



The mission of the Lake Orion DDA is to enhance the economic potential and preserve the historical character of the Lake Orion DDA District, *the heart and hub of the Orion Community*, through promotional activities and an organizational structure that focuses on community involvement with local businesses, residents and other stakeholders.

The **Main Street Approach** is a unique economic development strategy that focuses on leveraging existing social, economic, physical and cultural assets to energize community revitalization efforts and help manage success for the long term.

Design: Capitalizes on and enhances the visual aspects of downtown commercial areas to create a safe, appealing and inviting atmosphere. The physical elements such as storefronts and building architecture, streetscape, public art, street furniture, parking areas, and public spaces are used to convey a positive image for the downtown. Quality maintenance practices such as historic building rehabilitation, adaptive use, appropriate new development, design review process and long-term planning are also strategies used to enhance the physical appearance of a downtown.

Design Committee Minutes

September 8, 2026

1:00pm – 2:00pm

Lake Orion DDA Office, 118 N. Broadway, Lake Orion, MI 48362

Attendees: Angela Aycock, Brian Renaud, Amy Silvester, Dave Vance (from Santa's Crew)

DDA: Matt Gibb, Tracy Woodrum

- **Fall Design Turnover** – design plan, schedule date
 - Proposed fall setup date: Saturday morning, September 26 (conflicts noted; Matt & Tracy out of town Sept 25–26); final date pending board/Debbie coordination and material availability.
- **Christmas Lights** – discussion/direction for this season, recommendations to bring to DDA Board meeting
 - - Santa's Crew performance last year was professional and efficient; outages largely due to GFI issues and buried outlets, not strand failures. The GFI issues have been resolved with the help of the DPW.
 - The DDA's older, thicker garland was unreliable; wind exposure led to sagging and failures; trunk-only tree light wraps lacked "wow factor." Cedar roping at the main intersection was well received; trees (especially bald cypress) have grown and are costly/difficult to wrap fully.
 - Consider spotlights for trees; trunk-mounted options discussed to mitigate snow burial, but poles remain preferred due to secure power and uniformity.
 - - Consensus to prioritize decorating light poles with Dave's commercial-grade lighted garland; request per-pole pricing and bows options.
 - Continue lighting approximately ten large intersection trees (branch highlights), pending Dave's quote; avoid widespread small-tree trunk wraps.

- - Request per-pole pricing with volume tiers; first-year cost ~\$240–\$300 per pole (new garland + install), second-year reinstallation ~\$75 per pole; new 9-foot garland strand ~\$120; contractor replaces 5–10% annually under lease.

- - Reuse older garland/lights at secondary locations (e.g., lumberyard, bridge, Children’s Park) to stretch budget- - Light color decision pending (warm white vs bright white); interest in adding large red bows or lighted bows to poles; avoid sparse “Charlie Brown” drapes.

- Target “Light Up Lake Orion” illumination event on 11-19-26; aim for synchronized activation of pole, tree, and community tree lights.

- **Updates on Façade Grant Applications/Investments**

1. **Messy Designs** – Back-alley entrance

2. **Prime Time Comics** – Awning replacement

-Due to a longer conversation on the Christmas lights discussion on Façade Grants will take place at the October meeting.

- **Volunteer Needs for September/October**

-Help with fall decorating downtown.

-Someone to photograph/document décor for reference next year.

- **Follow-up:**

- Team to map and count target light poles (Main Street, side streets, village hall, dragon sign, gateways) and send to Dave by next week for quoting; reassess budget based on per-pole pricing. [Owner: Matt/Tracy/Open to All Committee Members; with 9-15-26 due date]

-Connect with Clip Away owner regarding cornstalks & pumpkins for downtown fall décor. [Owner: Amy; Deadline: 9-14-26]

-Confirm date for downtown fall decorating after checking with Debbie & Alaina. [Owner: Matt; Deadline: 9-14-26]

- - Provide per-pole pricing for garland installation and bows options [Owner: Dave; Deadline: prior to 9-14-26].

- - Provide quote for wrapping ~10 large trees; recount specific trees [Owner: Dave; Deadline: with revised proposal, mid-September].

- Price large community tree frame [Owner: Dave; Deadline: with revised proposal].

- Investigate trunk-mounted spotlight options, mounting/strapping, and off-ground cable routing [Owner: Dave; Deadline: with revised proposal].

- Choose enhancements (bows, ornaments, spotlights) based on remaining budget/volunteer capacity [Owner: Committee; Deadline: post-proposal approval].

- **Next Design Meeting: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 @ 1:00pm**