

**Ishpeming Downtown Development Authority
Regular Meeting
Minutes
Monday, January 23, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Ishpeming Downtown Development Authority was held on Monday, January 23, 2023 in the Council Chambers at City Hall. The meeting was called to order by David Aeh at 4:10 p.m.

Present: David Aeh, David Aro, Sandy Arsenault, Tracy Magnuson, Brian Buchanan, Jay Clancey, Carrie Meyer, Craig Cugini and Jason Chapman (left at 5:00 p.m.) (9). Absent: Eric Laksonen and Rob Taylor (2). Also present were Bob Hendrickson from the GINCC and Linda Andriacchi, Beautification Committee.

Member Magnuson advised Eric Laksonen has moved out of the area and could no longer be a member of the DDA.

a. Election of Officers – A motion was made by Member Arsenault, supported by Member Chapman and carried unanimously to reappoint David Aeh to Chair, David Aro to Vice Chair, and Tracy Magnuson to Secretary for 2023.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bryce Sturmer, 367 County Road in Negaunee owner of Velodrome Coffee and Melo Cannabis on Main Street, thanked the DDA for all their efforts in the downtown. Velodrome has been open for approximately one year and he announced there would be Business After Hours tomorrow Tuesday, January 24th at Velodrome. There were many good things going on in Ishpeming and he was hoping to see more growth in the downtown. He asked the DDA to keep thinking about the small businesses and hoped they would consider signage to connect the new Brasswire Campground to the downtown area.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Member Arsenault supported by Member Magnuson and carried unanimously to approve the August 22, 2022 minutes as presented.

There was discussion on setting up the framework for the promotional grants that were included in the 2023 budget and how to allocate the \$10,000 budget for new businesses in the City of Ishpeming.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Finance Office Manager Joe Erickson was not able to be in attendance. The report was included in the packet and any questions could be directed to the Finance Office.

A motion was made by Member Aro, supported by Member Magnuson and carried unanimously to approve the financial report as presented.

CONFIRM MEMBERSHIP DUES TO THE GREATER ISHPEMING NEGAUNEE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

A motion was made by Member Magnuson, supported by Member Arsenault and carried unanimously to confirm payment of membership dues to the Greater Ishpeming Negaunee Chamber of Commerce in the amount of \$2,000.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPORT

Bob Henrickson provided a summary of the Chamber of Commerce report noting the current membership was 210 with a couple of new members that have signed on. He briefly reviewed the January 2023 Chamber Report including the financials.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Linda Andriacchi advised this will be the 10th year for the beautification effort in the City. She hoped this year would be better than last year. She suggested having a kick off to possibly recruit new volunteers, possibly at the Senior Center, but not holding a meeting at City Hall. She also thanked David Aeh for his donation of \$400 to the beautification effort. She advised she is currently looking for someone to water the 95 baskets for the season. There was discussion regarding the upcoming season.

Also discussed was incorporating beautification into the other seasons, such as banners, white lights, etc. around the City.

The DDA thanked Linda for all her work with beautification effort.

DISCUSS 2023 FAÇADE GRANT SCHEDULE

It was the consensus of the DDA to establish the due date for Façade Grant applications for the end of March with presentation to the DDA at a rescheduled March meeting set for April 3rd.

DISCUSSION ON CANDA STREET LOT USE OR SALE

Discussion took place on the possible sale of the lot with no restrictions placed on it; using the lot for additional parking; and/or creating a park.

A motion was made by Member Arsenault, supported by Member Magnuson and carried unanimously to ask the Planning Commission for their suggestions on the use of the parcel.

ISHPEMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Member Magnuson advised the Ishpeming Community Events would no longer be involved in the Gus Macker; Music in the Park would start June 15th and run through September 7th with some night's possibly going longer; and Festival Treasures will be held on June 30th.

OLD BUSINESS

Member Aeh noted the Anderson Building was currently listed for sale through Northern Michigan Land Brokers. He also questioned if there was any success on the way finding signage for the historical district in the downtown.

Member Magnuson asked if AT&T responded to the inquiries regarding the murals. Clerk Smith advised she had not received any response from AT&T corporate regarding the murals being placed on the grates on the Division Street; but would continue trying to reach out. The signs may need to be placed at another location.

NEW BUSINESS

Sandy Arsenault provided her letter of resignation to the DDA. The DDA thanked Sandy for her service to the City of Ishpeming.

Member Aeh advised the Historical Society would be working on the Malton Road area and the history of that location including signage and wayfinding information.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Cathy Smith,

City Clerk/Assistant to the City Manager