



132 E. Broad Street • Linden, MI 48451 • P.O. Box 507 • Phone: (810) 735-7980 • www.lindenmi.us

TO: Mayor Cusson & City Council Members

FROM: City of Linden Downtown Development Authority

DATE: December 8, 2022

RE: 2022 Downtown Development Authority Annual Report

The City of Linden's Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Board is pleased to provide this Annual Report of its activities for 2022. The following is a summary of the DDA's involvements:

- Mural discussion
- Training with the MEDC
- Main Street Program research and discussion
- Purchase of event coasters
- Updated Business Banners
- Approval/purchase of Mill Planter
- Community and Economic Development/DDA Director Position
- DDA TIF Amendment
- Informational Meetings were held in June and October (PA 57 of 2018 Compliance)

2022 Façade Grant Application Reimbursement Issued: 201 East Broad St., Benefit Resource Group

Joint Meetings/Master Plan Engagement- DDA Board Members attended joint meetings with the City Council, the Planning Commission, as well as the Historic District Commission. Topics discussed pertained to the Master Plan Update.

Christmas Tree and Lights- The DDA designated funds to purchase a new Christmas Tree and additional lights. The Christmas Tree was installed by our DPW and decorated by our Fire Department.

DDA Sponsorships/Contributions:

- Happening in Linden Sponsorship for Community Ice Fishing Event
- Happening in Linden Community Partner Sponsorship Package/150th Fireworks
- Music By The Mill - Southern Lakes Parks and Recreation
- Donation to American Legion for Annual Veterans Dinner

Business Support- The DDA approved the first year Chamber Membership for new businesses within the DDA District, as part of the New Business Start Up Package. The first ribbon-cutting was held for new business, COZY in October. Live & Local also shot videos for The Sand Trap, as well as COZY.

Community & Economic Development Director Summary- Bryan Mulanix did not waste any time upon being appointed as the new DDA Director, mid-way through 2022! He not only coordinated the Sidewalk Sale with our downtown businesses in August, but also created marketing materials to aid in promoting it! In addition, he partnered with the Parks and Recreation Commission to create marketing materials for their Thursdays In The Park Summer event series.

Bryan worked closely with DPW Director, Don Grice to help plan and drive the Mill Pond south-end planter project forward. He wants to keep the improvement-momentum going and reviewed concepts for potential project ideas with the DDA Board during their November meeting, pertaining to installation of bike rack art, bike repair stations, fishing dock, water wheel fencing and also the north-end planter within the Mill Pond Park; and tracking down grant opportunities for funding these projects.

Additionally, Bryan performed extensive grant research and submitted an application on behalf of the City for the Michigan DNR SPARK Grant Application in December; to assist with capital improvements for the Mill Pond Park. He has spent a significant amount of time tuning into informative grant webinars and has had numerous phone conversations with SHPO regarding the Paul Bruhn Revitalization Subgrant Program through the National Parks Service; in hopes of taking the DDA's façade improvement grant program to a whole new level!

In 2023, the DDA will continue to drive capital improvement projects within the Mill Pond Park, as part of the City's Strategic Action Plan adopted by City Council in 2022. The Board looks forward to working with all City Boards and Commissions, in supporting the Downtown in 2023. As always, SUPPORT OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES!