

**Ishpeming Downtown Development Authority
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 22, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Ishpeming Downtown Development Authority was held on Monday, January 22, 2024, in the Council Chambers at City Hall. The meeting was called to order by Chairman David Aeh at 4:04 p.m.

Present: David Aeh, Craig Cugini, Brice Sturmer, David Aro, Renelle Halverson, Tracy Magnuson, (6). Absent: Carrie Meyer, Sarah Trumbley, Brian Buchanan (3). Two vacant seats (2). Also present was Linda Andriacchi for Beautification.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

City Clerk Cathy Smith advised the current officers were David Aeh-Chair, David Aro-Vice Chair, and Tracy Magnuson-Secretary.

A motion was made by Member Magnuson, seconded by Member Sturmer and carried unanimously to keep the officers the same for 2024.

PUBLIC COMMENT – There was none.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Member Magnuson seconded by Member Halverson and carried unanimously to approve the November 22, 2023 minutes as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Finance Director Grant Getschow reviewed the monthly financial report for period ending December 31, 2023. A motion was made by Member Sturmer, seconded by Member Magnuson and carried unanimously to approve the financial report as presented.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE REPORT – Linda Andriacchi reported she was in the process of ordering plants for 2024; she briefly summarized her qualifications for beautification and added she was a Master Gardener; and she asked if a vehicle could be allocated to Beautification and if it was a side-by-side that would be great.

Finance Director Grant Getschow advised a vehicle for beautification would be set up as a rental to beautification through the Motor Pool Fund.

PRESENTATION FROM LSCP – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Chris Germain and Rachel Raak, Lake Superior Community Partnership, reported the LSCP has been working with the City for two-years under contract which included some of the following tasks: blight, economic development, housing, and working toward becoming redevelopment ready communities certified. In discussions with the City on renewing their contract, the LSCP would like to work with the DDA directly by helping with Façade Grants and Start-up assistance grants; assisting staff with meetings; marketing and branding; and wayfinding signage.

Member Halverson would like to see Channel 189 used for the DDA with informational slides being added to promote the City and the DDA.

2024 MEETING SCHEDULE

It was the consensus of the DDA to approve the 2024 meeting schedule as presented.

DISCUSS 2024 FAÇADE GRANT SCHEDULE AND REVIEW 2024 APPLICATION

It as the consensus of the DDA to review and rank applications at the March 25th regular DDA meeting, with staff to determine the deadline for applications to be received.

START UP ASSISTANCE GRANT APPLICATIONS

Member Halverson read both grant applications and was very impressed with both new business ventures. Both businesses were bringing something new to the City and were providing a unique service.

a. Elevate Athletic Training, LLC - Kari Getschow advised she is leasing space in the mezzanine at Crossfit 906 to meet with clients; and the utilizing their equipment.

Member Aro, Active Physical Therapy of Ishpeming, pointed out Active Physical Therapy does provide some of the services listed to the area. He would abstain from voting on this project because of his ownership in Active Physical Therapy.

A motion was made by Member Halverson, seconded Member Sturmer to approve the application for Elevate Athletic Training as presented and award the \$2,500 grant. Motion passed 5-0 with Member Aro abstaining.

b. Bike Pantry – Member Halverson thought this was a wonderful business venture and particularly providing bikes to individuals that could not afford bikes.

A motion was made by Member Aro, seconded by Member Magnuson and carried unanimously to approve the applications for the Bike Pantry as presented and award the \$2,500 grant.

ISHPEMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Member Magnuson reported the Christmas festivities were very well attended. The Festival Treasures would be held on July 5, 2024 and Music in the Park would begin in June 2024.

OLD BUSINESS

Member Sturmer felt the Start Up Assistance grant was very good for the community noting three business took advantage in 2023 and two, to date, in 2024.

City Clerk Cathy Smith advised she had emailed AT&T shortly before Christmas but has not received any response from them; and Manager Cugini advised there has been no notification for the skate park grant.


NEW BUSINESS

There was discussion related the City's traffic pattern and how it does not direct people/visitors to the downtown. Member Magnuson asked if there have ever been any discussions about having people stay in the downtown versus going up to Al Quaal for certain events, such as the Fourth of July, but still keep the fireworks at Al Quaal. Also talked about was the importance of keeping people in the downtown area.

Member Aeh commended DPW on a great job with the clean-up after the last snow storm in the entire community. Manager Cugini also commended Police and Fire on continuing their patrols and answering emergencies.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:25 p.m., a motion was made by Member Magnuson, seconded by Member Halverson and carried unanimously to adjourn.


Cathy Smith
City Clerk/Assistant to the City Manager