



RIVERFRONT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

1315 S. Washington Avenue
Morley Building – 1 Tuscola
989.399.1311
October 14, 2025
MINUTES

Call to Order/Roll Call:

Vice Chair Keenan-Lechel called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Present: Abraham Allen, Aaron Bedford, Steve Gerhardt, Steve Hensley, Brian Keenan-Lechel, John Moton, Vee Murugan, Jacinta Seals, Tim Morales, Travis Hare
Absent: Martin Chelekis, Joshua Daniels, Carrie Davis, Mark Fischer, Kevin Rooker
Excused: Erin Andrus, Robert Gollin

Approval of Minutes:

Moved by Commissioner Seals, seconded by Commissioner Hare to approve the minutes of the May 13 and June 17, 2025, meetings. Motion approved.

Public Comments:

None.

Chair Report:

Vice Chair Keenan-Lechel read the commission resignation letter of Chair John Humphreys.

New Business:

Vice Chair Keenan-Lechel stated that due to the resignation of John Humphreys, the position of Chair needs to be filled. Moved by Commissioner Gerhardt, seconded by Commissioner Allen to appoint Vice Chair Keenan-Lechel as Chair, and extend the term to February 2027. Motion approved.

Chair Keenan-Lechel stated that the position of Vice Chair needs to be filled. Commissioner Gerhardt volunteered for the position. Moved by Commissioner Moton, seconded by Commissioner Hare to appoint Commissioner Gerhardt as Vice Chair and extend the term to February 2027. Motion approved.

Reports:

- **Medical Diamond**

Manager Morales reported that there will be a bidding process for the park plans in the spring and that Consumers is currently burying lines. He reported that CMU is currently in the competitive bidding process. SVSU will be moving forward with their project with plans for completion in approximately 2028.

- **City Manager**

Manager Morales reported that the parking ramp on Hamilton should open in the next two weeks and the old tile building at 303 Adams will be demolished.

- **DDA/Old Town**

Commissioner Hensley reported the following:

- Façade grants were awarded to Cream & Sugar, Gordie's, and the former Old Town Furniture buildings.
- Gordie's will open this fall and will be hockey themed.
- The DDA Special Events Committee awarded \$1500 to Positive Results Downtown Saginaw for the Christmas Parade.
- The snowflakes will again be placed on the light poles, and the hope is to add more.

- **Riverfront Loop**

Chair Keenan-Lechel reported that the school district agreement with the city and the county has not been renewed for the Janet Nash park. He stated that the park will be kept more natural, but the north end will likely be reimagined into something more manicured.

Commissioner Hare reported that the east side riverfront trail from Wickes Park to Ojibway Island, including the parking lot and drive on Ojibway, and from Ojibway to the Medical Diamond will undergo an entire rehabilitation with grant dollars that were awarded.

- **Beautification Day**

Chair Keenan-Lechel stated that the coordinating and recruitment efforts have been difficult with no one volunteering to lead. He hopes to recruit for better representation at the Mayor's clean up event in the spring.

- **Ojibway Island**

Manager Morales reported that the previous plan for a joint committee would not have complied with the OMA. He stated that the Council committee has met and there is a list of projects established for the island and many of the items that were on this commission's wish list were already part of the plans. The Council committee will make recommendations back to City Council.

Commissioner Hare reported that the stabilization work is complete and the pavement of the road and parking lot was delayed due to EGLE requirements for flood plain permitting. The paving project will likely take place in the spring to be completed by Memorial Day.

Chair Keenan-Lechel stated that a rotary group is planning on improvements to Crayola Park with the Saginaw Community Foundation as the funding source.

Miscellaneous:

The next meeting is November 18 at 5:00 p.m.

Adjourn:

Moved by Vice Chair Gerhardt, seconded by Commissioner Moton to adjourn the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

Recorded by,

Kristine Bolzman
City Clerk