

Pinckney Downtown Development Authority (DDA)

Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday, June 13, 2025

Time: 9:30 AM

Location: Village of Pinckney

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mike Szafranski at 9:30 AM.

II. Roll Call

Present:

- Mike Szafranski
- Greg Strine
- Jeff Buerman
- Julie Amy
- Bridget Kane
- Marie Butler
- Linda Sager

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

IV. Approval of Agenda

Motion by **Linda Sager** to approve the agenda; seconded by **Marie Butler**.

Motion carried unanimously.

V. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Approval of **May** and **June 2025** minutes was deferred to the **July meeting** due to the May minutes not being posted in time.

VI. Public Forum

Opened at 9:34 AM

Closed at 9:34 AM

No public comment.

VII. Reports

A. Chairman's Report – Mike Szafranski

- **Gazebo:** Completion and sealing confirmed.
- **Red Building Downtown:** Near completion; painted with a lead-covering primer and to be restored to red.

B. Village Report – Jeff Buerman

- Noted a **0.5 mill shortfall** in the budget; plans to work on solutions over the coming year.
- Village budget is tight; **DDA support** may be needed.
- Confirmed **legal limits exist** regarding Village use of DDA funds.

C. DPW Report – Mike Szafranski

- DDA's role in **community garden** emphasized.
- **10 out of 33 plots** currently used.
- Low interest possibly due to confusion around potential land sale.
- Plot specifications clarified: **6' x 10'**, self-maintained.
- Quote being obtained from **Dustin** for flattening and cleanup of an untidy plot.

VIII. Old Business

A. Community Garden

- Plan to maintain current garden through the season.
- Potential new site discussions include **Pinckney Library (water access)** and **People's Church (property)**.
- Amenities at current site: water hookup, shed, library boxes (books & seeds), benches.

B. Hiring Part-Time Event Coordinator / Admin

- Position will support both DDA and Village office.
- **Jen Cooke** is working on the job description.
- Discussion on **early posting** to assess interest and prepare for hiring post-budget approval.

C. Streetlights on M-36

- **Madison Electric** provided a quote to repair bases.
- **Somerset Paving** also provided a proposal.
- **Motion by Linda Sager** to begin scheduling now in anticipation of budget approval; **seconded by Bridget Kane**.
- **Vote:** Unanimous approval by all members present.

D. Summer Help

- **Dustin's son** has been hired.
- More information on hours and duties pending as budget permits.

E. Tree Grates and Beautification

- 10 tree grates in place; 2 trees remain.
- Committee did not meet yet; **Marie** contacted a statue supplier for child-themed resin statues.
- Committee (Greg, Marie, Bridget, Joe Self) to convene before next meeting.
- Current grates have **electrical outlets**.
- Emphasis on aesthetics and **"burst of color"**.

IX. New Business

A. Board Membership

- **Martina Fenech** nominated to the DDA Board.
- Motion by **Greg Strine**, seconded by **Bridget Kane**.
- **Vote:** Unanimously approved by all members present.
- **Next step:** Council approval.
- **Paper motion** and vote are included in the official records.

B. Sun Times Newspaper Proposal – Chuck Colby

- **Sun Times** has 143-year history; formerly the *Stockbridge Towncrier*.
- Weekly distribution to ~1,500 homes in Chelsea, Dexter, Saline, Milan.
- Quarter-page ad cost: **\$499/week**.
- Goal: Replace reliance on Facebook with trusted local media.
- Commitment needed from Pinckney-area businesses: **\$2,000/week in ads**.
- Strong support expressed, revisit after further outreach.

X. Event Recap and Assignments

- **Memorial Day Parade:** Well received; Don McCall retired.
- **Event Coordinator Assignment:** Julie Amy motioned to assign Memorial Day and **St. Patrick's Day Parades** to future event coordinator; **seconded by Marie Butler**.
- **Clarification:** Event coordinator will **connect new businesses to resources**, not manage outcomes.

Related Ideas

- **Jim Jensen** suggested exploring sponsored **carousel horses** or similar for beautification, based on successes in other towns.

XI. Event Announcements

- **Art in the Park:** Successful event.
- **Food Truck Fridays:** Begin **June 20**.
- **Hootin' in the Park:** Seven Thursdays this summer starting **July 10**.

XII. Public Forum

Opened at 10:48 AM

Closed at 11:01 AM

Speaker: Patrick Smith, Director of Northstar Reach

- Camp located on **Patterson Lake Road** (UM property).
- Free programs for children with terminal illness and their families.
- **Music Festival:** Saturday, **August 23**, 12 PM–10 PM.
- Seeking: **Volunteers**, awareness, and support.
- Nonprofit status: **501(c)(3)**; part of Paul Newman-founded network.
- This program is in Unadilla & Putnam Twp. It is good work in our community.

XIII. Member Discussion

No additional discussion required.

XIV. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by **Linda Sager**, seconded by **Marie Butler**.

Meeting adjourned.

Mike Szafranski – Chair

Julie Amy – Recording Sec

DATE: _____

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