



RIVERFRONT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

1315 S. Washington Avenue
Morley Building – 1 Tuscola
989.399.1311
February 10, 2026
MINUTES

Call to Order/Roll Call:

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

Present: Erin Andrus, Aaron Bedford, Joshua Daniels, Carrie Davis, Steve Gerhardt, Steve Hensley, Brian Keenan-Lechel, John Moton, Tim Morales, Travis Hare

Absent: Mark Fischer

Excused: Abraham Allen, Vee Murugan, Jacinta Seals

Approval of Minutes:

Moved by Vice Chair Gerhardt, seconded by Commission Moton to approve the November 18, 2025, and January 13, 2026, meeting minutes. Motion approved.

Public Comments:

Council Member Bill Ostash offered that he plans to attend future meetings of the commission.

Chair Report:

Chair Keenan-Lechel reported that the 12th Annual Outhouse Races are taking place this Saturday and there will be a pond hockey tournament beginning Friday evening. He further reported that the last Friends of Hoyt Park skate will take place on February 21 from noon to 4:00 p.m.

Reports:

- **Medical Diamond**

Manager Morales reported that at the January 23 City Council Strategic Planning Session there were presentations by each organization that plans to develop within the Medical Diamond. The presentations are available on the city's website. He reported that the Medical Diamond area begins at the Dow Event Center, extends diagonally out to the hospitals on both sides of the river, then diagonally from the hospitals to the YMCA where it ends. He further reported that each developer plans to build 40,000-50,000 square foot buildings.

- **City Manager**

Manager Morales reported that the infrastructure bids for the park project at the Medical Diamond will begin in the fall of this year. Commissioner Hare stated that the floodplain permitting should be relatively quick, but the sewer permitting may take a longer amount of time, with hopes to begin the underground work after July 4th.

Manager Morales further reported that ongoing construction projects will begin again in the spring on Ojibway Island. The pedestrian path will be open with restrictions to keep danger zones clear in construction areas.

Commissioner Hare reported that Ojibway Island will be open for the 4th of July fireworks and that there are several Special Events scheduled on the island in August.

- **DDA/Old Town**

Commissioner Hensley reported that there are still façade grant dollars available. Match on Main is launching tentatively March 1. He reported that The Savoy is a recent recipient and the work is shaping up well. He reported that The Savoy may also complete some façade work and window replacement.

Commissioner Hensley further reported that Gordie's, which is open and doing well, was awarded a façade grant for the signage. He stated that the Outhouse Races was supported by DDA Special Event dollars and Jazz on Jefferson will also be supported. He further reported that the DDA has allocated \$7,500 for Public Arts grants and accepted applications until February 1. The applications will be reviewed and awards will be made. Regarding beautification, the planter boxes still contain holiday pieces which will be removed within the next month.

Commissioners Andrus and Bedford left the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

- **Riverfront Loop**

Commissioner Hare reported that there is approximately \$6 million in grant requests out for the design of upgrades to the Genessee Avenue bridge.

- **Beautification Day**

Chair Keenan-Lechel stated that he is working with the Saginaw Community Foundation regarding Spring into Service Day, which consists of 150 high school students working for four hours in the morning and they are partnering with the Chamber of Commerce, which is planning Community Impact Day. The two groups are planning to do clean-up work on Wednesday May 13, with the students working in the morning and the Chamber of Commerce group working in the afternoon. Chair Keenan-Lechel intends to reach out to the Manager's office to see if this day could coincide with the Mayor's cleanup event.

- **Ojibway Island**

Discussion was held on dredging the canals on either end of the island. Commissioner Hare estimated that the dredging itself would cost approximately \$1.2 million and the cost could likely double to dispose of approximately 8-10 feet of material which would have to be tested for contaminants.

Miscellaneous:

Commissioner Andrus reported prior to her departure that she is in the process of obtaining pricing.

Commissioner Hensley reminded the commission that the State of the County and City address is Thursday at the Dow Event Center at 7:30 a.m.

Adjourn:

Moved by Vice Chair Gerhardt, seconded by Commissioner Moton to adjourn the meeting at 6:01 p.m.

Recorded by,

Kristine Bolzman
City Clerk