



Board: Downtown Development Authority

Agenda Date: May 26, 2026

Presenter: Patricia West

Staff Report

Agenda Item Title:

The Depot Playground

Background:

Plans are moving forward for The Depot Project. Dynamic Designs has scheduled a surveyor to visit the site this month to identify property boundaries and collect topographic information, which will help guide future design and engineering decisions.

In preparation for the project's next phase, West has been working with Miracle Playgrounds, which has developed the attached conceptual playground design for board consideration. Miracle Playgrounds is currently preparing cost estimates based on the proposed layout and will provide pricing for two surfacing options: poured-in-place rubber surfacing and synthetic turf. A formal proposal will be presented once quotes are finalized. Board feedback is requested to determine whether the conceptual design aligns with the desired direction for the project.

Additionally, a potential funding opportunity is available through the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) Public Spaces Community Places program. The program provides matching funds of up to \$50,000 for projects that successfully complete a crowdfunding campaign. Included with this packet are the guidelines from the 2026 program; staff anticipates a similar funding opportunity will be available in 2027.

Staff would like to engage the Board in a discussion regarding the feasibility of utilizing a community crowdfunding campaign to support construction of the playground and leverage MEDC matching funds. Topics for consideration include fundraising goals, community engagement strategies, potential campaign partners, and the Board's willingness to pursue this funding approach.

Fiscal Effect:

TBD

Supporting Documentation:

Miracle Proposed Playground Designs

2026 Public Spaces Community Places Program Guidelines

Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the DDA Board provide feedback on the conceptual design for the proposed playground.

Additionally, staff recommend that the Board discuss the feasibility of pursuing an MEDC Public Spaces Community Places crowdfunding campaign to leverage up to \$50,000 in matching funds for The Depot Project. Feedback received from the Board will assist staff in refining the project scope, identifying fundraising goals, and preparing for future grant and fundraising opportunities.