

City of Northville
Board and Commission Selection Committee
April 5, 2017

Call to Order

The meeting of the Board and Commission Selection Committee was called to order at 8:15 a.m. at the City of Northville Municipal Building – Council Chambers, 215 W. Main Street, Northville, Michigan, 48167.

It was noted that Councilmembers Marilyn Price and Jim Allen were present. Also present were City Clerk Dianne Massa and board/commission applicants. No citizens were present.

Public Comments

None

Review Minutes

The minutes of August 23, 2016 were reviewed and no changes were requested.

Board and Commission Applicant Interviews – Downtown Development Authority

Dan Ferrara. Discussion and questions focused on:

- Business owner since 2011.
- Experience as a downtown business owner.
- Degree in Communication Arts and Sciences. Owns a business and marketing firm.
- Is active on the Chamber of Commerce, Tipping Point Theatre, and Northville Kiwanis Club boards.
- Noted he has no real estate interest in the downtown that would benefit by DDA decisions.
- Would like to see the DDA focus on areas that can effectuate change. What is the DDA trying to market and how to do it effectively? Would like to see more focus on the marketing budget. If evidence supports that marketing is not working, the funds should be put toward a different use.
- Belief the City is more than an “art” destination and should be marketed as such.
- Supportive of the Strategic Plan process.
- Review of the DDA meeting schedule and City Council’s expectation of 75% attendance at regularly scheduled meetings for board/commission members.
- The importance of timely responses to attendance and quorum confirmation emails was stressed.

Robert Miller. Discussion and questions focused on:

- Resident of Northville since 2013.
- Owns an architectural business in the downtown.
- Has been involved with DDA’s in every community he has lived. In South Carolina, he chaired the Design Review Committee and the Community Appearance Review Board. In Ferndale, he chaired the DDA Design Review Committee. He wrote design, zoning, and planning guidelines for both cities.
- Is interested in how economics and environment can impact the “built” environment.
- Is interested in influencing policy through what he sees and through his professional background.
- Has served on the Northville DDA’s Strategic Plan Committee and assisted with the DDA’s program for façade grants.
- Miller questioned what the City Council is looking for in a DDA board member. It was responded that City Council is looking for applicants with an understanding of how a DDA is funded and operates. They wish to add diversity to DDA through different skill sets.
- Review of the DDA meeting schedule and City Council’s expectation of 75% attendance at regularly scheduled meetings for board/commission members.
- The importance of timely responses to attendance and quorum confirmation emails was stressed.

Manfred Schon. Discussion and questions focused on:

- Northville resident since 2015.
- Owns an international business, with headquarters in the downtown since 2012. All of the international offices are also located in downtowns.
- Spoke of his background in geo technology.
- Believes communities need to look at technology as part of its strategy. Cities are more attractive when geo technology and renewable energy is present.
- Would like to help the City to work and promote technological innovation.
- Does not have any previous civic involvement. Knows of the DDA through the DDA Chairperson; has not attended any DDA meetings.
- Schon questioned what is expected of a DDA member. The importance of meeting attendance was stressed along with an interest in the downtown and Northville community.
- Review of the DDA meeting schedule and City Council's expectation of 75% attendance at regularly scheduled meetings for board/commission members.
- The importance of timely responses to attendance and quorum confirmation emails was stressed.

Discussion and Recommendation: None

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:08 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Massa
City Clerk

Approved as submitted: 1/19/18