

City of Bessemer Downtown Development Authority

2018 Annual Report

The City of Bessemer's Downtown Development Authority (DDA) is comprised of nine members who meet monthly on the 2nd Thursday at 4:00 in the DDA room at City Hall at 411 S Sophie. A typical meeting consists of review of the previous meetings minutes, public hearings, discussion of articles for training, a review of the financial, any new or old business, any communications, and reports from staff regarding development or any programs the City is involved, and finally a call to the public and member's comments.

DDA members include: Dave Osier, Doug Kikkebusch (resigned), Cheryl Leskoviansky, Robert Youngberg (resigned), Adam Zak (council representative), Jim Durkee, Dan Whitburn, Kim Wright (resigned), Dustin Filippini, Steve Hamilton

The commission spent a significant part of the year working with PopUp Shop owners and assisting businesses with Façade improvements. The commission helped make great strides towards assisting the city in becoming Redevelopment Ready Community certified.

Each meeting started with a discussion of relevant articles to learn more various topics. Each member received training on the roles and responsibilities of DDA members including the open meetings act.

January 9th, 2018

Discussed banners for US-2, trees to purchase for Ethnic Commons, bicycle racks, and a winter festival. Spent considerable time discussing the plans for 2018. Accepted the annual report. Discussed the Vittone building purchase.

February 13th, 2018

Worked with Advocate Counseling to extend their PopUp shop funding not to exceed the total \$3,500. Discussed the welcome signs and banners. Adjusted the PopUp shop reimbursement program.

March 12, 2018

Discussed trees in Ethnic Common's park, banners, and welcome signs. Discussed the Christmas tree meter.

April 12th, 2018

Approved PopUp Shop funding for the Yellow Umbrella and Saari's Rustic Furniture. Purchased banners for US-2. Purchased new trees for the Ethnic Commons. Allowed Staff to apply for the First Impression's grant. Authorized staff to send letter to businesses explaining opportunities.

May 10th, 2018

Provided façade improvement funds to Sarah Pope, Bessemer Small Engines, and Tacconelli's. Gave staff permission to apply for a marketing grant. Took on the cost of the Christmas light.

June 14th, 2018

Provided façade improvement funds to Whitburn properties. Provided PopUp Shop funding to Platinum Dance Studios. Accepted Coleman's proposal to update welcome signs.

July 5th, 2018 Special meeting

Met to discuss whether to purchase 221 S Sophie. Decided to let it go up for the first auction.

July 12th, 2018

Provided PopUp Shop funding for From the Woods. Provided façade funding for 302 S Sophie owned by Bucknell's.

August 9th, 2018

Discussed altering the Welcome Signs. Mailed out a survey to PopUp Shop owners. Discussed Christmas lights and making Ethnic Common's more accessible from Steimphiers.

October 11th, 2018

Discussed bidding on 221 S Sophie and ordered rack cards.