

City of Bessemer Downtown Development Authority

2020 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 or remotely. 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, Dan Whitburn, Cheryl Leskoviansky, Adam Zak (council representative), Dan Whitburn, Dustin Filippini, Doug Olsen, Kady Meinke, and Kara Bucknell

The commission spent a significant part of the year working with PopUp Shop owners and assisting businesses with Façade improvements. The Committee worked on the Ethnic Common's park and on the welcome signs. They also discussed the upcoming 2021 project and worked on marketing. Due to Covid-19 the group didn't meet as much as in a normal year.

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, 2020

Discussed marketing the city, building coworking space, expanding parking, the welcome signs, and the 2021 project.

May 14th, 2020

The board discussed the uncertainty of the virus and decided to hold off on installing fiber internet in the downtown. The board discussed working with bars and restaurants and utilizing façade funding to help create outdoor seating.

The board helped Range Medical Message and Spinning Spurs Saloon open with the PopUp Shop funding. The board suspended marketing efforts and discussed parking. The board discussed the welcome signs and extended the deadline. They also let the schools utilize the banners for graduates. The historical society lease was extended.

June 11th, 2020

Whitburn requested façade funding for outdoor seating. It was approved. Discussions continues with parking downtown. Banners were discussed.

July 9th, 2020

The committee worked on the 2021 project and discussed signage. Staff reached out to real estate professionals about the local trends. The board is interested in stamped concrete in the downtown. They continued to work on the banners.

August 13th, 2020

Stephanie Matonich updated the board on Spinning Spurs. The board discussed banners and concrete curbs.

October 8th, 2020

The board discussed detour signage. They put the discussion about holiday lights on hold until 2021. Filippini showed the board banner designs, and the board discussed the survey responses.

October 15th, 2020 Special meeting

The board had a special meeting to approve the installation of the welcome signs. They also decided to not bid on the lot near downtown for parking.