

MINUTES

Cascade Charter Township
Downtown Development Authority
July 21, 2026, at 5:30pm
Cascade Library Wisner Center
2870 Jacksmith Ave. SE

- ARTICLE 1.** Chair Kleyla called the meeting to order at 5:29pm.
Members Present: Preston, Stephan, Kleyla, Bingham, Lesperance
Members Absent: Vogel, Carlson, Makkar
Others Present: Township Manager Jade Smith, DDA Manager Ryan Sennett, Executive Assistant Jessica Stine.
- ARTICLE 2. Approval of the Agenda**
Motion was made by Member Preston to approve the agenda. Supported by Supervisor Lesperance. Motion carried 5 to 0.
- ARTICLE 3. Approval of the Minutes of the June 2, 2026 Meeting**
Motion was made by Supervisor Lesperance to approve the minutes as written. Supported by Member Bingham. Motion carried 5 to 0.
- ARTICLE 4. Resolution 2026-1 DDA Security Grant Program**
Manager Sennett presented a resolution to fund a security grant to provide funding for security camera installation, through a Kent County Sheriff's Department program, to businesses in the DDA. This would help reduce the cost barrier to local businesses and improve public safety. Future funding would be budgeted on a yearly basis, and the grant would cover a one-year annual subscription.
Motion was made by Member Stephan for the DDA to support a security program with a cap of \$25,000 for 2026. Supported by Member Preston. Motion carried 5 to 0.
- ARTICLE 5. Resolution 2026-2 Development Agreement**
Manager Sennett presented a resolution for the DDA to enter into an agreement with Cascade Township so that the Township could reimburse the DDA for the Verburg property and establish a framework to approve for how projects, such as the Tassell Park project, will be funded, constructed, and maintained. Under this agreement, the Township would issue bonds to finance the project and the DDA would reimburse the Township on a yearly basis with the DDA's TIFF funding. This agreement would approve execution of the development agreement.
Motion was made by Member Stephan for the DDA to execute the development agreement with Cascade Township. Supported by Member Preston. Motion carried 5 to 0.
- ARTICLE 6. Memo – DDA Meeting Schedule**

Manager Sennett proposed consideration of changing the DDA meeting to occur in the morning rather than in the evening. This would open up programming times in the evening at the Wisner Center and this year DDA members have found it difficult to make the evening meetings, with multiple meetings being cancelled due to lack of a quorum. Many local municipalities hold their DDA meetings in the morning. Members appeared interested in moving the meeting times to the mornings either starting at the beginning of 2027 or later in 2026.

ARTICLE 7. Staff Updates

The small business event with Macatawa Bank went smoothly and was well attended.

The Township Board approved an alternate bid for the streetlight replacement/repair in Centennial Park as they received notice the original bid was no longer possible.

On August 12, 2026, there will be a meeting for local businesses to attend where the Sheriff's Department will present on their security program.

iSmash opened in the DDA.

The concert at Friendship park was well attended but members urged staff to consider replacing the Friendship Park sign because the native plantings are beginning to obscure the sign.

The Independence Day parade included less floats than in the past, but the flowers were beautiful. Staff are already planning to improve the parade for next year.

Heritage Festival will not be held this year as the Parks & Facilities Department does not have the capacity to take it on.

ARTICLE 8. Any Other Business

There was not any other business to discuss at that time.

ARTICLE 9. Acknowledge Visitors & Public Comment

There were no visitors who wished to comment at that time.

ARTICLE 10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Vogel, Secretary