

Village of Pinckney Downtown Development Authority
Meeting Minutes
Friday, September 12, 2025 – 9:30 a.m.

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call

- Present: Michael Szafranski (Chair), Jen Cook, Julie Amy, Greg Strine, Bridget Kane, Jeff Burmann (Village President), Martina Fenech
- Absent: Marie Butler, Mike Carney
- Late: Linda Seger

A quorum was present.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

- The pledge was recited.

4. Approval of Agenda

- Motion by Julie, supported by Jen, to approve the agenda as presented.
- Motion carried unanimously.

5. Approval of Minutes (August 2025)

- Motion by Jen, supported by Julie, to approve the minutes.
- Motion carried unanimously.

6. Public Forum (Opened 9:32 a.m.)

1. Linda Van Blaricum – Wreaths Across America

- Shared information on the program to honor veterans in Pinckney and St. Mary's cemeteries.
- Pinckney Cemetery has 325 veterans; St. Mary's has 250 veterans.
- Wreaths cost \$17 each; fundraising deadline is end of November.
- Motion by Jeff, supported by Julie, to add Wreaths Across America to new business. Motion carried.

2. Bradley Dreyer – New Business Opportunities

- A two-year resident interested in opening a business in downtown Pinckney.
- Asked about leasing vacant buildings, connecting with owners, and grant/funding options to bring spaces up to code.
- Will follow up with Jeff privately.

7. Chairman's Report (Michael Szafranski)

- Gazebo Sound System completed and functioning.
- Ribbon-Cutting for Heritage Pharmacy held at 12:30 p.m. today.
- For Kids' Sake celebrated its 20th anniversary with the community and was first to use new sound system.

8. Village President's Report (Jeff Burmann)

- Introduced Sheri and Joe Blackburn, parents of Katir Parrish, owner of Heritage Pharmacy.
- Townhall meetings on hold due to open meeting concerns.
- Water and sewer discussions continue. Community members are contributing ideas that are appreciated.
- Marijuana businesses projected to have movement by year-end, providing tax revenue.
- Exploration of changing Pinckney's status from General Law to Home Rule.
- Positive media coverage from WHMI noted and appreciated.

9. DPW Report

- Community Garden Cleanup – September 20, 9 a.m.–12 p.m. (snacks, music, BYO equipment or some will be provided). Led by Greg and Martina.
- Future Garden Location – Committee continues research.
- Streetlight Repairs – Parts ordered, expected October.
- Sealcoating – DDA parking lot completed; invoice pending.

10. Committee Reports

- Event Coordinator Hiring –
 - Chair Julie reported candidate selection process complete.
 - Motion by Jen, supported by Greg, to approve JoSelf as part-time DDA Event Coordinator. Motion carried unanimously.
 - Discussion on social media access and chain of command. Formal proposal and start date to be issued Monday.
- Tree Grates & Landscaping –
 - Committee (Bridget, Joe, Marie) has not yet met.
 - Landscape architect volunteering; recommendation to add Greg to committee.
- Recognition Banquet & Light Up the Park –
 - Event Coordinator to assist with banquet.
 - Light Up the Park meeting scheduled for September 18, 6 p.m. at Bliss Fish.
 - Planning full-day Light of the Park Event this Year; potential building lighting project discussed.
 - Jim Jensen (Putnam Township liaison) expressed interest in committee.

11. New Business

- Wreaths Across America – DDA agreed to promote program and raise awareness with business owners. Ceremony scheduled for December 13, 2025.
- Village-Owned Parking Lot (Portage Rd.) – Options discussed: parking, sale, offer First right to immediate neighbors or create new housing. Consensus that decision remains with Village Council.
- Hardware Store Parking Lot – interest in removing fencing, maintaining space for large truck deliveries, and parking space management. Jeff to meet with business owners individually and then as a group for input.

12. Upcoming Events

- September 20 – Community Garden Cleanup
- September 24 – Pizza Party at Pinckney Chrysler
- September 26 – Homecoming Parade
- October 21 – Pumpkins in the Park
- October 25 – SpookTacular (DDA to donate; Heritage Pharmacy & For Kids' Sake expressed interest in contributing)
- Light Up the Park planning underway

13. Public Forum (Reopened 10:24 a.m.)

- Cheri & Joe Blackburn (Heritage Pharmacy) – Proposed Fall Festival idea.
- Martina Fenech – Suggested wellness event with Earth Energy's Tarah.

Public forum closed at 10:26 a.m.

14. Member Discussion

- Linda Sager – Suggested community swag bag with coupons and merchandise.
- Jim Jensen – Proposed improved business maps; will bring example.
- Greg Strine – Suggested Village Hall as possible community garden location.
- Financials – General Fund accounting activity for August 2025 provided for review.
- Sheri Blackburn – Asked about indoor fundraising venues (options: Horsefeathers, The Dio, Hell Saloon).

15. Adjournment

- Motion by Julie, supported by Linda, to adjourn.
- Motion carried.
- Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Amy
Secretary, Pinckney DDA