



**Goshen Downtown Economic Improvement District Board Meeting
February 4, 2025 at 8:00 am
City Hall**

Agenda

1. Approve minutes from December 5, 2024
2. Responsibilities and priorities of EID Board
3. Year to date financial report and 2025 budget
4. Follow-up/updates
 - Planter rebuilding and plants
 - Art Alley – Tom Zuber
 - Snow removal
 - Meeting location
 - Other
5. Meeting schedule for 2025 – all meetings at 8:00 am (new day and time)
 - February 4, 2025
 - March 4, 2025
 - April 1, 2025
 - May 6, 2025
 - June 3, 2025
 - July 1, 2025
 - August 5, 2025
 - September 2, 2025
 - October 7, 2025
 - November 4, 2025
 - December 2, 2025



**Goshen Downtown Economic Improvement District Board Meeting
December 5, 2024 at 7:45 am**

Members Present: Justin Bell, President; Jason Oswald, Treasurer; Denise Davis; Mim Shirk, Secretary

Also present: Megan Peel, District 4 Goshen Common Council Member; Amanda Guzman, City Communications Manager, Tanya Heyde, Goshen Parks Department Superintendent, Hannah Scott Carter, City Community Relations Manager

Guests: Margie Cowells, property owner, Tom Zuber, Goshen High School art teacher, Bodie Stegleman, City Attorney; Gina Liechty, Mayor

Members Absent: Rosie Singh

1. Minutes from November 7, 2024 were approved (Oswald/Davis).

2. Tax assessment hearing

A property owner was present on behalf of their request for a reduction of their EID assessment. They had previously filed a written remonstrance as required and provided documentation that the County has lowered the assessed value of their property. Bodie Stegleman confirmed that the property owner had properly filed the remonstrance. No other appeals were filed.

The board approved a motion to recalculate the EID assessment for the property owner pursuant to the amended Elkhart County assessment value (Davis/Bell). Attorney Stegleman will ensure that the change is recorded and implemented.

The board signed the schedule of 2025 EID Special Assessment.

3. Tom Zuber, art teacher at Goshen High School, shared ideas for improving the Art Alley, noting that the high school was involved years ago but pulled out because of vandalism of the art:

- East Alley (large printed art pieces) – could they be angled so they're visible from the street?
- West Alley
 - Put up a camera and signage that the area is monitored, like the millrace underpass
 - Hold an annual or semi-annual competition for art pieces to be displayed, with an application fee, judges and cash prizes (funded by the application fees) and celebrations at First Friday
 - To keep the pieces safe, post aluminum copies of the art rather than originals (similar to East Alley but smaller). Could be printed by Scott Signs.
 - Install posts in the planters to have more installation space
 - Angle displays so they're visible from the street (consider access for snow removal equipment)



- Having rotating art will increase interest/traffic in the alley
- Could open to other area schools, junior highs, painters guild, South Bend Museum, other art groups
- Could it be run through Arts on the Millrace, DGI or First Fridays rather than creating a new structure?

Tom is willing to be part of organizing a competition and forming a small committee including Josh Cooper and someone else. Mim volunteered to be liaison with the EID board. A first step is to tear out the chalk boards and possibly remove plants and/or planters.

4. Alley lighting – Amanda reported that the city engineering department would be glad to install lighting if requested. Current lighting is from the businesses on the alleys. It's unclear whether it would be possible to connect with other street lighting for electricity and ongoing maintenance.
5. Excess trash on First Friday weekends – the city staff can pick it up, but someone would have to pay for the overtime.
6. Year to date financial reports were distributed at the meeting but not discussed. The 2025 budget was not available. Mayor Liechty agreed to provide the budget.
7. Snow removal – we have not found anyone yet to do snow removal. We may get a quote from Beary Landscaping. Denise will contact the County administration about collaborating with courthouse snow removal; Megan knows someone who might be interested but doesn't have the equipment; Tonya will ask Jae if she is willing to remove snow. There was a question about why public sidewalks aren't handled by the city.
8. Planter replacement and plants – Jason will talk to the street department.
9. Holiday open house November 10 – reports are that it went well but is getting smaller and there are other downtown shopping events. Justin tried to visit the businesses that felt they had been left out of advertisements for the open house but they weren't open. Nick Kieffer, Chamber president, will meet with businesses that like the open house to discuss whether resources could be allocated to other events. EID partners with the Chamber, arranging entertainment and helping pay for ads with WSBT.
10. Holiday decorations will be taken down at the end of January – Tonya and Justin will coordinate.
11. Meeting schedule for 2025 – Mayor Gina Liechty informed the board that the state is strongly encouraging (and will likely mandate) meetings to be available to the public via livestreaming, which can best be done in the City Council chambers. The city also records the meetings. Mim will find out when the board is permitted to meet in executive



session, such as for an education or planning meeting. The board agreed to move the meetings to Council chambers and approved the 2025 meeting dates, the first Tuesday of the month at 8:00 am. [The board later decided to continue meeting at City Hall for now.] There will be no meeting in January (Shirk/Bell).

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12. Next meeting will be Tuesday February 4, 2025 at 8:00 am at Council Chambers [it was later decided to continue meeting at City Hall for now]

Minutes recorded by Mim Shirk

CC: Gina Liechty, Mayor; Jeffrey Weaver, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer; City Engineering