

City of Bessemer Downtown Development Authority

2021 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 council chambers 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, Stephanie Matonich, Doug Olsen, Kady Meinke, and Kara Bucknell

The commission spent a significant part of the year working on the construction project. They finalized the welcome signs. 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 14th, 2021

Discussed the Christmas lights and welcome signs.

February 11th, 2021

The board ordered new banners and Christmas lights

April 14th, 2021

The board ordered banner brackets

August 11th, 2021

Kara Bucknell was made chair and Dave Osier Vice Chair. They discussed stamped asphalt in between the road and sidewalk along US-2. They gave a local group permission to paint wings on a DDA owned building.

November 10th, 2021

Staff presented the DDA spendings and plans per PA 57 of 2018. The board worked on another parking lot downtown and stamped asphalt and concrete.

December 8th, 2021

The board worked on another parking lot downtown and stamped asphalt and concrete. They offered a potential financial contribution to the Hotel Study update. They arranged for new volunteers for the flowers downtown. They instructed staff to look into a new furnace for the Bessemer Historical Society. Staff Loper discussed stepping down from the DDA due to the construction project.