



# **MINUTES**

Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Western Vista Conference Room 1920 Thomes Ave, Cheyenne, WY 82001

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 11:00 AM.

#### II. ROLL CALL

**Members Present:** Wendy Volk (Vice President); David Teubner; Brian Bau; Lorrell Bellotti; Candice Wisdom; Stan Hartzheim; Linda Heath (Ex-Officio). **On Zoom**: Amber Nuse

Members Absent: Janelle Rose; Jamie Winters.

**Staff Present:** Sophia Maes, DDA Executive Director; Miya Debusk, DDA Social Media Assistant; Cass Raffa, DDA Operations & Project Coordinator

**Members of the Public Present:** Virginia Brinkerhoff, Just Dandy; Mimi Salone; Patrick Collins, City of Cheyenne Mayor; Jeff White, City Council; Charles Bloom, City Plan and Development; Mike Morris, CRE; Cameron Gloss, Logan Simpson; Amber Ash, Chief of Staff. **On Zoom**: Glen Garrett; Julie Tucker, Mayor's Council of Disabilities; Erin Fagan, City Planning and Development.

### III. DISCLOSURES / ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### A. Remembering Councilman Roybal

Maes opened the meeting with a remembrance of Councilman Scott Roybal, who passed away a few weeks prior. She invited anyone wishing to share words in his memory to do so. Teubner expressed his appreciation for Councilman Roybal's many contributions, and Volk spoke about honoring his legacy. A moment of silence was observed in his memory. Maes announced that the memorial service will be held on November 21 at 2:00 p.m. at Saint Mary's Cathedral, followed by a reception at the Kiwanis Community House. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Cheyenne Animal Shelter were encouraged.

## **B.** Returning Staff Member

Maes re-introduced Debusk, who has returned to the DDA staff as the Marketing Assistant. Anyone should feel free to reach out to her if they have not gotten a chance to speak with her.





#### C. New Staff Member

Maes introduced Cassidee Raffa, who is the new Operations & Project Coordinator. Raffa has already started on drafts of critical items. Training for Miya and Cass will be a main focus in this slow season to prepare for the summer.

## D. WYOPASS Project of the Year Award for the Plan of Development

Maes introduced the representative from Logan Simpson to present the WYOPASS Project of the Year Award. Cameron Gloss announced that the Wyoming Planning Association (WYOPASS) had selected the DDA Plan of Development as the 2025 Planning Project of the Year. Gloss noted that it was a great honor for his firm to collaborate with the DDA on this project and passed the award around for the Board to view. He also shared that, after 42 years as a city planner with Logan Simpson, he will be retiring, and this meeting marks his final public appearance.

Maes thanked Mayor Patrick Collins for attending and for his continued support. Mayor Collins commended the DDA for their outstanding work on the 2024 Plan of Development.

#### IV. SPECIAL ELECTION

#### A. DDA Board President

Volk asked for any nominations for DDA Board President. Teubner nominated himself. Bellotti asked if Volk would like to be nominated. Volk declined. Nomination for Teubner approved unanimously.

Volk and Teubner agreed that Volk would continue to run today's meeting.

## V. MINUTES:

## A. September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Bau motioned to approve minutes for September 18th, 2025. Seconded by Wisdom. Minutes approved unanimously.

#### VI. OLD BUSINESS

## A. July 2025 Financial Report





Maes introduced the item, noting that Board Member Nuse and City Treasurer Robin Lockman had connected regarding the negative revenue reflected in the July report, which was discussed at the September meeting.

Nuse explained that the reversal of the revenue accrual from June was processed in July, when it should have occurred in September. This error has since been corrected. She further clarified that the issue pertained to negative revenue shown in the July report, not negative net income, which was appropriate given that there were only expenses and no revenue in July and August. With the correction, the July revenue balance now accurately reflects \$0.

Bau moved to approve the July 2025 Financial Report. Hartzheim seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

#### B. August 2025 Financial Report

Maes introduced the item, noting that the same issue identified in the July financials was also present in the August report, which had been tabled at the previous meeting. She confirmed that the issue has since been corrected. Maes provided an update on the total current assets as of August 31 and reported the net income figures. She noted that the mill levy payment for August was \$0 and explained that the mill levy amount fluctuates monthly based on when payments are received, which is not a cause for concern. Maes also stated that the number of days of operating expenditures as of August was 734.61, well above the policy requirement of 60 days.

Bau moved to approve the August 2025 Financial Report. Teubner seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### VII. NEW BUSINESS

## A. September 2025 Financial Report

Maes introduced the item, noting that the DDA has been successfully distributing multiple grants. She provided updates on the total current assets as of September and reported the net income. The number of days of operating expenditures was 721.86. Several grant and sponsorship commitments have been paid out. Watson Properties LLC received payment in September for exterior brickwork. The Sidewalk Improvement Program payment for the first tier at 1800 Carey has not yet been issued to the City; however, Maes received the invoice yesterday, and the balance is expected to decrease next month. She added that a few other





parties have expressed interest in the Sidewalk Improvement Program, and the DDA is awaiting bids.

HealthWorks has not yet received payment, as the agreement is still being finalized. Because the project involves a sidewalk, the DDA will utilize a grant agreement rather than an easement agreement. The agreement for the Alternatives Art Project, Inc. DBA The Lincoln, is also in progress. The DDF Downtown Halloween Trunk or Treat event was paid on October 10, meaning it will not appear in next month's report. The DDF Downtown Putt Putt Tournament remains on the list of committed sponsorships, as the DDA had not yet officially uncommitted; a motion was required to do so.

Bellotti moved to uncommit \$1,075.00 from the DDF Downtown Putt Putt Tournament. Wisdom seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Hartzheim moved to approve the September 2025 Financial Report. Wisdom seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Bau departed the meeting at 11:15 am and rejoined via Zoom for the remainder of the session.

## B. DDAC-25-6 Just Dandy FIP

Maes introduced the Façade Improvement Program (FIP) application for the Just Dandy retail store, located at 212 W. 17th Street, submitted by business owner Virginia Brinkerhoff. The application proposes restoration and remodeling of the building's façade due to hail damage sustained on August 1, 2025. The scope of work includes removing and disposing of existing brick, cleaning the surfaces, installing new brick, removing existing EPS foam, applying a liquid weather barrier, reinstalling the foam, and purchasing and installing new windows.

Maes explained that the applicant initially applied for a Capital Improvement Grant (CIG) because it was the only application available at the time; however, after discussion, staff determined that the project is more appropriately suited for the FIP Program, which has a designated budget line item. The FIP Program allows the DDA to grant up to 65% of eligible project costs. This application covers the insurance deductible, not the full cost of improvements.

The property is located within the Central Business District, is historic, and was built in 1916, according to the Laramie County Assessor. The structure is 7,994 square feet with a masonry exterior and is considered a contributing historic structure as of 2017. Maes noted that any changes to the property should align with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. The total estimated cost of improvements is \$89,543.70. After insurance





coverage, the applicant's deductible totaled \$13,000. The original application requested \$6,500 from the DDA (50% of the deductible); under the FIP Program, up to 65% (\$8,450) may be approved.

Maes stated that the application meets most of the review criteria outlined in the staff report and partially meets the criterion requiring at least two bids for each scope of work. Two bids were received for the windows, but only one for the masonry. She invited discussion from the Board regarding whether an additional masonry bid should be required. Staff recommended approval of the application for the front façade for up to 65% (\$8,450) of the deductible amount, subject to the conditions outlined in the staff report.

Volk welcomed applicant Virginia Brinkerhoff to share additional details about the project. Brinkerhoff described the proposed repairs and noted that further work, such as roof repairs, would be necessary but outside the scope of the FIP. Volk asked Maes whether roof repairs might qualify under a Capital Improvement Grant. Maes clarified that the DDA does not assist with roof repairs, as they are not within the public right-of-way or visible to the public.

Brinkerhoff also mentioned the need for repairs to the side exterior walls. When Maes asked for clarification, Brinkerhoff explained that the damage is visible on both sides of the building, between the Metropolitan and Just Dandy, and between the Financial Center and Just Dandy. She noted that a mason would be required to complete the side wall repairs and expressed appreciation for any assistance from the DDA toward her deductible.

Wisdom asked Maes to confirm that there was only one bid for the masonry. Maes affirmed that only one masonry bid had been received, which typically does not meet the two-bid requirement. Wisdom then asked Brinkerhoff whether the bid had been approved through her insurance. Brinkerhoff explained that she had an additional bid but submitted the one provided by her insurance adjuster. Wisdom emphasized the importance of ensuring all necessary work is included in the insurance claim. Brinkerhoff clarified that while the claim does not cover all brickwork, it includes the façade and the top section where the "Just Dandy" sign is located. She noted that she did not include side wall repairs in the DDA application because the FIP applies only to façades.

Volk commented that in similar cases, applicants whose projects expanded in scope have returned to the DDA to discuss potential amendments or additional grant opportunities. Charles Bloom, City Planner, confirmed that the DDA has previously amended grants in situations where repairs exceeded initial estimates.

Volk commended Brinkerhoff for her longstanding success as a local female business owner and noted her contribution to the downtown community. Brinkerhoff reflected on her 30 years in





business and mentioned that, while she has considered retirement, she cannot sell the building until the roof is replaced. Volk thanked her for being an anchor in the downtown business district. Heath added that when the time comes for Brinkerhoff to sell, it would be valuable for her to find a successor, noting the limited availability of women's business attire in Cheyenne. Brinkerhoff responded that finding someone with the same level of commitment would be difficult.

Bellotti requested clarification regarding the insurance claim. She and Wisdom confirmed with Brinkerhoff that all improvements, including the side walls, were included in the claim, ensuring that the applicant would not be subject to multiple deductibles. Bellotti noted that this clarification does not affect the DDA's funding level but ensures the organization's funds are used efficiently. Brinkerhoff stated that her contractor had submitted supplemental information to the insurance company and was awaiting a response from the adjuster.

Wisdom moved to approve the FIP application for 212 W. 17th Street (Just Dandy) for up to \$8,450 (65%) of the insurance deductible improvement costs for the façade due to hail damage and to authorize the DDA President and Vice President to execute the necessary agreements and easement documents. Hartzheim seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

#### C. DDAS-25-2 Smiles with Santa

Maes introduced a sponsorship request from the City's Community Recreation & Events (CRE) Department for \$500 in support of the Smiles with Santa event. The event will take place on November 29 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Depot and is free and open to the public. Targeting families and children, the event will feature complimentary photos with Santa. As an inaugural event, it will be held the afternoon before the Christmas Parade and Depot Lighting, aiming to increase downtown foot traffic, foster a festive holiday atmosphere, highlight the historic Depot as a seasonal destination, and strengthen community partnerships. The requested funds will be used for general expenses such as marketing, decorations, and staff labor. If approved, the DDA will pay the City CRE Department directly. Maes noted that the proposal meets all review criteria and recommended approval of the sponsorship.

Bellotti moved to approve a financial sponsorship of \$500 to support the Smiles with Santa event, to be used for general expenses, including staff labor, marketing, and decorations. Wisdom seconded.

Bellotti inquired whether any other organizations affiliated with Visit Cheyenne were hosting Santa events on the same day, noting that Santa should not appear at multiple locations simultaneously. After reviewing the Visit Cheyenne events calendar and finding no conflicts,





Bellotti suggested ensuring this event is added to the community events page to improve coordination and communication.

Maes introduced Mike Morris, Sponsorship Manager for the City CRE Department, to provide additional information. Morris explained that Smiles with Santa complements other festive programming on Small Business Saturday and the Downtown Christmas Parade, helping promote local businesses within the Depot. He added that the event will introduce new audiences to the Depot and confirmed that the CRE team will verify there are no conflicting Santa appearances that day.

The motion passed unanimously.

## D. DDA-25-3 Thanks for the Memories

Maes introduced a second sponsorship request from the City Community Recreation & Events Department (CRE) for \$10,000 at the *Supporting Act* sponsor level for the inaugural Thanks for the Memories concert series at the Cheyenne Civic Center. The series will run from September 26 through May 8, 2025, featuring one concert per month. The purpose of the series is to revitalize the Civic Center's reputation, boost downtown activity during off-peak months, and enrich community life by providing free, high-quality performances from nationally recognized artists.

Although the series is promoted as free and open to the public, season passes are available which offer guaranteed admission to all nine shows. Seating capacity is limited to 1,500 attendees, creating a soft cap on total openness. The applicant estimates the series could bring up to 1,500 visitors downtown throughout its duration.

The \$10,000 sponsorship request would assist with performance fees, travel accommodations, and production costs, and if approved, the DDA would make a direct payment to the City CRE Department.

Maes explained that the staff analysis found the event meets DDA sponsorship criteria but only partially meets the mill levy use criterion due to the limited seating capacity and season pass component. She also noted that the FY2026 sponsorship budget is nearly depleted. If the DDA reserves \$35,000 for next year's Fridays on the Plaza and funds the recently approved Smiles with Santa sponsorship, the remaining balance for sponsorships would be approximately \$2,500. Funding the full \$10,000 would place the budget in deficit.

Staff recommended a sponsorship of \$2,500 to reflect limited budget availability and the event's partial restriction on public access. Alternate recommendations included funding the





full \$10,000 and going into a deficit, funding the full \$10,000 by taking funding away from next year's Fridays on the Plaza, or denying the sponsorship altogether.

Wisdom asked if that budget amount included the reappropriated funds from the Putt Putt Tournament, and Maes confirmed that it did.

Bellotti motioned to approve staff's recommendation of \$2,500, seconded by Wisdom.

Volk asked whether any other budget line items could be adjusted to accommodate the full \$10,000 request, emphasizing the importance of supporting winter programming.

Maes responded that a budget amendment would allow for potential fund reallocations. Possible sources could include postage, education and training, printing, computer software, market research, or the CIG or FIP line items.

Teubner supported examining the budget for potential reallocations, but was not a fan of pulling funding from *Fridays on the Plaza*. He stated that this series would help fill the winter gap in downtown programming, noting that Cheyenne becomes quiet in the off-season. He encouraged expanding the sponsorship budget next year to accommodate future opportunities like this.

Hartzheim suggested the applicant explore funding from other sources, such as Visit Cheyenne or the Joint Powers Board.

Morris, representing City CRE, stated that the department is actively securing community sponsorships and will apply for a Visit Cheyenne grant. He noted that the series budget is approximately \$250,000. *Fridays on the Plaza* generated an estimated \$1.9 million in local economic impact and drew 53,000 attendees this year. Morris expressed hope that *Thanks for the Memories* would similarly grow into an annual downtown tradition with lasting economic benefit.

Bellotti motioned to amend the main motion by striking the \$2,500 and inserting \$6,500. No one seconded. Amendment failed. Back on the main motion of \$2,500.

Wisdom asked Morris to explain the number of concerts, the value of the season pass, and current sponsorship totals. She also asked whether the event has corporate sponsors, similar to *Fridays on the Plaza*.

Morris explained that the series includes nine concerts scheduled between September and May, sometimes on non-Friday nights based on artist availability. He stated that the season





pass (\$300) guarantees admission to all shows, but general admission remains free until capacity is reached. He shared that the event has raised roughly \$45,000 in community sponsorships so far, excluding season pass revenue, and noted that cold-weather events like this help sustain economic activity downtown.

Volk observed that increased awareness of the Civic Center's impact could support future 6th penny funding efforts, such as updating the bathrooms in the building.

Maes added that expanding support for winter events aligns with a FY26 DDA Board priority.

Bellotti explained why she motioned to amend the sponsorship from \$2,500 to \$6,500, noting that this amount matches the *Concert Friend* sponsorship tier and provides more visible marketing recognition for the DDA rather than contributing an arbitrary figure.

Teubner explained that funding the full \$10,000 would elevate the DDA to the *Supporting Act* sponsorship level, ensuring that the DDA logo appears on all event marketing and promotional materials, rather than simply being listed as a sponsor. He noted that the DDA's healthy financial standing and the potential to reallocate unused funds make this feasible and appropriate.

Hartzheim agreed, and Bau, participating via Zoom, added that the DDA had previously funded \$7,000 for the DDF Trick or Treat Event, and this series would potentially generate a significantly greater economic benefit.

Wisdom then motioned to amend the amount to \$6,500, seconded by Bellotti. Amended motion failed unanimously.

Teubner motioned to amend the staff recommendation to fund the full \$10,000, seconded by Hartzheim. Motion to approve \$10,000 passed unanimously.

Morris thanked the Board for its flexibility and investment, noting the DDA's support would make a meaningful difference in the series' success.

Teubner encouraged collaboration between the DDA and City CRE to engage downtown businesses, promote the series, and leverage social media outreach to maximize visibility.

Bellotti reiterated the importance of communicating with downtown merchants to help them prepare for increased traffic on concert nights.





Wisdom suggested using the DDA's *Supporting Act* sponsorship benefit, four VIP tickets per show, for monthly giveaways to downtown businesses, encouraging them to become event partners or corporate sponsors.

Maes confirmed with Morris that the tickets are transferable, allowing different recipients each month. She noted that this approach was successful with *Fridays on the Plaza* and strengthened downtown relationships.

## E. FY26 Q4 Budget Amendment

Maes stated that staff conducts budget amendments throughout the fiscal year to ensure adequate funding within each line item. This item represents the first budget amendment for FY2026.

The proposed amendment includes a \$50,000 increase to the Communications Plan for vendor payments, offset by a \$50,000 reduction from the DDA Board Strategic Projects line item to cover these expenses.

Maes explained that when the budget was initially developed, she had been in her role for only a month, and the Communications Plan was under-budgeted for at that time. She noted that sufficient funds remain available to accommodate both the Thanks for the Memories sponsorship and Communications Plan monthly payments, either through reallocation of existing funds or, if necessary, a formal budget increase requiring City Council approval.

Maes added that this is expected to be the first of three or four amendments during FY2026 to align with ongoing project needs. Staff recommended approval of FY2026 Budget Amendment No. 1 as presented.

Teubner motioned to approve the FY2026 Budget Amendment No. 1 as presented. Bellotti seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

#### F. 2025 IDA Conference Summary – Verbal Update

Maes provided a summary of the International Downtown Association (IDA) Conference, held at the end of September in Washington, D.C., which staff and board members attended with DDA support and funding. Maes, Hartzheim, and Wisdom participated in the conference.

Maes noted that the event included numerous mobile tours, allowing attendees to see projects and programs firsthand. While Washington, D.C. is much denser than Cheyenne, making some





initiatives less directly applicable, the experience offered valuable insights and networking opportunities, including meeting with a Fort Collins DDA representative.

Maes stated that her main takeaway was the difference in state statutes; many states allow for the creation of Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) at the City level, whereas Wyoming only authorizes DDAs. She explained that DDAs are governmental entities, while BIDs are public—private partnerships, often more focused on public improvements such as landscaping, events, and space activation. Maes added that some BIDs operate with far larger budgets, citing one district covering 14 blocks with a \$4 million annual budget compared to Cheyenne's \$487,000 annual mill levy revenue.

Maes observed that many downtowns face similar challenges, including transient populations and limited revenue, and that other organizations rely heavily on data, reporting, and market research to guide their decisions, an area she noted as a growth opportunity for Cheyenne's DDA.

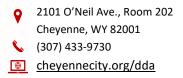
Hartzheim shared that it became immediately apparent upon arriving that most DDAs or similar authorities elsewhere operate alongside nonprofits or BIDs in strong public—private partnerships. He emphasized that Cheyenne's DDA appears to be striving toward that model but is constrained by regulatory limitations, which hinder relationship-building with private entities.

Hartzheim added that Cheyenne possesses unique community strengths, including strong nonprofit involvement and a willingness among residents to fundraise and advocate for important local causes. He expressed admiration for other cities' ability to activate downtown spaces and reaffirmed the importance of the DDA supporting events like the *Thanks for the* Memories series to enhance vibrancy downtown.

Wisdom stated that data and marketing, both to the community and to potential developers and investors, remain key weaknesses for Cheyenne. She emphasized the city's need for anchor establishments, such as a downtown grocery store, to increase foot traffic and attract new investment. Wisdom noted that the Communications Plan will play a critical role in improving outreach and positioning the DDA for future development.

Wisdom also highlighted areas where Cheyenne is already excelling, including downtown lighting projects and the planter program, which are initiatives other cities are only beginning to implement. She supported the ongoing plan to expand the planter program and encouraged collaboration with other downtown entities to reduce overlap and improve project coordination. She identified pedestrian-friendly activation as a continuing goal and stressed that the DDA should continue to support those efforts.





Hartzheim remarked that with new housing developments planned for the Hynds and Hole site and the West Edge, downtown Cheyenne will likely grow in density, further reinforcing the need to attract anchor tenants, particularly a grocery store, to serve future residents.

Jeff White, City Council Representative, responded that the City and Mayor strongly support grocery store development downtown, but location decisions ultimately rest with the businesses. He shared that WinCo Foods recently chose to locate on Dell Range despite the City's hopes for a downtown option. White added that as housing density increases, the market may naturally draw a grocery store into the downtown core.

#### VIII. PLAN OF DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

Maes reported that the summit for the Communications Plan was held on September 30th, and feedback from participants was very insightful. She stated that she has been in contact with West Edge Collective, who are finalizing the discovery phase and preparing a plan for presentation. Maes expressed strong confidence in their work.

Raffa has begun developing a Resource Repository, starting with a detailed list of community resources and partner organizations.

Maes introduced several Plan of Development catalyst project updates, beginning with the 15th Street Master Plan. The revised plan indicates that the three Gunslinger buildings will remain west of the restored railcars temporarily and will be removed once the caboose restoration is complete. The trains from the original design will shift east to accommodate Old Sadie and other railcars. Maes announced that Cody Miller, the new City Engineer and former member of the Navy Civil Engineering Corps, will serve as project manager going forward. An RFP is being prepared for the remainder of the 15th Street Master Plan design. Currently, only the Phase 1 construction design is complete, which focuses on site preparation for the railcars in alignment with the economic development agency grant. The faux tracks will be installed before July 2026 to transport the vintage railcars, now removed from Swan Ranch and under restoration, to their permanent site by July 15, 2026. Construction is anticipated to begin in summer 2027. Wisdom asked whether lighting was included in Phase 1 or Phase 2. Maes responded that lighting is part of Phase 2, which the DDA would like to assist with. Wisdom inquired about communication with downtown property owners, noting past issues. Maes confirmed that updates will be included in the newsletter and that DDA staff will continue to communicate with City Engineering to ensure consistent communication. Volk supported the idea, emphasizing that even though the DDA is not managing the project, it is important to help communicate the





vision and progress. Wisdom added that with growing interest in the Reed Avenue Rail Project, maintaining consistent updates helps the public see ongoing progress. Maes noted that staff will use the winter months to strengthen internal structures and processes for communication and project management.

Maes reported that at the October 10th work session, Director Cobb shared updates on the Reed Avenue Rail Project. BNSF provided feedback requiring the elimination of four public rail crossings, raising concerns about accessibility for both vehicles and pedestrians. One property owner on the west side of Reed expressed worry about potential isolation, and there are additional logistical concerns for Warehouse 21 and Meadow Gold. Board member Teubner, who serves on the steering committee for Warehouse 21, is aware of these challenges. The next step involves City Engineering coordinating with BNSF to finalize 60% design plans, including street closures, lighting, and pedestrian studies. Maes also mentioned a pilot project planned for the city-owned triangular parcel on the north end. Although separate from the Reed project, it aims to demonstrate potential improvements and build public support for the 6th Penny tax. Maes noted she did not confirm which entity will manage that parcel. If successful, the project may proceed in two phases: north first, then south.

Regarding the 17th Street Lighting, Maes reported that Councilman Laybourn notified her of hail damage that left several lights inoperable. The Facilities Department is aware and will address repairs once higher-priority maintenance issues are resolved.

No new updates at this time for the Hynds and the Hole project.

Communication with property owners has improved for the On-Street Parking Striping. City Engineering Project Manager Sheree Brgoch personally delivered letters to businesses notifying them of striping work to be completed by end of October. Feedback indicates concerns about parallel parking spaces restricting larger vehicles; City Engineering will assess and adjust for Phase 2.

Maes stated that DDA staff plan to present the Summer 2026 Planter Program RFP for approval at the next meeting, proposing a three-year contract to streamline future planning. A community survey was distributed to gather feedback on the Summer 2025 program, receiving 91 responses: with 87% satisfied or very satisfied, and 5% dissatisfied. Wisdom asked specifically about feedback on EarthPlanters, a bottom-up watering system. Maes reported 64% in favor, 26% maybe, and 10% opposed, noting that while people appreciate the water-saving design,





there are concerns about costs and funding responsibility. Further research will continue in the coming months.

Teubner commended the use of data-driven outreach and suggested the DDA thank survey respondents for their feedback.

Wisdom shared that during the IDA Conference, an organization in D.C. used their planters for marketing by displaying their logo, suggesting this as an idea for the DDA.

Heath added that some brick planters downtown serve security purposes for certain buildings, such as the Courthouse, and recommended discussing with stakeholders whether those should remain or be replaced with new designs.

## IX. OTHER BUSINESS/STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

No other announcements.

#### X. ADJOURNMENT

Bellotti motioned to adjourn the meeting. Wisdom seconded. Meeting adjourned at 12:39 PM