the entire community is disappointed in this short-sighted decision.

I read through the minutes of the discussion, and I am a bit confused on the reasoning. It seems the sticking points were a dedicated committee that would administer the market, and perhaps the need for individual board members to commit to volunteering, as well as something about insurance.

Unless I am missing some complication, the DDA simply needs to hire a market manager and sanction the event, as a DDA event. The manager would recruit volunteers, if needed. Making the market a DDA or village event taking place on DDA or village-owned property results in coverage under the village's liability insurance – this is how the Community Garden is handled, and how the market was handled last year.

The market itself was created by an informal committee – but this committee did not run the market. The DDA hired Christy Trommater as DDA Coordinator, and she administered the farmers market as part of that position. In other words, the DDA was already paying for a market coordinator, in case that was a concern. All that was required, really, to continue the market was to hire her replacement. I do not believe this position can or should be a volunteer position, and I can find no other local markets that have a volunteer running them (or community gardens for that matter, but that's another discussion for another time).

It's unfortunate that the DDA is choosing to ignore the momentum of the inaugural year of the market and its benefit to the downtown and the broader Pinckney community. Vendors and shoppers were looking forward to a second year, with the new opportunities and improvements that often come with that. I know the board has been seeking – unsuccessfully so far – a general events coordinator. However, this does not and should not preclude the hiring of a coordinator specifically for the farmers market. In fact, I had reached out to some very well qualified people prior to the end of my term. Why the DDA did not jump at the chance to hire these folks and their expertise is baffling.

While I have your attention, I would also like to strongly suggest that the Planning Commission and the DDA revert back to separate entities in order to allow non-resident business and business property owners to serve on the DDA. The current configuration, which was established due to a lack of board candidates, does a huge disservice to the business community by not including local business people. While it would indeed be a challenge to find the 7 board members required (village

president automatically holds a seat, for a total of 8), **more local business interests would be qualified**, and it's possible that more people would be interested in serving on a board dedicated exclusively to improvements to the business district. In fact, most of the people who have been involved in the garden, the market, the parades, and the community events **are not village residents**. It's certainly possible they would be interested in serving as a DDA board member.

If I am misunderstanding any of this, please correct me. Thank you for your consideration.

Rebecca Foster

*(Please note that I am no longer village president but am helping out for a limited time to transition several projects. Current village president is Linda Lavey, llavey@villageofpinckney.org)*