

**Ishpeming Downtown Development Authority**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, October 27, 2025**

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Ishpeming Downtown Development Authority was held on Monday, October 27, 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, Krystan Beaumont, Brett Argall, Carrie Meyer, Brice Sturmer, and Randy Scholz (6). Absent: Tracy Magnuson, Brian Buchanan, Antonio Adan, and Kelly Milano (4). Vacant: one seat (1). Also, present was DDA Liaison Diana Sundberg and Chris Germain from the Lake Superior Community Partnership.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT** – There was none.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Member Meyer, seconded by Member Scholz, and carried unanimously to approve the September 22, 2025, minutes as presented.

**5. MONTHLY REPORTS**

**a. Finance Report**

Finance Director Grey Getschow reviewed the monthly report for the period ending September 30, 2025. He explained the debt services payment would be for another five years with completion by 2030.

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

**b. Beautification Committee Report** – No report.

**c. Lake Superior Community Partnership (LSCP) Report**

Chris Germain, LSCP, noted that the new DDA Liaison, Diana Sundberg, was present at her first meeting and advised the state budget has passed but some downtown revitalization components were missing.

**d. Ishpeming Community Events Report**

Member Beaumont advised Ishpeming Community Events would be holding a meeting next Monday to discuss the upcoming Ladies Night Out and to also discuss the Christmas Mart that Kevin Corkin has been working on.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Proposed 2026 DDA Budget**

Finance Director Grey Getschow explained the proposed budget included increased costs for administration and beautification. The increases were to cover DPW labor for the downtown and sidewalk plowing for 2026. He noted \$30,000 was included for Façade Grants and \$10,000 for startup assistance grants.

There was discussion related to the Start Up Assistance Grant specifically for restaurants and there was interest among members to allocate funding for 2026 for this grant.

Finance Director Getschow would add dollars to the 2026 budget for the Restaurant Start Up Assistance. The final budget will be presented to the DDA at the next meeting.

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**b. Discuss re-establishing the Event Grant Application**

There was discussion among the members related to re-establishing the Event Grant Application. Member Aro explained the previous grants were for \$500 toward sponsorship of an event from the DDA.

Finance Director Getschow would allocate \$2,000 to the promotion line for the event grant applications for 2026. Staff will send out the old application to DDA members and provide a grant application for the next DDA meeting.

**c. Ishpeming First Friday Art Walk**

DDA Liaison Diana Sundberg explained there were a couple of downtown businesses that were interested in establishing an art walk every Friday in the downtown and would like to partner with other local businesses. The parties reached out to her regarding any available DDA assistance for the event.

During discussion, it was suggested Liaison Sundberg reach out and advise the event organizers they could submit an event grant application when available to the DDA.

**d. DDA priority work plan discussion**

Member Scholz suggested a work plan be developed which would include the expectations of the DDA for Liaison position.

During discussion of a general work plan the following items were suggested:

- Develop a Facebook page for the DDA
- Update the City's website contact information for the DDA
- Business cards with the DDA information
- If possible, a city email address
- Attend the Community Open House and have grant applications available
- Meet with local business and determine expectations and challenges
- Provide monthly reports to the DDA
- Schedule office hours at City Hall
- Establish a media presence to reach a broader audience

**7. OLD BUSINESS**

**a. Skate Park Update**

Finance Director Getschow advised the contractors are pushing to finish the project as quickly as possible before the weather turns. There are some features included in the skate park that are not in any other parks located in the U.P. The grand opening will be held in June of 2026.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

At 4:45 p.m., a motion was made by Member Sturmer, seconded by Member Argall, and carried unanimously to adjourn.



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Cathy Smith, City Clerk/Assistant to the City Manager