

**Ishpeming Downtown Development Authority
Regular Meeting
Minutes
Monday, September 25, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Ishpeming Downtown Development Authority was held on Monday, September 25, 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, Craig Cugini, Brian Buchanan, Sarah Trumbley, Brice Sturmer, Carrie Meyer, Daniel Morgan-Heridia (via Zoom), and Renelle Halverson (9). Absent: Tracy Magnuson and Rob Taylor (2). Also present was Linda Andriacchi for Beautification.

PUBLIC COMMENT – There was none.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Aeh announced he would not be having an open house at the Main Street Antique Mall as mentioned at the last DDA meeting.

A motion was made by Member Meyer supported by Member Buchanan and carried unanimously to approve the July 24, 2023 minutes as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Finance Director Grant Getschow reviewed the monthly financial report for period ending August 31, 2023.

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

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPORT

Samantha LaJeunesse was not able to attend the meeting tonight as she was preparing for their Gala to be held on October 11, 2023. There was some brief discussion related to the Chamber report handed out at the meeting.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE REPORT – Linda Andriacchi apologized for missing the last meeting. She discussed the various issues that occurred with flower watering during the season. She felt the City's flowers surpassed Marquette's beautification effort. The DDA thanked Linda for all her efforts with beautification in the City again this year. She announced any contribution to beautification would be appreciated.

START UP ASSISTANCE GRANT APPLICATIONS

a. Mather Hospitality Inc, 107 E. Canda Street

The DDA reviewed the application from Mather Hospitality which was for a business expansion into the "old" cognition space and would be creating a new space for serving food and drinks. It was felt this was not a new business as it was part of The Mather and would not fall into the purview of the grant. The grant was intended for a completely new business moving into the area, not an expansion of an existing business.

A motion was made by Member Buchanan, supported by Member Trumbley to not approve the application and send a letter to the applicant advising of the decision and also note in the letter that the DDA very much appreciated The Mather and all the work going into that location, however, an expansion of a business did not fall into the purview of the grant. Motion passed 8-0, with Member Cugini abstaining.

b. Suunta Integrative Health, 308 Cleveland Avenue, Suite 202

Member Sturmer advised Suunta Integrative Health was renting office space at the Gossard Building and was adding additional space for the expansion of this office. There was discussion and questions related to what was planned for the expansion.

A motion was made by Member Halverson, supported by Member Sturmer and carried unanimously to table this application until next month and request the applicant attend the November meeting.

c. Hema-tyke Childcare and Education Center

Carrie Meyer, Superintendent, reviewed the application from the Hema-tyke Childcare at the St. John's School and Maryann Hodnik who was the Director. There were many grants that have been applied for and received and they were now pursuing the licensing. There were many additional items still required for the project such as a playground, technology for computers, safety cameras, etc. There was still a critical need for childcare in this area. It was felt by all members that this project was specifically what the start-up grant was for.

Carrie Meyer would abstain from voting as the School was working with the day care.

A motion was made by Member Aro, supported by Member Cugini and carried unanimously to approve the start up assistance grant for the Hema-tyke Childcare as presented in the amount of \$2,500. Motion passed 8-0 with Member Meyer abstaining.

DISCUSS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2024 DDA BUDGET

There was discussion related to the proposed budget and possibility of having someone maintain the weeds next to building and on sidewalks in the downtown. It was felt the proposed budget should accommodate what would be needed for 2024. It was further noted the budget could always be amended during the year if needed.

It was recommended the \$2,000 removed from Community Promotions be added back into the budget.

A motion was made by Member Aro, supported by Member Halverson and carried unanimously to approve the 2024 proposed budget included the above amendment and submit to the City Council.

SCHEDULE JOINT MEETING WITH THE PLANNING COMMISSION

It was the consensus of the DDA to request the joint meeting be held at the next regular DDA meeting which would be Monday, November 27, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

ISHPEMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Member Aeh advised Ladies Night would be held on November 15th and the Chamber of Commerce was going to be taking the lead for this event. The Christmas Festivities were also being planned; and noted Music in the Park was a huge success for this year.

OLD BUSINESS

Members questioned the timeline for the Jackson's Hardware façade grant and when work would be expected to be completed. Manager Cugini would check on the project.

NEW BUSINESS

Manager Cugini reminded everyone the State of the City address was going to be held tomorrow evening, September 26, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Senior Center. He advised the grant application for the skate park and farm project was submitted in conjunction with Partridge Creek Farms.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:32 p.m., a motion was made by Member Trunbley, supported by Member Sturmer and carried unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted



Cathy Smith, City Clerk/Assistant to the City Manager