

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OSHTEMO

**South Drake Road Corridor Improvement Authority (SoDA)
December 7, 2022**

The SoDA Board meeting was held in person at Township Hall. The meeting was called to order by Chair Ashley at 12:05 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Corey Ashley, Chair
Joe Gesmundo
Libby Heiny-Cogswell (joined around 12:15 PM)
Dennis Patzer, Treasurer
Kelly Bringman
Theresa Spurr
Dale Shugars

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Christine Morse

Also present was Iris Lubbert, Planning Director and Anna Horner, Public Works Director (attending virtually).

Approval of the Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda. Chair Ashley let the agenda stand as published.

Minutes

Chair Ashley asked if there were any additions, deletions, or corrections to the Minutes of June 1, 2022. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the Minutes.

Ms. Spurr made a motion to approve the Minutes of June 1, 2022 as presented. Ms. Bringman seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

Chair Ashley asked if there was any Public Comment. There was none.

Treasurer's Report

Chair Ashley asked for the Treasurer's Report. Ms. Lubbert shared the Treasurer's Report for June 1st, 2022 through November 29th, 2022, unaudited.

Ms. Lubbert summarized that \$75,989.93 in tax revenue has been collected in 2022. To date \$82.37 has been collected in interest earned. The only 2022 expenditure to date is the \$60,000 for the 2021 and 2022 contribution for the Drake Road path.

Board members questioned the amount of interest that had been collected in 2022. Some investment suggestions were shared which could increase the amount collected. Ms. Lubbert noted that it is unclear to her how the investment process works for the SoDA funds; she said the Township's Treasurer is responsible for making those investments. Chair Ashley asked to be put in contact with the Treasurer to discuss options.

Mr. Patzer made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Ms. Spurr seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Nonmotorized Paths Update

Ms. Horner reported that the first section of the Drake Road sidewalk is fully completed down to KL Avenue. The piece below this area crosses the railroad; this section is still under negotiation between MDOT and M-Trak. She reported that there has been some progress in the negotiation process and she is optimistic that the project will be able to proceed in the near future.

Ms. Horner noted that the KL path, a 10-foot-wide path spanning between Drake Road to Copper Beach Drive on the north side of the road, is planned to be constructed in 2023 and 2024. About two thirds of the path is within the SoDA boundary. She noted that a number of grants have been obtained to assist in the cost of the project and consultants are in the process of obtaining the necessary easements from property owners. Total cost for this project is estimated at around 3 million. The Board discussed financing for the project and clarified that they are currently not contributing to the project. There was agreement that the Drake Road Path is the SoDA Boards priority.

2023 Meeting Schedule

Ms. Lubbert proposed two meetings dates for the SoDA Board for 2023: Wednesday, June 7th and Wednesday, December 6th at noon.

Mr. Patzer made a motion to approve the proposed 2023 meeting dates. Ms. Bringman seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

2022 Informational Session Update

Ms. Lubbert noted that Public Act 57 of 2018 requires that Corridor Improvement Authorities hold at least two informational meetings a year. These meetings do not have to be official Board meetings but can be designed as Open Houses to inform the public of the goals of the Board and the projects that the South Drake Road Corridor Improvement Authority is financing. For efficiency, the SoDA Board agreed to combining the two required Open Houses with the two Open Houses required for the Downtown Development Authority (DDA).

She reported that the first required open house was held on February 16, 2022. The second has been scheduled for December 14th from 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM.

Tif Plan Discussion – Potential Projects

Based on additional revenues received this year and anticipated next, the SoDA Board expressed interest in exploring new safety improvement projects. Board members were asked to review the SoDA Tax Increment Financing Plan and be prepared to discuss project ideas. The following projects were suggested:

- KL Path contribution
- Partnering with METRO to install additional transit facilities
- Creating a gateway at or beautifying the northwest corner of KL and Drake
- Partnering in a corridor analysis that would look at operational improvements and capacity needs
- A grant program to improve lighting on private property
- Coordinating and funding crosswalk signs (both on private and public property)

The Board liked the idea of keeping a master list of project ideas that would be part of future packets that could be referenced and updated as needed. The Board also expressed interest in looking further into the possibility of the sidewalk crossing signs. Ms. Horner agreed to assist with a pilot that would look at one private and one public location to assess feasibility. The Board also asked that she look into maintenance costs for this project.

Mr. Gesmundo stated his priority would be finishing what the SoDA Board has already started. He suggested that no other new projects be taken on until the remaining details and expenses for the completion of Drake Road path are finalized. He would prefer that SoDA's additional funds be put toward the completion of that project.

The SoDA Board agreed to discuss the project list further at their next meeting. When Ms. Horner has details for the sidewalk crossing signs, they agreed that they would be supportive of scheduling a special meeting.

Other Business

It was noted that this meeting is Dale Shugars last meeting as a SoDA Board member. He was thanked for this service.

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:45 p.m.

Minutes prepared:
12/12/2022

Minutes approved:
6/7/2023