

# City of Bessemer Downtown Development Authority

## 2019 Annual Report

The City of Bessemer's Downtown Development Authority (DDA) is comprised of nine members who meet monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, Cheryl Leskoviansky, Adam Zak (council representative), Dan Whitburn, Dustin Filippini, Kara Bjorkquist, Doug Olsen, and Kady Meinke

The commission spent a significant part of the year working with PopUp Shop owners and assisting businesses with Façade improvements.

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 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019

The board discussed who shows up to public meetings as their training. The board approve Remember These Antiques, Ken's Old Tyme Barber Shop, and From the Woods for PopUp Shop funding. The board discussed wayfinding, parking lot expansion, signage for downtown businesses, and expanding the PopUp Shop program.

### February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019

The board discussed zoning rules for downtown parking lots. The Capital Improvement Plan was discussed. Curly and Swirls was approved for PopUp Shop funding. The board approved a contract with WUPPDR for installing wayfinding and maps around town and to provide matching funds for a marketing grant.

### March 13, 2019

The board discussed types of retail businesses still doing well in storefronts. The Box received PopUp funding. Continued looking into the parking lot situation and the sidewalk clearing come 2021.

### April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019

The board discussed sunk costs and the importance of walking away from them. The board approved to assist Dan Whitburn with the façade at 111 Mary St. The board approved a contract with the city to purchase a skidsteer. Explored welcome signs. Looked into replacing sidewalks along US-2 during the 2021 project.

### May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019

The DDA discussed economic mobility in rural areas. Worked on parking lot issue. Looked into cutting gaps in the wall for the Ethnic Common's park. Worked on the Marketing grant. Approved Staff to attend a training on the new DDA TIF laws.

#### **June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

Discussed arts and culture revitalizing rural communities. Harju repair was approved for PopUp Shop funding. Approved Kikkebusch to construct the welcome signs.

#### **July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

The board discussed training local small scale developers to revitalize rural communities. Superior BioScience was denied PopUp Shop funding. Abelman's and Meinke's were approved for façade improvement funding. The board approved purchasing wayfinding maps and signs. Luppino's was awarded a bid to cut two access points into the Ethnic Common's wall. Floor Plans was awarded a bid to install curtains in the auditorium. The board discussed the expired lease with the Historical Society.

#### **August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

Ken's Old Tyme Barber Shop was approved for PopUp Shop extension. Round 2 Saloon was approved for Façade improvement funds.

#### **September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

Staff presented the DDA projects per PA 57. The board discussed how some business owners are selling their business to their employees when they retire. North of Eight Marketing and Design was approved to handle social media marketing. The commission discussed creating wayfinding signs for the Mine St lot. Brainstormed the PopUp Shop program. Authorized purchasing Christmas lights, denied a potential contract with Big Dollar, and discussed wall restoration.

#### **October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

Very short meeting due to staff absence. Discussed PopUp public spaces.

#### **November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

Discussed Ironwood's First Impression Tourism results. Brainstormed altering the PopUp Shop program and goals for 2020. Discussed continuing the social media marketing and looked into the library grant opportunity.