

CITY OF ISHPEMING PLANNING COMMISSION
Including Joint Meeting with the DDA
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, January 13, 2025

A. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Ishpeming Planning Commission was called to order in the Council Chambers at City Hall by Chairperson Brooke Routhier at 6:30 p.m. on January 13, 2025.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Brooke Routhier, Mike Kinnunen, Mike Elliott, Cory Richards, Torrey Dupras, Dax Richer, and Ben Argall (7). Absent: Lindsay Bean and Phil Carter (2). Also present was Andrew Duerfeldt, Zoning Administrator (ZA).

C. PUBLIC COMMENT – There was none.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Member Routhier suggested the agenda be amended to include item (d) under J(2) Ranking of Projects and to add under Item K Letter of resignation from Phil Carter.

A motion was made by Member Elliott, seconded by Member Argall and carried unanimously to approve the agenda as amended.

E. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES FROM

The Commission questioned the status of the meeting minutes for December. Clerk Smith advised the minutes have been completed but were not included with the agenda materials. The December minutes would be included on the February agenda. She also advised she would continue to work on the backlog minutes.

F. PRESENTATIONS

Member Routhier advised there was some upcoming training opportunities offered by the Michigan Association of Planning. She asked all members to review the training opportunities and if interested in the training to contact Clerk Smith for registration.

G. PUBLIC HEARINGS – There were none.

H. NEW OR CONTINUING BUSINESS

Election of Officers

A motion was made by Member Routhier and seconded by Member Elliott to elect Member Kinnunen to Vice Chair. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Member Richards and seconded by Member Kinnunen to elect Member Routhier to Chair. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Member Routhier and seconded by Member Kinnunen to elect Torrey Dupras to Secretary. The motion passed unanimously.

I. Old Business – There was none.

J. Open Joint Meeting with Downtown Development Authority

The Joint meeting with DDA was open at 6:49 p.m.

DDA Members present were: Brett Argall, Dave Aro, Brice Sturmer, Krystan Beaumont, Antonio Adan, and Grant Getschow (6). Members absent: Tracy Magnuson, Kelly Milano, Brian Buchanan, and Carrie Meyer (4). One seat is vacant (1).

1. Master Plan and Zoning Goals Review

Planning Commission and the Downtown Development Authority members talked about the benefits of continuing to hold joint meetings.

The following discussion took place on applying zoning codes to promote economic development and preservation of natural resources, character, and heritage;

- Special events that take place in the downtown (Marji Gesick, Polar Roll, Christmas Festivities).
- DDA Façade Grant and Start Up Assistance Grant requirements
- DDA supporting and encourage business in the downtown
- Making Ishpeming more livable, promoting walkability
- Preserve existing historic buildings versus tearing them down but also encouraging growth and new development.
- Continue work with the Land Bank on blight issues
- Trail ownership and recreational resources available in Ishpeming (biking, skiing, hiking, snowshoeing)
- New residents moving to Ishpeming because of the trail network
- Ishpeming being its own community
- Culture, character, and heritage in the community
- Development of a Short-Term Rental Ordinance for the City
- Promoting and adding additional signage for the Brasswire Campground
- Flexibility in some of the zoning for businesses and the Planning Commission and DDA continuing to work together.

2. Downtown Corridor Updates

- Discussion on the Third Street construction beginning in the spring of 2025 which would include narrowing the road and adding a grass parkway on both sides of the road which will include lighting (similar to the current north portion of Third Street). Curbside parking would still be allowed by Ish Creamery and the Bjork and Zhulkie Funeral Home.
- Hematite from First Street to Main Street was further discussed including the consideration of adding trees to make it more inviting.
- Third Street from Hematite to the Ishpeming High School should be continued with lighting and also work on some of the blighted structures on that portion of the road.
- Consideration of Lakeshore being a main corridor to the downtown with the current roundabout now being completed.
- Main Street with the additional of parklets, consideration of changing traffic flow and parking design.

After discussion the following was the ranking of corridors to the downtown when developing the 5-year capital plan.

1. Hematite from First Street to Main Street
2. Hematite to the High School
3. Main Street
4. Lakeshore Drive

3. Update on wayfinding and signage with Community Image Builders

Staff updated the progress of the wayfinding signage and branding with Community Image Builders which was part of the RRC – Technical Assistance Grant.

4. Update on plan to work with LSCP and SAIL to address economic development and recreation

The DDA has approved the 2025 contract with LSCP.

K. Correspondence

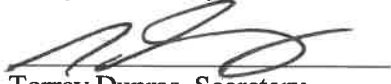
Member Routhier announced she has received a resignation letter from Phil Carter. The Commission thanked Phil Carter for his service on the Planning Commission.

L. Meeting Adjournment

At 8:30 p.m., a motion was made by Member Elliott seconded by Member Richards and carried unanimously to adjourn.

Prepared by:


Cathy Smith, City Clerk


Torrey Dupras, Secretary


Andrew Duerfeldt, Zoning Administrator