

**Ishpeming Downtown Development Authority**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, July 28, 2025**

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Ishpeming Downtown Development Authority was held on Monday, July 28, 2025, in the Council Chambers at City Hall. The meeting was called to order by Chair David Aro at 4:00 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Present: David Aro, Brice Sturmer, Tracy Magnuson, Antonio Adan (arrived at 4:05pm) Kelly Milano, Krystan Beaumont, Brett Argall, and Randy Scholz (8). Absent: Carrie Meyer and Brian Buchanan (2). Vacant: one seat (1). Also present was Linda Andriacchi, Beautification.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Danny Garceau, born and raised in Ishpeming, and since his return to Ishpeming, he has volunteered with various organizations throughout the county. He asked the DDA to provide support for the proposed upcoming event which would be an indigenous cultural event to help spread education for the native American culture. He noted there are many native American residents in Ishpeming who would participate and volunteer for the event; and he hoped the DDA would provide support.

Member Magnuson advised the Ishpeming Community Events was a 501c3 and their organization would be willing to assist and support with this event.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Member Sturmer, seconded by Member Magnuson, and carried unanimously to approve the May 19, 2025, minutes as presented.

**5. FINANCIAL REPORT**

Finance Director Getschow explained the DDA budget was over by approximately \$3,000 due to an oversight with the LSCP contract that is being paid for between the City and the DDA. He suggested the funding be taken from the beautification line item in the amount of \$15,000 and transferred to administration to cover the expense.

A motion was made by Member Magnuson, seconded by Member Adan, and carried unanimously to approve the financial report incorporating the budget transfer of \$15,000 from beautification to administration to cover the cost of the LSCP contract.

**a. Appoint 2026 Budget Committee**

Member Dave Aro and Member Kelly Milano would serve on the 2026 DDA Budget Committee to meet with staff and review the proposed budget.

**6. BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

Linda Andriacchi gave a brief update on the beautification effort and was very pleased with how flower watering was being handled this year. She expressed her concerns with flower watering after the DPW part-time summer laborers returned to school and asked if someone would be available to water so the plants would not have to be taken down. She also thanked the DDA for approving her façade grant and added she has received many complements on how it turned out.

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Staff would check with the DPW Director to determine if it would be possible to continue watering the follows into August or early September; and would also check to see if new type planters for some of the light poles should be purchased for next year.

**7. LSCP REPORT**

Member Aro reported that Lauren Rotundo from the West End Hub was leaving and the LSCP was trying to fill the remainder of the grant funded position. City Clerk Cathy Smith advised Chris Germain, or a member of his staff, would be present at the next regular meeting to present the quarterly report.

**8. 2025 FAÇADE GRANT APPLICATION TIMELINES**

Member Sturmer suggested the timeline be changed on the Façade Grants to a rolling basis. He noted that several other municipalities run on a rolling basis for their Façade Grant and this gives the applicant more time to get bids and to finish the project. Discussion followed related to the timelines.

A motion was made by Member Sturmer, seconded by Member Milano, and carried unanimously to amend the Façade Grant application timelines to be on a rolling basis moving forward and direct staff to bring the application back to the DDA with the proposed language.

**9. REFURBISH OLD ISH**

Manager Scholz advised it was brought to a councilmember's attention by a resident that the statue of Old Ish needed some maintenance and it was suggested this be brought to the DDA to request possibly assistance with funding the repairs. There was discussion related to Old Ish Park and being a widely used community space.

Manager Scholz advised staff would obtain cost estimates for repairs and bring the information back to the DDA and the Council; he added perhaps the cost could be split between the City and the DDA. A.

**10. ISHPEMING COMMUNITY EVENTS**

Member Magnuson advised all events went very well to date and the next event would be Buzz the Gut to be held on August 9<sup>th</sup>. After that event, preparation will begin for the Christmas Festivities. She suggested discussion begin, when a DDA Director is hired, to have the DDA take over some of the events again or at least work in conjunction with Ishepming Community Events.

**11. OLD BUSINESS**

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

Finance Director Getschow advised the option to increase the hours of the Zoning Administrator to a full-time employee was no longer viable. The City Attorney's opinion is that there would be a conflict of interest between the two positions and this could cause issues. The next step would be post externally for the position.

Manager Scholz suggested the DDA check with the Lake Superior Community Partnership (LSCP) and see if a LSCP employee could be assigned the DDA Director duties and the DDA would fund a portion of the position. Deliverable could be added to the contract with LSCP for the Director position.

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There was discussion related to the proposed salary for the position; the attorney's opinion; the current job description; and the possibility of the DDA Director being an LSCP employee. The sub-committee would have to meet to discuss this option, after staff talked with the City Attorney and the LSCP.

Member Beaumont questioned the grant application for events that was on the website. She would like to see regular meetings held every month, since there was a lot going on in the community. She would like to apply for the grant for an upcoming event, but the next meeting would be after the event. She asked if it were possible to start having regular meetings monthly instead of every other month. There was discussion related to meeting monthly.

A motion was made by Member Beaumont, seconded by Member Magnuson, and carried unanimously to begin to have DDA meetings once a month on the fourth Monday at 4:00 p.m. and amend the bylaws according.

It was the consensus of the Downtown Development Authority to hold a special meeting on Monday, August 25<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

Member Adan explained the Anderson Building repairs would not begin as soon as planned; he met with the architect and the back wall would need to be replaced which will be a larger project.

Member Adan advised the "Old" Rollies Building project application was being prepared, however, he had a call into MSHDA-CDBG to get clarification on the grant with regards to the two existing upstairs apartments.

Finance Director Getschow advised the skate park plans were finalized by the Ishpeming City Council and American Ramp Company should be starting construction the middle of August.

12. NEW BUSINESS – There was none.

13. ADJOURNMENT

At 5:21 p.m., a motion was made by Member Magnuson, seconded by Member Sturmer, and carried unanimously to adjourn.



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Cathy Smith, City Clerk/Assistant to the City Manager