

Downtown Development Authority

City of Gladstone
1100 Delta Ave
Gladstone, MI 49837

Staff Report

Agenda Date: 12/17/2024

Department: DDA

Presenter: Patricia West

AGENDA ITEM TITLE:

Permanent Structures at the Market Square

BACKGROUND:

Following the receipt of a \$2,000 grant from the Community Foundation for the installation of wind sails at the market square, we propose planning the design and installation of permanent wooden structures around the perimeter of the property to provide coverage for vendors, with the wind sails suspended between them.

DDA Director Patricia West, Public Works Superintendent Barry Lund, and DDA Board Member Jason Lippens recently met at the market square to explore this idea. All three recommended designing and building the structures in-house, rather than purchasing pre-made pergola kits. Barry Lund has agreed to compile a list of materials and costs, and he will also reach out to the Intermediate School District (ISD) to see if their students might be interested in partnering with us on this project.

Investing in the market square serves more than just the Farmers Market; it is part of a broader effort to promote placemaking in the downtown area. This space will also be designated as a consumption area within the social district and is expected to become a rental business incubator. Additionally, this initiative will eliminate the need for annual canopy replacements.

If the DDA Board is supportive of pursuing this investment, we will include the necessary fiscal planning for the project in the 2025-2026 budget.

FISCAL EFFECT:

TBD

RECOMMENDATION:

Motion to support the pursuit of permanent structures at the Farmers Market Square, with a detailed financial plan presented to the board during 2025-2026 budget planning process.

