

**Ishpeming Downtown Development Authority  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Monday, March 25, 2024**

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The regular meeting of the Ishpeming Downtown Development Authority was held on Monday, March 25, 2024, in the Council Chambers at City Hall. The meeting was called to order by Chairman David Aeh at 4:06 p.m.

Present: David Aeh, Brice Sturmer, David Aro, Renelle Halverson, Tracy Magnuson, and Brian Buchanan (6).

Absent: Carrie Meyer, Sarah Trumbley, Craig Cugini (3). Two vacant seats (2). Also present was Linda Andriacchi for Beautification and Chris Germain, Lake Superior Community Partnership.

PUBLIC COMMENT – There was none.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Member Magnuson seconded by Member Sturmer and carried unanimously to approve the January 22<sup>nd</sup> regular meeting minutes and approve the March 11<sup>th</sup> joint meeting with the Planning Commission and Parks and Recreation Commission minutes as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Finance Director Grant Getschow reviewed the monthly financial report for period ending March 31, 2024. He advised additional dollars would be received from the delinquent tax settlement from the County of Marquette.

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 would like to have another, standby employee, for water the flowers during the summer particularly for the fall and if regular staff member was not able to water on a given day. She added the hours would be very accommodating and asked the DDA members to reach out to anyone they may know.

LAKE SUPERIOR COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROPOSED 2024 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT

Chris Germain, Lake Superior Community Partnership, advised the proposed 2024 Professional Services Contract was approved by the City Council on March 6<sup>th</sup> and it was approved pending the DDA's acceptance of a 50-50 cost share. He reviewed the services list related to the items covered for the DDA. The total cost of the Services Agreement for 2024 was \$54,000 (approximately \$2,250/month).

There was discussion related to holding business after hours, working with the ICE on events; administrative duties that would be performed; maintaining RRC Certification, DDA strategies; and communication. The LSCP would like to receive feedback from DDA member and would provide monthly reports and in-person quarterly updates.

Member Aro advised he would abstain from voting as he is a member of the LSCP Board.

A motion was made by Member Halverson and seconded by Member Sturmer to approve the Professional Services Agreement with the LSCP as presented with a 50-50 cost share with the City. Ayes: Members David Aeh, Brice Sturmer, Renelle Halverson, Tracy Magnuson, and Brian Buchanan (5) Nays: None (0) Abstain: Member David Aro (1). Motion passed 5-0 with Member Aro abstaining.

2024 FAÇADE GRANT APPLICATION RANKING

a. Active Physical Therapy: 111 E. Division Street - Member David Aro would abstained from voting and discussion on this application as he is owner of Active Physical Therapy.

b. Old Ish Auto: 120 N. First Street

c. Snowbelt Development – Gossard: 308 Cleveland Avenue - Member Brice Sturmer, would abstain from voting and discussion on this application as he is part owner.

d. The Mather: 107 E. Canda Street

e. 206 Cleveland, LLC: 204/206 Cleveland Avenue

All member of the DDA scored the grant applications and submitted their scoring to staff for tabulation. The ranking of the Façade Grant Applications was as follows:

- The Mather
- Old Ish Auto
- Snowbelt Development
- Active Physical Therapy
- 204-206 Cleveland Avenue

There was some brief discussion related to the Façade grant applications received; the DDA budget for façade grants; and if the budget should be increased to assist all applicants. The DDA was pleased to have so many applications submitted.

Member Magnuson was glad to see activity coming in to the downtown and thought it was wonderful to have five application for the façade grant this year. The DDA no had some funding available and she felt the DDA should consider increasing the budget for façade grants this year to accommodate all five applications.

A motion was made by Member Magnuson, seconded by Member Halverson and carried unanimously to increase the façade grant budget to \$39,900 to cover the requests from each applicant.

A motion was made by Member Magnuson and seconded by Member Halverson Magnuson to approve the façade grant application for 2024 and covered the requested grant match as outlined in each façade grant application totaling \$39,900.

- The Mather, Old Ish Auto, and 204-206 Cleveland carried unanimously.
- Snowbelt Development: Motion passed 5-0 with Member Sturmer abstaining. Ayes: Members David Aeh, Dave Aro, Renelle Halverson, Tracy Magnuson, and Brian Buchanan (5) Nays: None (0) Abstain: Member Brice Sturmer (1).
- Active Physical Therapy: Motion passed 5-0 with Member Aro abstaining. Ayes: Members David Aeh, Brice Sturmer, Renelle Halverson, Tracy Magnuson, and Brian Buchanan (5) Nays: None (0) Abstain: Member David Aro (1).

It was noted the 204-206 Cleveland application needed to obtain another quote, and the DDA suggested and look at a new version for the windows.

#### MICHIGAN COMMUNITY CENTERS GRANT: SKATE PARK GRANT MATCH

DDA members where glad to see the skate park finally happening as it has been long process. A skate park at the proposed location would bring people into the downtown and the site was also going to be used as a gathering space for other events, markets, and/or craft shows etc.

Finance Director Grant Getschow advised the \$100,000 is in the budget and that fund balance could be used to cover some of the cost.

A motion was made by Member Sturmer, seconded by Member Halverson and carried unanimously to allocate \$50,000 and not to exceed \$100,000 toward the match for the skate park and submit a budget amendment to the City Council.

PROCEED WITH SUGGESTIONS FROM JOINT DDA/PARKS AND RECREATION MEETING RELATED TO THE VACANT LOT ON CANDA STREET

There was discussion related to the suggestions for the vacant lot on Canda Street. It was the consensus of the DDA to proceed with the suggestions from the joint meeting with the Planning Commission and Parks and Recreation Commission for the first phase and install no parking signage, top soil and seed the area and place picnic table/plants/shrubs at the site.

A motion was made by Member Magnuson, seconded by Member Buchanan and carried unanimously to allocate approximately \$200 toward seed and top soil for the site.

RECOMMENDATION REGARDING MURALS ON RAILROAD TRESTLES

There was discussion related to the murals on the railroad trestles as was discussed at the joint meeting on March 11<sup>th</sup>. The murals have deteriorated over time and something should be done since they were located at the entrances to the City. It was pointed out during the roundabout construction this upcoming year, Lakeshore Drive would be closed and it would perhaps be a good time to pressure wash, prime, and paint just a solid color on that trestle, preferably a dark color. Painting a dark solid color on the trestles was preferred over murals.

A motion was made by Member Magnuson seconded by Member Halverson and carried unanimously to recommend to the City Council that the murals on the railroad trestles be eliminated and the trestles should be pressure washed, primed, and painted with a solid darker color, due to current condition of the murals.

ANNOUNCE MATCH ON MAIN MEDC GRANT OPPORTUNITIES FOR BUSINESS

Chris Germain gave a brief overview of Match on Main Program which was available to Business located in the DDA district which would provide up to \$25,0000 in funding for eligible activities with a 10% cash match required. Ishpeming business could apply through the LSCP by April 3, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

ISHPEMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Member Magnuson advised Festival of Treasurers would be held on Friday, July 5<sup>th</sup>. There have been discussions with the Fourth of July Committee related to rebranding the Fourth of July week to Old Ish Days and having many different events during that entire week. She added Music in the Park would begin in June.

OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:18 p.m., a motion was made by Member Magnuson, seconded by Member Aro and carried unanimously to adjourn.



Cathy Smith  
City Clerk/Assistant to the City Manager