

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF HIGHLAND  
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
APPROVED REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF July 9th, 2025**

**A. ROLL CALL**

Members present: Andy West, Taylor DeHaan, Dale Feigley, Jennifer Frederick, Cassie Blascyk, Supervisor Hamill, Chris Hamill, Micheal Zeolla and Roscoe Smith

Members Absent: Michael Zurek

Staff Present: Melissa Dashevich, Executive Director

Mr. Smith called the meeting to order at 6:20 PM

**B. APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF JUNE 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**MRS. HAMILL MOVED TO APPROVE** the regular HDDA board meeting minutes of June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025 as presented. **MS. FREDERICK SUPPORTED THE MOTION**, and the **MOTION CARRIED** with a voice vote: Andy West - yes; Taylor DeHaan - yes; Dale Feigley - yes; Cassie Blascyk - yes; Jennifer Frederick - yes; Supervisor Hamill - no; Chris Hamill - yes; Michael Zeolla - yes; Roscoe Smith - yes. (8 yes votes, 1 no vote).

**C. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mrs. Dashevich reported the various tasks she accomplished over the previous month including various paperwork and preparations for the Red white and Blues Festival, concerts, Summer Sidewalk Sale, and Farmers' Market. She also organized her medical leave, meeting with various people and staff to ensure that her work is still completed while she is gone. She also met with the HWLBA about the potential partnership and training series with Chi Rho Tribe. Lastly she met with Caden to discuss the Shop MainStreet Oakland County E-Commerce Sales and spent time training on Adobe Acrobat.

**D. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Mrs. Hamill presented her financial report through June 30th, 2025 in detail. The final cost of the Highland Station Boardwalk came in \$25,000 under budget at \$600,000. Our total revenue is \$484,209.86. Total Program Services is on track for the year. Mrs. Hamill expects more money to continue to come in for the remainder of the year now

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that summer taxes have been mailed out. Currently there is \$429,364 cash on hand, \$300,000 of which is in CDs. There is no long term debt.

**MS. FREDERICK MOVED TO ACCEPT** the Treasurer's Report. **MRS. BLASCYK SUPPORTED THE MOTION**, and the **MOTION CARRIED** with a unanimous voice vote: Andy West - yes; Taylor DeHaan - yes; Dale Feigley - yes; Cassie Blascyk- yes; Jennifer Frederick - yes; Supervisor Hamill - yes; Chris Hamill - yes; Michael Zeolla - yes; Roscoe Smith - yes. (9 yes votes).

**E. NEW BUSINESS**

*1. Director's Medical Leave*

Mrs. Dashevich will be going on medical leave beginning July 23rd, 2025. She will be absent for 6-12 weeks recovering from surgery. She has organized who will take over her various responsibilities in her absence and has a list of tasks she plans to accomplish before July 23rd in order to help her absence have as little impact as possible.

**F. OLD BUSINESS**

*1. Chi Rho Tribe and Highland DDA training series*

Mrs. Blascyk presented a memo to the board regarding a potential partnership with Chi Rho Tribe LLC to do a two part professional development session focused on communication and leadership skills. John Rakowicz who creates the "Good News In Highland" facebook videos and owns his own local business would be presenting.

**MS. FREDERICK MOVED TO APPROVE** moving forward with an agreement between the Highland Downtown Development Authority and Chi Rho Tribe LLC for the facilitation of two professional development sessions under the 2025 Master the Art of Human-Centered Communication Series for \$800 per session totaling \$1,600. **MRS. BLASCYK SUPPORTED THE MOTION**, and the **MOTION CARRIED** with a roll call vote: Andy West - yes; Taylor DeHaan - yes; Dale Feigley - yes; Cassie Blascyk- yes; Jennifer Frederick - yes; Supervisor Hamill - yes; Chris Hamill - yes; Michael Zeolla - yes; Roscoe Smith - yes. (9 yes votes).

**G. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

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Mr. Feigley asked the board if they would like to put the second Farmers' Market sign anywhere else since its previous location is not available. The board determined that they would like it to be placed at Gateway Park.

Mrs. Blascyk will be reaching out to Giffles Webster regarding the survey as it has not been what the board expected and a potential second survey may be needed.

**H. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Design**

1. *Ribbon Cutting for the Highland Station Boardwalk took place June 23rd, 2025*

Mrs. Blascyk reported that there was a good turn out for the ribbon cutting and everyone had a good time.

**Economic Revitalization**

2. *Southwest MSOC Team's next project will be a Business Resource Fair Proposed in October 2026 & Mocktails in February 2026*

Mrs. Dahsevich had nothing further to report.

**Organization**

3. *Sold 4 new Streetscape sponsorship banners and several others re-upped for another year.*

Kathy recruited 4 new banners and the artwork is currently being created. Mr. Feigley asked if the HDDA could explore chloroplast banners because the current banners have problems with fading for the high cost of the materials.

**Promotions**

4. *Red White and Blues Feed Back*

Feedback has been very positive despite a few technical problems during the fireworks show. Supervisor Hamil asked if the board could be provided a comparison between the Highland and White lake shows in order to help shape future planning for next year. Mrs. Blascyk has also contacted the county to find out how many people have attended the past 3 years.

Mr. Smith suggested in the future a police officer may be needed at Milford and Livingston Rd. to help direct traffic leaving the festival to help prevent major backups.

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*5. Concerts*

The first concert of the season was a great success with a big turn out. It had very positive feedback about the concert itself and the line up for the rest of the year. Ms. Frederick proposed changing how the bands are paid after the concerts in order to avoid potential problems down the road if no one is available to be on site that day to physically give the band a check. Further discussion may be needed.

I. MSOC

The Main Event was held on June 12th and many from the HDDA attended. The HDDA won two awards and a total of \$1,000. The two awards were for the historical preservation of the Odds & Ins building and the collaboration of the Burger Battle. Highland DDA also received its 2025 National MSOC and MSA accreditation on July 8th.

J. DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT

The fresh paint on the mural side of Odds & Ins looks great and helps create a much more cohesive look. A resale shop is moving into the building on South Milford Road next door to Clover Leaf Racing that used to be a dog grooming shop. They are expected to open soon. The new Mexican restaurant by Dairy Queen on South Milford road is also expected to open soon. Midwest Glass is officially closing August 11th.

K. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Nothing to report.

L. MEETING ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm. - TD