



RIVERFRONT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

1315 S. Washington Avenue

989.759.1480

Morley Building-1 Tuscola

2nd Floor Conference Room

February 10, 2026

5:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

MINUTES

1. Approve the November 18, 2025, and January 13, 2026, meeting minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

CHAIR REPORT

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

REPORTS

1. Medical Diamond
2. City Manager
3. DDA/Old Town
4. Riverfront Loop
5. Beautification Day
6. Ojibway Island

MISCELLANEOUS

1. Les Tincknell marker update
2. Next meeting is March 10 at 5:00 p.m. at the Saginaw Community Foundation, Morley Building, 2nd floor conference room.

ADJOURN

IF YOU ARE DISABLED AND NEED ACCOMMODATION TO PROVIDE YOU WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE OR OBSERVE IN PROGRAMS, SERVICES, OR ACTIVITIES, PLEASE CALL THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE, 1315 S. WASHINGTON AVENUE, 759-1480.



RIVERFRONT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

1315 S. Washington Avenue
Morley Building – 1 Tuscola
989.399.1311
November 18, 2025
DRAFT MINUTES

Call to Order/Roll Call:

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

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

Public Comments:

None.

Approval of Minutes:

Moved by Commissioner Gerhardt, seconded by Manager Morales to approve the minutes of the October 14, 2025, meeting. Motion approved.

Chair Report:

Chair Keenan-Lechel announced that this weekend is the Holidays in the Heart of the City celebration.

Reports:

- **Medical Diamond**

Manager Morales reported that Central is giving an update in the coming weeks. Consumers Energy work is done, and Great Lakes Bay Health has to utilize its funds by the end of next year. Commissioner Hare reported that costs have risen since covid, with no indication that they will decrease. Constructions RFPs will go out next year, with the hope that the costs will be lower due to the extended lead time.

- **City Manager**

Manager Morales reported that Ojibway Island projects will be done in the spring and that an extension on the permit from EGLE was requested for the parking lot expansion. The parking ramp at Hamilton will be open, it will be free to park during the holiday event. Niagara will still be closed while the basin work underneath is completed.

- **DDA/Old Town**

Chair Keenan-Lechel reported that the Old Town Association President, Betsy DeParry, reached out regarding new storage solutions for the Saginaw Easter bunnies. Assistance will also be needed with transportation.

- **Riverfront Loop**

Commissioner Hare reported that paving will take place in the spring and that bids were opened today. Due to the bid coming in low, we can add some extras such as benches. He reported that off of the Center Street bridge on the east side there will

be an egress to connect to the IBT under the bridge. Bids for paving and markings on Lee Street will include the upper drive at Hoyt Park.

- **Beautification Day**

No report.

- **Ojibway Island**

This report was combined with the City Manager report for this meeting.

Miscellaneous:

Moved by Commissioner Rooker, seconded by Commission Hare to approve the 2026 meeting schedule. Motion approved.

Adjourn:

Moved by Commissioner Hare, seconded by Manager Morales to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

Recorded by,

Kristine Bolzman
City Clerk



RIVERFRONT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

1315 S. Washington Avenue
Morley Building – 1 Tuscola
989.399.1311
January 13, 2026
DRAFT MINUTES

Call to Order/Roll Call:

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

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

Chair Keenan-Lechel opened the meeting with a moment of silence for the loss of Commissioner Kevin Rooker.

Approval of Minutes:

A quorum was not present.

Public Comments:

None.

Chair Report:

Chair Keenan-Lechel reported that the Bringing Back the Ice event at Hoyt Park begins this Saturday and continues for the next five Saturdays. He reported that there will be a pond hockey tournament beginning on February 13 and continuing on February 14, with the 12th Annual Outhouse Races also taking place on the 14th. These events are coordinated by Positive Results Downtown and the Friends of Hoyt Park, with Saginaw County Parks serving as sponsor and contributing partner.

Reports:

- **Medical Diamond**

Manager Morales reported that there is no new information, however, the City Council Strategic Planning session will include updates from MDOT on the M-13 corridor study, Saginaw County Health Department, Central Michigan University, Saginaw Valley State University, and Great Lakes Bay Health. He stated that Tom Miller of Saginaw Future will provide an overview of the Medical Diamond Project.

Manager Morales further reported that the engineering and site plans are done for the park. Commissioner Hare reported that the floodplain and Army Corps of Engineers permitting process has begun for the features of the park and that process will likely continue for another year. Commissioner Hare also reported that the infrastructure work for the park will likely begin late summer or early fall this year.

- **City Manager**

Manager Morales reported that the City Hall construction project is ongoing with the hope that the second floor will be completed by June.

Commissioner Hare reported that the Ojibway Island Road work and parking lot construction will begin when the weather breaks in the spring and the goal is to have it completed by July 4. He stated that the trail project from Ojibway south to Wickes Park and from Ojibway north to the Medical Diamond area will likely also be complete around July. He further reported that the Council of Michigan Foundations would like to award the city with \$100,000 for further construction.

Commissioner Hare stated that MDHHS recently awarded Covenant \$500,000 and the city was also awarded \$400,000 for improvements at Bliss Park and that the city will apply for smaller grants for traffic islands for pedestrians to cross Michigan safely to get to the park.

Manager Morales reported meeting with the Saginaw Community Foundation, and they would like to fund additional play dates. The goal is to work with SCF and the County Parks to facilitate and fund the additional dates with the goal that Council set in its Strategic Plan last year of adding \$100,000 to parks and recreation.

Commissioner Hare reported that the Boat Launch, Lee Street, and Hoyt Park upper drive will all be bid together as one project for repaving this year. He also stated that benches will be installed on Ojibway with funds from the ARPA allocation.

Commissioner Hare further reported that beginning July 1, the city will receive an additional \$500,000 per fiscal year for road funding, which is a 50% increase from previous years. With the additional funding, Hancock and Ames, between Michigan and Niagara will be repaired. He stated that streets near the M-46 and Gratiot split will be milled and resurfaced utilizing CDBG funds, local streets funds, and also local road millage dollars.

- **DDA/Old Town**

Commissioner Hensley reported that the DDA is about halfway through its fiscal year and budget and has \$30,000 of \$50,000 façade grant money left. He stated that there are Special Event dollars left as well. He further reported that the DDA recently unveiled its Public Arts Grant and made the first award of \$7,500. The grant can be used to support any beautification that's free and open to the public. The application window opened October 1 and closes February 1.

Commissioner Hensley further reported that the Match on Main program launches March 1 and goes through April 20. The DDA receives the applications and forwards one or two to the State for review. This year MEDC allocated \$1.5 million to the program and has about \$75,000 rollover from last year. As a redevelopment ready certified community, the city qualifies for support of small businesses, and the program is intended for activation of underutilized spaces.

Manager Morales reported that the apartment project in Old Town between Adams and Cass will begin this year and will be approximately 30 units. He further reported that there will be restrooms and a pavilion constructed on the Tea House property to facilitate more events.

- **Riverfront Loop**

No report.

- **Beautification Day**

Chair Keenan-Lechel stated that he intends to speak with the Mayor regarding adding a beautification day on the Friday before the Clean Up event to coincide with the Community Foundation's Spring into Service Day, which is May 14. The goal would be to combine resources and have a larger impact.

- **Ojibway Island**

This report was combined with the City Manager report for this meeting.

Miscellaneous:

Commissioner Andrus reported that the text for the Les Tincknell marker has been approved and she is in the process of obtaining a price for the pedestal.

Adjourn:

Chair Keenan-Lechel adjourned the meeting at 6:06 p.m.

Recorded by,

Kristine Bolzman
City Clerk