

NOTE: THERE WAS NOT A QUORUM AT THIS MEETING; ONLY MEETING NOTES WERE TAKEN

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OSHTEMO

**South Drake Road Corridor Improvement Authority (SoDA)
June 5, 2024 DRAFT Meeting Notes**

The SoDA Board meeting was held in person at Township Hall in the Meeting Room.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Corey Ashley
Cheri Bell
Dennis Patzer, Chair
Theresa Spurr

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Kelly Bringman
Dale DeLeeuw
Joe Gesmundo
Cheri Jodoin

Also present were Jodi Stefforia, Planning Director and Leeanna Harris, Zoning Administrator.

Approval of the Agenda

Due to lack of quorum, the agenda could not be approved.

Minutes

The Minutes of December 7, 2022 could not be voted upon due to the lack of quorum.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

There were no members of the public present.

2024 Election of Officers

Officers were not selected due to lack of quorum.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Reports were reviewed.

Projects

a. Non-Motorized Path Updates: Drake Road and KL Avenue

Chair Patzer asked for clarification on the design being completed and if there was any discussion on a monetary contribution from SoDA. Ms. Stefforia affirmed there was not, Supervisor Bell noted that the Attorney General and MDOT stepped in to ensure Amtrak was moving on the installation on the Drake Road path.

b. Master List of Project Ideas

Discussion regarding any future projects, or current projects to work on occurred. Supervisor Bell mentioned the path along KL Avenue to Drake. Moving to the Master List of Project Ideas, Member Ashley stated no striping has taken place at the county level. Supervisor Bell suggested reaching out to METRO to see if they have any upcoming projects. Further commented there has been a lot of crime on the corner of Drake Road and KL Avenue. Would recommend not covering any more of that corner, i.e., landscaping. As for the fourth bullet point, this concerns a capital improvement update that was presented at the December 2023 SoDA Board meeting which was a generated list from the Public Works Director to consider the timing of traffic signals and other enhancements to improve traffic flow. Members present agreed the fifth project idea on the list would be a positive one and commented could potentially aid in reducing crime in the area of Drake Road and KL Avenue.

2025 Budget Discussion

Discussion regarding repayment terms to the Township from the SoDA Board from 2019-2024 for \$60K each year. Ms. Stefforia communicated that in 2021 and 2023 there was only \$30K repaid to the Township. Members attempted to recall the discussion that may have taken place at a previous meeting, Mr. Patzer offered to go through his notes and provide information to Ms. Stefforia. It was clarified that SoDA is not necessarily required to pay \$60K each year. Supervisor Bell noted that the agreement stipulates that a different amount can be agreed upon each year, which Ms. Stefforia confirmed.

Ms. Stefforia stated she conversed with Public Works Director before the meeting and she asked if the SoDA Board would consider a lump-sum contribution to the Drake Road Avenue Nonmotorized Path design expense. Supervisor Bell asked if this could go to the KL Avenue design. Planning Director Stefforia clarified that is already in place, however, the KL Avenue to Stadium segment along Drake Road will be a project next year. Mr. Ashley asked for clarification of what SoDA repaid each year. 2017 - \$40K, 2018 - \$30K, amended to \$60K, then 2019 - \$60K, 2020 - \$60K, 2021 - \$30K, 2022 - \$60K, 2023 - \$30K, 2024 - \$0 so far, but \$30K budgeted.

Further discussion between Mr. Patzer and Mr. Ashley regarding the thoughts and history of what was paid from the budget (aside from the Drake Road improvements). Mr. Patzer further conveyed to Ms. Spurr they should plan to increase the repayment to \$60-70K in 2025, to get the balance down and plan for future projects. Ms. Spurr agreed though noted that the business taxes for property have increased and could be a contributing factor. Supervisor Bell stated that the taxes have not increased from the Township side. Mr. Patzer stated their only revenue comes from new construction. Supervisor Bell suggested if a situation occurs where SoDA doesn't have any new projects come up, SoDA would not have the ability to repay their commitments. Mr. Patzer will search through his notes to notify Ms. Stefforia of the reasons for years where less than \$60K was repaid.

2024 Open Houses

Ms. Stefforia communicated an Open House was held May 16, 2024 at the Oshtemo Community Center and that it was well attended with the Atlantic Avenue project presented to community members.

The next SoDA and DDA open house date has not yet been determined. Member Spurr and Chair Patzer noted they are typically held in December. Ms. Stefforia recommended that both SoDA and DDA could present updates to the Township Board and treat that as the required informational meeting. It does not have to be an open house.

Other Items

There was discussion about having more than two Board meetings per year. Supervisor Bell suggested that having a minimum of quarterly meetings would be better. There was consensus amongst members of having more than two meetings per year. The reasoning for noon meetings was that this was and remains a better time for most members to meet. There was consensus that additional meetings will take place at 12 p.m. A September 11, 2024 meeting was proposed. A special meeting will be noticed for this date and time. There will be future follow up via phone calls to attempt to ensure quorum before the meeting is held.

Discussion about recruiting more SoDA members. Supervisor Bell mentioned talking with members of the community or business representatives. Ms. Stefforia conveyed as long as they have an interest, they are eligible to serve as Board members.

Member Ashley noted that he walked down the new sidewalk today and he very much enjoyed it.

With there being no further discussion, the meeting ended at 1:01 p.m.

Meeting Notes prepared: June 7, 2024