

**Ishpeming Downtown Development Authority
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 24, 2025**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Ishpeming Downtown Development Authority was held on Monday, November 24, 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, Brian Buchanan, Krystan Beaumont, Brett Argall, Carrie Meyer, Brice Sturmer, Kelly Milano, and Antonio Adan (8). Absent: Tracy Magnuson and Randy Scholz (2). Vacant: one seat (1). Also, present was DDA Liaison Diana Sundberg.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT – There was none.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Member Sturmer, seconded by Member Beaumont, and carried unanimously to approve the October 27, 2025, minutes as presented.

5. MONTHLY REPORTS

a. Finance Report

Finance Director Grey Getschow reviewed the monthly report for the period ending October 31, 2025.

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

b. Beautification Committee Report – No Report.

c. Lake Superior Community Partnership (LSCP) Report – No report.

d. Ishpeming Community Events Report

Liaison Diana Sundberg advised the Christmas Parade will take place on November 28th and Santa Visits will be held on Thursday evenings and Ladies Night was very well attended.

e. DDA Liaison Report

Liaison Sundberg provided her monthly report. She has started to create the DDA Facebook page; has met with many local businesses to discuss key topics and concerns; noted Pam's Pickings, Johnson's Drug Store, and the Groom Room were closing, and The Mather was continuing to move forward with their expansion. She would like to join the Michigan Downtown Association for potential grant opportunities; discussed having a farmers' market downtown; holding a spring clean-up in the downtown which would include DDA members and City Council members; and preparing welcome packets for new business.

6. INFORMATIONAL SESSION

a. Open Informational Session – Chairperson Aro opened the informational session at 4:26 p.m.

b. Take Public Comment- There was none.

c. Close Informational Session – Chairperson Aro closed the information session at 4:27 p.m.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Final DDA Budget 2026

Finance Director Getschow explained the budget was increased by approximately \$33,000 for sidewalk plowing in the downtown and he added \$20,000 for the restaurant start-up assistance grants. He also discussed the increase in fund balance.

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Some discussion took place regarding the 2026 budget and the possibility of offering a grant to existing businesses similar to an Elevate Business grant at some point in the future.

A motion was made by Member Meyer, seconded by Member Argall, and carried unanimously to accept the 2026 budget as presented.

b. Ishpeming Kriskindlmarkt – Kevin Corkin

Kevin Corkin, Chair of the Kriskindlmarkt, presented the event. This was the first European market to be held in the Upper Peninsula and would begin in 2026. The market would include vendors, both food and craft, be a gathering place for friends and family and include lights, décor, and music. The organization hoped this event would boost the local economy, promote tourism, foster community spirit, and create a festive atmosphere along with supporting local artisans and vendors. It will be located in the upper and lower lots of The Mather and include a partnership with the Library and Santa's village.

There should be approximately twenty collapsible huts by next year. He added there are different levels of sponsorship. He asked if the DDA would consider being the first Presenting Sponsorship level at \$20,000. This would also include one hut for the DDA to be present and promote local businesses. He noted the goal is to maintain this event and reinvest into the community.

There was further discussion regarding the event; the availability of the DDA lot located across from The Mather; the different partnerships that could be created; and the vendors that have already expressed an interest in the event.

It was the consensus of the DDA to have additional information brought to the next meeting including a budget and plan for the DDA to review; and additional information outlining the different levels of sponsorships.

c. The Mather Restaurant Start Up Assistance Grant Application

Hayden Anderson, The Mather, requested an extension on their 2024 Façade Grant. He explained they were waiting on the contractors, and at this time, priority is being given to the new restaurant. Contractors lined up to complete the work

After brief discussion, a motion was made by Member Buchanan, seconded by Member Sturmer, and carried unanimously to allow The Mather an extension on their 2024 Façade Grant until December 31, 2026.

Hayden Anderson advised he was also present to answer any questions related to their application for a Restaurant Start Up Assistance grant for The Mather Taproom.

There was discussion related to the application submitted and the proposed menu being offered.

A motion was made by Member Sturmer, seconded by Member Argall, and carried unanimously to approve the Restaurant Start-Up Assistance Grant in the amount of \$20,000 for The Mather.

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d. Update for Façade Grant – 204-206 Cleveland Avenue

Justin White, owner of 204-206 Cleveland Avenue, would like to request an extension on his 2024 and 2025 Façade Grants. He reached out to the contractor today and he is still on hold for the project. All the work is still on track to be completed but it will unlikely be this year.

A motion was made by Member Buchanan, seconded by Member Sturmer, and carried unanimously to authorize an extension for 204-206 Cleveland Avenue on both the 2024 and 2025 Façade grants through December 31, 2026.

e. Discuss revisions to Event Grant Application

Discussion took place on the content and format of the event grant application. It was the consensus of the members to simplify the application and bring a revised version back to the DDA at the next regular meeting.

8. OLD BUSINESS

a. Skate Park Update

Finance Director Getschow announced the skate park was complete and many kids had been using the park. He added safety signage was on order and turfing and restoration will be completed by Lindberg and Sons. The grand opening will be held in May or June for the park. Doozer is also interested in donating skate equipment.

b. Old Ish Update

City Clerk Cathy Smith advised Manager Scholz was still working on finding a company to refurbish Old Ish. Grey is it worth putting money into that. Should we find out of the statue is offensive to someone that might be more culturally acceptable.

Member Adan provided an update on the Anderson Building noting Cross Construction will begin in the spring of 2026.

Member Sturmer advised the one-story portion of the “old” Rollie’s building has been demolished and he was continuing to look for other grant opportunities.

It was the consensus of the DDA to cancel the December 22nd regular meeting with the next regular meeting being held on January 26, 2026.

9. ADJOURNMENT

At 5:20 p.m., a motion was made by Member Sturmer, seconded by Member Argall, and carried unanimously to adjourn.



Cathy Smith, City Clerk/Assistant to the City Manager