

**Ishpeming Downtown Development Authority  
Regular Meeting  
Minutes  
Monday, July 24, 2023**

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The regular meeting of the Ishpeming Downtown Development Authority was held on Monday, July 24, 2023 in the Council Chambers at City Hall. The meeting was called to order by Chairman David Aeh at 4:03 p.m.

Present: David Aeh, David Aro, Tracy Magnuson, Brian Buchanan, Carrie Meyer, and Jason Chapman (6). Absent: Daniel Morgan-Heridia, Craig Cugini, Rob Taylor, Sarah Trumbley (4). One vacancy. Also present was Samantha LaJeunesse, new Director from the GINCC.

PUBLIC COMMENT – There was none.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Member Chapman supported by Member Magnuson and carried unanimously to approve the May 22, 2023 minutes as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Finance Director Grant Getschow reviewed the monthly financial report for period ending June 30, 2023.

A motion was made by Member Chapman supported by Member Meyer and carried unanimously to approve the financial report as presented.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPORT

Samantha LaJeunesse, introduced herself as the new Director of GINCC and provided a brief summary of the Chamber report noting the current membership totals and advising the membership was continually growing. She noted the Festival of Treasures was very well attended and would provide a written Chamber report to the DDA at the next regular meeting.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE REPORT – The DDA commended the Beautification Committee on the hanging baskets, they looked fantastic and many comments were being made by residents and visitors to the City.

ISHPEMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Member Magnuson reported the Festival of Treasures went very smoothly and was well attended and she was receiving feedback from people that they would like to see the festival go a little longer into the evening; Music in the Park was taking place on Thursday evenings and would go through the second week in September; Buzz the Gut would be held on August 12<sup>th</sup>; and ICE was beginning to plan Ladies Night Out in November.

Member Aeh advised he would be holding a 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the Antique Mall sometime in September and would provide that information to the GINCC for announcement.

UPDATE ON AT&T BUILDING MURALS

Assistant to the City Manager Cathy Smith advised she was still waiting to hear from the Real Estate Division of AT&T. She would attempt to get in touch again with the employee that works in the Division Street office to see if he could provide a phone number for the Real Estate Division. She would continue to provide updates to the DDA.

OLD BUSINESS

Assistant to the City Manager Smith provided information from Travel Marquette on data obtained from some of the events in Ishpeming and advised the data base was still being worked on so some of the numbers provided in the data were not accurate yet.

Member Chapman asked if the DDA would be able to purchase additional Christmas decoration this year and would also like to include dollars in the 2024 budget for decorations next year. There was brief discussion related to funds being included for decorations and the previous decisions made on what to purchase.

Member Magnuson asked about the progress of the Skate Park. She expressed concern on the progress as the DDA has spent money in the planning of the park but nothing has happened recently. Member Aeh advised he would reach out to Jen Hill's office to discuss any possible funding.

Discussion took place on the possibility of hiring a part-time or contractual employee to work on grant writing for the DDA, which could include looking for a grant for the skate park. It was felt this discussion should continue when preparing the 2024 budget.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Member Aro announced the Ray Leverton Playground was finished and many children have been playing on the new equipment. He advised there was some remaining work to be done on the site which included the purchase of benches and picnic tables and pavement. He reported the Kiwanis will be short of funding to complete the project and was asking if the DDA would consider allocating \$5,000 towards the shortfall.

A motion was made by Member Aro, supported by Member Chapman and carried unanimously to allocate up to \$5,000 to the Ishpeming Kiwanis Club from the DDA for the completion of the Ray Leverton Park at the Lake Bancroft Pavilion.

Member Aro requested the DDA place no smoking signage at that location similar to the signs in other City Parks.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 5:15 p.m., a motion was made by Member Chapman, supported by Member Magnuson and carried unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cathy Smith,  
City Clerk/Assistant to the City Manager