

**Village of Pinckney Downtown Development Authority**  
**Meeting Minutes – August 8, 2025, | Time: 9:30 AM**  
**Location: Village of Pinckney**

**1. Call to Order**

- The meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM.

**2. Roll Call**

- **Present:** Mike Szafranski, Jen Cooke, Julie Amy, Marie Butler, Linda Sager, Greg Strine, Jeff Buerman, and Martina Fenech.
- **Correction Notes:** Spelling corrections to be made for: Greg Strine, Jen Cooke, and Linda Seger.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

- The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**4. Approval of Agenda**

- Motion by Jen Cooke to approve the agenda.
- Second by Julie Amy.
- Motion carried unanimously.

**5. Approval of Minutes**

- Motion by Julie Amy to approve the minutes.
- Second by Jen Cooke.
- Motion carried unanimously.
- Spelling corrections noted above to be applied.

**6. Public Forum (Opened at 9:36 AM, Closed at 9:39 AM)**

Jo Self-reported:

- Update provided on the **Village Exchange** event held July 26; six people attended.
- Concerns about **blight** were raised.

- Example shared from Howell's property recognition award system—suggested Pinckney mirror this program.
- Reminder: Village Exchange will be held **monthly (third week)** with rotating days to increase attendance. Next Aug 21, 4:30-5:30p
- Plans for **community recognition nominations** and **15 minutes of education** at future exchanges.
- Encouragement to plan agendas in advance for better attendance.

## 7. Chairman's Notes

- Chair deferred his updates to later agenda items.

## 8. Village Report (Jeff Buerman – Village President)

- **Ordinances updated** by Planning Commission: parking requirements adjusted.
- Issues raised: **dead trees, junk cars, tall grass.**
- Heritage Pharmacy scheduled to open soon.
- Council updates:
  - August 11 meeting: variance request for Mugg & Bopps
  - August 28 meeting: **Means Project** on agenda; marijuana license set to expire in August.

## 9. DPW Report

- Included in the agenda, not reviewed separately.

## 10. Old Business

### a. Community Garden

- Mike apologized for lack of direction and communication.
- Martina suggested setting volunteer days and reaching out to groups for help.
- DPW confirmed responsible for maintaining areas between garden beds.
- Marie suggested fines for gardeners not maintaining their plots.
- Linda asked for clarification on leadership and accountability.
- Greg suggested **signage with welcome, rules and contact info.**
- Martina & Greg volunteered to **lead the project** and research relocation options.
- Library not totally interested in hosting; People's Church considered.
- Committee to draft a proposal for relocation to show the value of being involved.

- **Action:** Mike, Martina, and Greg to meet and create relocation proposal.

#### **b. Streetlights on M-36**

- Scheduled delivery: October.

#### **c. Sealcoating DDA Parking Lot**

- Scheduled for August 25–27, 2025.

#### **d. Event Coordinator Hiring**

- Job description reviewed and agreed upon.
- Position to be posted on Facebook.
- Applications to Village Clerk; forwarded to hiring committee.
- Hiring committee: Julie, Mike, and Jen.
- Motion by Marie, second by Jen. Approved unanimously.

#### **e. Tree Grates**

- Marie suggested that she had received quotes for resin statues.
- Group has not met; Marie proposed passing leadership of the project to Bridget or Jo Self during her busy season.
- Jen suggested that the group gather info first and then share with group for thoughts, input and suggestions.
- Mike noted DPW is “anti-tree.”
- Greg offered to recommend compatible tree species.

#### **f. Recognition Banquet**

- To be a DDA responsibility.
- Likely to be managed by event coordinator.

#### **g. Light Up the Park**

- Planning upgrades to lights on Main Street and buildings.
- Committee: Mike Szafranski (Chair), Martina Fenech.
- Researching costs and business owner involvement.

### **11. New Business**

#### **a. Peanut Butter Drive Proposal (Alan Ostlund via Dan Negri)**

- Proposal: “Village That Cares” – three-month peanut butter collection drive.
- Interest in hosting a **mural** on his building.
- Julie suggested Alan speak with local food pantries (**St. Mary, Cleaners, Farley Hill**) to confirm needs, as **storage space** may be a greater priority.

- Group agreed to hear more details from Alan at a future meeting.

#### **b. Community Garden Property Listing**

- Goal to list current property by November.
- Jeff to interview local realtors.

#### **c. State Grant Opportunity**

- Governor Whitmer announced **\$25,000 small business grant** available for 2026.
- Linda & Jeff to research eligibility and prepare for proposals.

#### **d. Portage Road Property**

- Property confirmed as Village-owned.
- Discussion on potential use: **parking lot vs. housing development.**

#### **e. Hardware/Veterinarian Parking Lot**

- Jeff suggested meeting with business owners (**Linda, Clint Rux, hardware owners**) to discuss improvements.
- DDA suggested paying for a survey.
- Goal: to work together with the village to create public parking, improve village and building values.

### **12. Upcoming Events Recap**

- **Food Truck Friday** – August 15, 2025 (Village Park).
- **Spectacular (Rotary event)** – October 25, 2025.
- **Pumpkins in the Park (Rotary event)** – October 21, 2025.
- **Light Up the Park** – Winter season event (planning underway).
- DDA to consider donation to Rotary for Spectacular event.

### **13. Public Forum (10:53 AM)**

- Opened and closed with no further contributions.

### **14. Member Discussion**

- General agreement on need for stronger **follow-through.**
- Several constructive ideas were shared.

## 15. Adjournment

- Motion by Linda to adjourn.
- Second by Marie.
- Meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM.

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Milke Szafranski, DDA Chair

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Julie Amy, DDA Secretary