

**Ishpeming Downtown Development Authority
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 19, 2025**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Ishpeming Downtown Development Authority was held on Monday, May 19, 2025, in the Council Chambers at City Hall. The meeting was called to order by Chair David Aro at 4:03 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: David Aro, Brice Sturmer, Tracy Magnuson, Brian Buchanan, Antonio Adan (arrived at 4:05pm) Kelly Milano, Krystan Beaumont, Brett Argall, and Randy Scholz (9). Absent: Carrie Meyer (1). Vacant: one seat (1). Also present was Chris Germain from the Lake Superior Community Partnership.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT - There was none.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Member Magnuson, seconded by Member Sturmer, and carried unanimously to approve the March 24, 2025, minutes as presented.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

A motion was made by Member Buchanan, seconded by Member Argall, and carried unanimously to approve the financial report as presented.

Member Milano asked about the status of the Junior Achievement start up assistance grant.

6. BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE REPORT – There was no report.

7. LSCP REPORT

Chris Germain, LSCP, gave a brief summary of the LSCP activities for April including the West End Business Passport program designed to drive foot traffic to businesses; upcoming workshops; a Match on Main decision should be made in June; and announced the West End Business and Breakfast will be held at the Mather Inn the end of the month. He also announced funding was received through the MEDC for the Anderson Building for stabilization.

a. Open Information Session - Chairperson Aro opened the informational session at 4:12 p.m.

b. Take Public Comment – There were no public comments.

c. Close Informational Session – Chairperson Aro closed the informational session at 4:13 p.m.

9. 2025 FAÇADE GRANT APPLICATION ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: 206 CLEVELAND AVE

Justin White, developer 204-206 Cleveland Avenue, explained the proposed project and provided renderings of the completed project to members and staff. He advised the brick façade would be removed and the windows would be replaced. He anticipated the project being completed by year end. The lower two commercial spaces would be redone in 2026.

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A motion was made by Member Sturmer, seconded by Member Beaumont, and carried unanimously to approve the façade grant application for 204-206 Cleveland Avenue as presented with a grant amount of \$10,000.

10. ISHPEMING COMMUNITY EVENTS REPORT

Member Magnuson reported Music in the Park will run June 12th through September 4th. Festival of Treasures will be held on July 3rd. There was discussion about potentially having food trucks and vendors at Music in the Park and possibly having a farmers' market at the same time.

Member Milano advised the Farmer's Market in Country Village would be held on Sundays from 11-2 pm.

11. OLD BUSINESS

a. Part-time DDA Director/Liaison job description/duties

Member Adan reported on the conference call with City staff and Member Aro regarding the DDA Liaison position. He further noted, the City Attorney expressed her concerns with a potential conflict of interest between the two positions held by the one individual: Zoning Administrator and DDA Director and it was determined the position should be titled "liaison" instead of "director." The subcommittee recommended the position be offered to Andrew Duerfeldt.

There was discussion related to the position, the duties of the position, wage, and utilizing the LSCP for assistance during training.

A motion was made by Member Magnuson, seconded by Member Buchanan, and carried unanimously to concur with the subcommittee's recommendation to contract with the City of Ishpeming for the DDA Liaison position and offered to Andrew Duerfeldt.

POW WOW UPDATE

Member Beaumont provided an update on her discussion with community members regarding holding a PowWow in Ishpeming. She advised this would not happen this year. It would not be hosted by the DDA, but the DDA could be a sponsor of the event.

ROLLIE'S PROJECT UPDATE

Member Adan provided an update on the "Rollie's Project" and the MSHDA grant that was applied for by Member Sturmer and the City for the project.

ANDERSON BUILDING UPDATE

Member Adan provided an update on the grant received from MEDC.

FAÇADE GRANT TIMELINES

Member Sturmer explained he did some research on other municipalities that offer façade grants related to the timelines to complete the projects. He advised some municipalities had hard deadlines such as year-end and others have a rolling deadline for completion.

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A motion was made by Member Sturmer, seconded by Member Magnuson, and carried unanimously to add to the July meeting agenda: Façade Grant Application Deadline.

VACANT LOT – CANDA STREET

Member Aro advised he was contacted by RAMBA with questions related to the vacant lot on Canda Street. RAMBA would like to put a bike station and picnic table on the lot for a park. The DDA talked about past discussions related to this lot including adding lighting; park bench; and pathway to town.

12. NEW BUSINESS – There was none.

13. ADJOURNMENT

At 5:38 p.m., a motion was made by Member Magnuson, seconded by Member Sturmer, and carried unanimously to adjourn.



Cathy Smith, City Clerk/Assistant to the City Manager