



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 Agenda

August 11, 2026

1:00pm – 2:00pm

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

Committee Members: Linda Crane, Sam Caruso, Debbie Burgess, Brian Renaud, Rene Samet, Caleb Campbell, Stephanie Hall, Amy Silvester, Laura Suspeck, Amy D’Onofrio, Joseph Monsurj

DDA: Matt Gibb, Tracy Woodrum

I. Christmas Lights – discussion/direction for this season

Discussion tabled for September meeting.

II. Façade Grant Applications/Investments

Linda led the committee through the Façade grant application & guidelines. Current processes acknowledged as inconsistent; commitment to formalize a clear, consistent workflow, require owner authorization, and improve applicant support via “champions.” Champions will help guide business/or property owners through the application process & ensure a complete application is submitted to the DDA & Design committee for review and scoring.

Agreement among the committee is to extend the stated review timeline in the application from 30 to 90 days and consider retroactive eligibility where appropriate.

a. Messy Designs – Back-alley entrance

Alley behind Messy Designs is uneven, collects water, ices in winter; explore Wilson Grant or other grant sources for larger fix.

Additional information needed for this application to be complete. Dr. Sam volunteered as the champion for Messy Designs.

b. Prime Time Comics – Awning replacement

Additional information needed for this, including a formal application. Angela volunteered as the champion for Prime Time/Mike.

III. Fall Design Turnover – looking for help with transforming the downtown

-Prepare to pivot to fall decor around early September; re-implement last year's plan with incremental enhancements; coordinate volunteers through Org Committee/Illuminators; maintain summer baskets until turnover. Linda to lead getting information from Matt & Piechinks regarding last years decor.

IV. Historic Preservation Standards

Facade Improvement Grant: Matching up to \$2,000; for retail/commercial/professional buildings (not limited to historic).

Historic Preservation Grant: Matching up to \$10,000.

Current Budget: \$10,000 annually (July–June); potentially flexible if strong applications emerge.

Discussion around color palette for awnings. Suggestion to select from one of four historic colors (black, navy, crimson/burgundy, forest green). Also suggested that any color recommended by the design committee should be in line with the businesses branding and could fall outside of the four historic colors.

V. Wilson Grant Discussion (if time permits this month)

Discussion tabled for September meeting.

Follow-ups/Next Steps:

- Send Façade grant application guidelines & historic preservation documents to the committee along with meeting notes. **(Tracy)**
- Champion assigned for Messy Designs grant application. **(Dr. Sam)**
- Champion assigned for Prime Time grant application. **(Angela)**
- Draft guideline tweaks (authority/owner sign-off, committee role, realistic timeline from 30 to 90 days); prepare suggestions for the next meeting. **(Brian/Matt/Linda)**
- Contact historical suppliers (Piechinks in Rochester); confirm availability, quantities, costs; coordinate with Matt; target readiness by September 9. **(Linda)**
- Set install date after supplier confirmation; define volunteer needs (tasks, dates, times) for Org Committee to publish. **(All Design Committee Members)**
- Notify Org Committee of early September target; DDA office to push communication to Illuminators once date is set. **(Tracy)**
- Meeks Park/creek bank stabilization - Assess site; outline bioengineering approach, materials, scope, rough cost; coordinate with private donor. **(Caleb/Stephanie/Matt)**
- Submit volunteer needs for Design initiatives. **(All Design Committee Members)**

VI. Next Design Meeting: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 @ 1:00pm