



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 the 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, a design review process and long-term planning are also strategies used to enhance the physical appearance of a downtown.

Design Committee Agenda

June 9, 2026

1 pm – 2 pm

Teams Meeting

Committee Members: Chair Sam Caruso, Linda Crane, Joseph Monsur, and Angela Aycock

DDA: Matt Gibb, Ex. Dir., Janet Bloom, Asst. Dir., Tracy Woodrum, Admin.

Attendees: Sam Caruso, Linda Crane, Angela Aycock, Matt Gibb, Janet Bloom, and Tracy Woodrum

Quick recap

The meeting focused on downtown facade improvements and design updates. The committee discussed replacing the aging blue awning at Primetime Comics with a historic color that would match other downtown businesses, with Linda suggesting they establish a consistent color palette for future awning replacements.

The committee also reviewed a potential project for Messy Design to improve their rear facade and alley entrance, which Sam supported as beneficial for pedestrian safety and aesthetics.

Additionally, the group discussed upcoming American Bloom program visits scheduled for June 22-23, and Matt Gibb reported on recent downtown improvements including streetlight banners and hanging baskets, with new brackets expected to arrive soon.

Next steps

- Follow up on the shipment of additional hanging basket brackets, expected to ship on June 10th.
- Organize and invite committee members and other stakeholders to participate in the American in Bloom tour on June 22nd and 23rd.
- Recruit more leadership for next year's spring cleanup event.

Matt Gibb Follow Up

- Pull up historic preservation color schemes, talk to awning companies about color matching, and create a color inventory of existing downtown awnings.
- Put together a formal facade grant application packet with Mike for the Primetime Comics awning replacement and circulate it to the committee for review.
- Look up information on which buildings are classified as historic and review the reconnaissance survey details with Linda.
- Continue working on pricing and packet for the Messy Design rear facade and alley improvement project for review in July.
- Coordinate with Tracy to determine the best location for the American in Bloom sign in downtown.

Summary

Committee Responsibilities and Changes

The main business focused on upcoming committee responsibilities updates, particularly regarding changes to committee chairs due to Lloyd moving to Promo and Sally Medina stepping down. Gibb indicated they would discuss whether board members are required to chair committees, noting this was not explicitly stated in their bylaws.

Historic Awning Color Replacement

The group discussed replacing a blue awning at a comic book store with a historic color that would be consistent with other downtown businesses. Linda emphasized the importance of maintaining color consistency across downtown awnings, while Angela suggested creating a compilation of existing awnings to determine appropriate colors for future replacements. The estimated cost for the replacement is around \$4,200, pending committee approval.

Building Awning Replacement Process

The group discussed replacing an unsightly awning on a corner building using facade grant money. Gibb proposed creating a color inventory of existing downtown awnings to confirm awning companies' ability to match colors before proceeding with the replacement.

Historical Building Designation Plans

Gibb outlined plans to create an application packet with Mike for committee review, with Linda offering to help refine the details remotely. The group discussed historical building designations in the area, with Gibb noting that while the entire district is historic, only 7-8 downtown structures would qualify for national designation. Gibb agreed to research and share more details about eligible historical structures with Linda for further review.

Messy Design Facade Grant Application

The committee discussed a potential facade grant application for Messy Design's rear facade improvement in an alleyway. Sam expressed support for the project, noting the area's need for improvement due to water pooling and ice issues. Angela requested to see the location first before making a decision, while Linda agreed the project should be considered as it provides access to the alleyway. Gibb will continue working on pricing for both the doorway repairs and alley resurfacing, with plans to present the full proposal in July.

American Bloom Program Review Planning

The committee discussed the upcoming American Bloom Program review, scheduled for June 22-23, where visitors will tour various sites including beautification projects in downtown. Janet successfully applied for the review, which builds on the township's previous involvement in bringing the National Symposium to Oakland County last year. The committee identified a need to expand their network, particularly in finding Master Gardeners, designers, and artists to participate in the program. Invites will need to go out to have people participate in the AIB site visit.

Downtown Events and Projects Planning

Bloom reported on the spring cleanup event which had 80 volunteers and mentioned ongoing work on streetlight banners and hanging baskets in downtown, with brackets expected to ship on June 10th. The group noted their decision to use monochrome colors for downtown planters and baskets this year.