

**Ishpeming Downtown Development Authority
Minutes
Monday, July 27, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Ishpeming Downtown Development Authority was held on Monday, July 27, 2020 in the Council Chambers at City Hall. The meeting was called to order by David Aeh at 4:05 p.m.

Present: David Aeh, Dave Aro, John Carlson, Sandy Arsenault, Eric Laksonen, Carrie Meyer, Craig Cugini, and Jason Chapman (8). Absent: Tracy Magnuson, Jay Clancey, and 1 vacant position (3). Also present was Linda Andriacchi, Bob Hendrickson from the GINCC, Al Pierce, Zoning Administrator, and Ryan Soucy from CUPPAD.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Manager Cugini advised there were some grant opportunities, due to COVID, available to business in the downtown. MEDC had a lot of information related to the grant opportunities and the Lake Superior Community Partnership would be available for assistance and would provide information regarding grant opportunities available.

Ryan Soucy, from CUPPAD, advised there is a Neighborhood Advancement Program through MSHDA for low to moderate income households that provides grant opportunities.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Member Arsenault, supported by Member Chapman and carried unanimously to approve the June 15, 2020 minutes as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Finance Director James Lampman reviewed the financial report for period ending June 30th. A motion was made by Member Magnuson, supported by Member Chapman and carried unanimously to approve the financial report as presented.

a. Confirm Budget Committee Members and set meeting date – In the past, a two-member committee was appointment review the proposed 2021 budget. Manager Cugini suggested the entire DDA meet to discuss budget at a special meeting.

A motion was made by Member Arsenault, supported by Member Chapman and carried unanimously to hold a meeting on a Monday at 4:00 pm to discuss the DDA budget with the date to be determined by staff.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Linda Andriacchi questioned what the balance was in the 2020 budget for beautification and would like to be notified of what the budget will be for 2021. She helped the school with the art park plantings and the Marquette County Landbank would be donating \$100 for the watering at the art park. She reported beautification received donations from some local businesses.

Her ribbon cutting for her flower shop went well; she loved Ishpeming and would not have considered her business in any other community.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPORT

Bob Hendrickson, Chamber of Commerce Director, summarized the Chamber report. The Crazy Days event went well in the downtown on the Fourth of July weekend and the Chamber would like to hold that again. They were also working on an Arts and Craft Fair utilizing the Mining Museum and Lake Bancroft properties on September 19th and 20th.

Ground Breaking Ceremony for the Ishpeming Senior Center will be on August 14th from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

PRESENTATION BY RYAN SOUCY, CUPPAD

a. Introduction to the Ishpeming Master Plan – Issues, Objectives, and Priorities

Ryan Soucy, Economic Development Planner with CUPPAD, was available to help communities plan for the future. He was working with the Planning Commission in development of the City Master Plan update and a large part of the master plan is downtown development and he would like to get input from the Downtown Development Authority. He is also working with the City on becoming Redevelopment Ready Communities certified.

Mr. Soucy questioned what the DDA priorities and goals were for the City so he could communicate that information to the Planning Commission for the Master Plan update. Member Aeh reviewed some of the accomplishments of the DDA over the last few years. There was some discussion related to the Beckett and Raeder report and the strategies listed for the DDA; the Tax Increment Financing District for the DDA; and the DDA budget.

Member Aeh summarized and discussed the heritage of the City. Further discussion took place on the suggested priority sites that were listed in the Beckett and Raeder report and what the DDA's thoughts were on the the opportunity and vision for the sites.

Mr. Soucy advised there is a survey monkey set up for the Ishpeming Master and asked all members to take the survey.

b. Downtown Development Grant Opportunities

Mr. Soucy explained Marquette County could possibly receive \$928,000 in grant funds with each grant being up to \$20,000 for each business. He encouraged the City to get this information out and let every business know about the grants. Businesses could reach out to the Ishpeming Negaunee Chamber of Commerce or Lake Superior Community Partnership for assistance in completing the grants.

CUPPAD is working on hiring a Community Planner position to assist communities with planning efforts.

ISHPEMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Focus was primarily on having the concert series on Thursday nights again. Concerts were held the last two Thursday's and they were popular and well attended with social distancing being maintained. Partridge Creek Farms would be having some tours on August 12th. Father Ryan from St. John and St. Joseph Parish had a group of parishioners providing clean-up services to people in need. He was also having a bike sale on August 1st from 10 to noon with proceeds going to St. Vincent DePaul.

OLD BUSINESS

Member Arsenault thanked Manager Cugini for having he lines painted on the street in front of the Gossard.

NEW BUSINESS – There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:35 p.m., a motion was made by Member Chapman , supported by Member Arsenault and carried unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,


Cathy Smith

City Clerk/Assistant to the City Manager