

The local match funds have several potential and existing sources. Early steps are required because this is a short notice program announcement with a September 7, 2007 due date for the Notice of Intent. Early steps include a public input meeting, a newsletter, developer recruitment, façade participant recruitment, cost estimating, and a quickly assembled planning committee. If successful at the Notice of Intent stage there is a 30 minute live presentation before a panel of State evaluators. A motion to proceed with the Notice of Intent and early steps was approved.

Peterson/Robertson m/s/p

C. Project Budget for Tax Increment Financing. Board members reviewed the sequence of investments from bond issue revenues and cash resources. Early investments, starting in the spring, from bond proceeds include the façade program, tree replacements, Armory development, intersection tower lights, the ramp at the Chemical Branch bank, and Comstock Center tree islands. Investments from cash proceeds include a fall comprehensive design package for parking lot upgrades, planters at Springrove and 5th Third sidewalk frontage, the river walkway, and Curwood Castle Park.

D. Survey Authorization. A quotation of \$800 from Landmark Surveying to survey and describe and easement area for the Loop Park section at the Bus Garage Site was authorized.

Bucsi/Robertson m/s/p

E. Design Consultant Selection. The City will need a design consultant for several tasks in the next few years for facades, Washington Street reconstruction, rehabilitation of buildings, parking lot upgrades, and Curwood Castle Park layouts. This should be a full-service engineering/landscaping/architectural firm. The process of selection is through competitive interview. Doug Peterson agreed to sit on the selection committee with city staff.

F. Holiday Decorations. Purchase of light stringers, bulbs and wreaths was authorized at the budgeted amount of \$3,500.

Bucsi/Lazar m/s/p

F. Regular Reports.

1) **Retail Recruitment/Retention.** George Ramos reported on the need to find a men's clothing store and described the new location for the Tux and Bridal Shoppe.

2) **Focus Owosso.** No report.

3) **Lebowsky Center, Wesener Building, Armory and Hotel Site.** The Lebowsky Center is preparing a business plan to demonstrate viability for potential investments from the DDA and State of Michigan. The Wesener Building has a minimum cash obligation for demolition—that amount will be compared to cleaning the debris and re-roofing the structure. The old hotel site has an interested person; also Fifth Third has restated its interest in the corner lot but has not committed to a site plan submittal date. The Armory is moving ahead slowly with a contact from an appraisal firm that has been asked to submit qualifications to the state to conduct an appraisal.

G. Site Visits to Curwood Castle Park and Planting Bed Locations. These site visits were completed in the meeting room with support to proceed with design work.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 a.m.

Peterson/Bucsi m/s/p