

**Ishpeming Downtown Development Authority**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, January 26, 2026**

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Ishpeming Downtown Development Authority was held on Monday, January 26, 2026, 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, Tracy Magnuson, Lisa Petersen, and Antonio Adan (left at 5:15pm) (10). Absent: Randy Scholz (1). Also, present was DDA Liaison Diana Sundberg and Linda Andriacchi, Beautification.

A motion was made by Member Magnuson, seconded by Member Beaumont, and carried unanimously to maintain the same officers as last year: Chair: David Aro; Vice Chair: Brice Sturmer; and Secretary: Antonio Adan.

Members introduced themselves to new member Lisa Petersen and provided some background of the DDA including the TIF district and the various grants the DDA offers.

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

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Member Meyer, seconded by Member Adan, and carried unanimously to approve the November 24, 2025, minutes as presented.

**5. 2026 MEETING SCHEDULE**

It was the consensus of the Commission to approve the 2026 meeting schedule as proposed.

**6. MONTHLY REPORTS**

**a. Finance Report**

Finance Director Grey Getschow reviewed the monthly report for the period ending December 31, 2025. He reviewed the plowing costs charged to the DDA primarily for sidewalks downtown. There was some discussion related to plowing and the DDA covering 50% of the downtown plowing versus setting a specific dollar amount.

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

**b. Beautification Committee Report**

Linda Andriacchi advised it was time for her to begin ordering plants for the upcoming season and she inquired about her budget amount. She also asked if the DDA would like her to create evergreen baskets for winter 2026 because she would have to look for a vendor for evergreens. She also had someone that may be interested in watering flowers and confirmed the wage for the position was \$15.00 per hour.

**c. Ishpeming Community Events Report**

Liaison Diana Sundberg announced that she received \$5,000 from Tru North and \$1,000 from UPPCO for Music in the Park which would begin approximately June 18<sup>th</sup> and run through the beginning of September. Member Magnuson advised Festival of Treasures would be held on Friday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> and that Ishpeming Community Events was trying to work with the Fourth of July Committee and the Historical Society to try and

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organize “Old Ish” Days which would run through the entire week. She was happy to have the liaison available to help with the events.

**d. DDA Liaison Report**

Liaison Sundberg provided a summary of her monthly report which included some general updates; businesses she visited and contacted during the month noting some of the key topics and concerns discussed were the lack of foot traffic downtown, communication inconsistencies, and signage directing people downtown; she reviewed projects and initiatives such as streamlining events, development of a community calendar, scheduling a spring clean up day, and creating a strategic plan for the DDA. She highlighted communication and outreach efforts and will be holding an Ishpeming Business Huddle next month.

**7. OLD BUSINESS**

**a. Ishpeming KrisKindlmarkt – Kevin Corkin**

Kevin Corkin, President of the Committee, gave a summary of the business plan and budget for the event. This would be the first traditional European-style Christmas Market in the Upper Peninsula and he reviewed some of the key attractions including vendor huts, collectible mugs, music, tubing hill, carriage rides, and much more. This would be a premier event in Marquette for the residents of Ishpeming but also with hopes to attract visitors to Ishpeming. The grand opening would be the day after Thanksgiving, and they hoped to partner with the Santa Parade and Santa House.

He further reviewed the sponsorship opportunities and reviewed what would be included if the DDA was a Presenting Sponsor. He further reviewed the budget and the construction of the huts and noted there would be a Cheer Meister Ball for the event that would be held at The Mather.

There was some discussion related to vendor huts; types of vendors and prioritizing Ishpeming businesses when possible; providing quality items and unique foods; and partnering with the library and other local businesses for the event.

A motion was made by Member Buchanan seconded by Member Sturmer and carried unanimously to support the KrisKindlmarkt because it was a unique event that was not happening anywhere else in the U.P. and would benefit the community for years, and agree to be a Presenting Sponsor for the KrisKindlmarkt in the amount of \$20,000.

Members of the DDA asked the KrisKindlmarkt Committee to keep them informed and provide feedback on the event.

**b. Event Grant Application Update**

Liaison Sundberg provided a rough draft of the revised event application. There was some discussion related to having Ishpeming Community Events (ICE) receive funds from the DDA and ICE would receive application and approve and disburse funds.

Members will review the draft application and discuss this further at the next meeting.

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**8. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Match on Main**

Liaison Sundberg announced Match on Main will be available beginning March 3<sup>rd</sup> for grant amounts capped at \$25,000 to be awarded. The Lake Superior Community partnership would be available to help businesses apply for grants.

**b. Develop Sub-Committee – Planning, Beautification, and Events**

Liaison Sundberg suggested sub-committees be established for Planning, Beautification, and Events and the sub-committees would then report back to the DDA. It was the consensus to discuss this item at the next meeting.

**c. Increase Façade Grant Award**

Liaison Sundberg advised when she met with Manager Scholz he suggested the DDA increase the maximum award for Façade Grants from \$10,000 to \$20,000.

There was discussion related to increasing the façade grants from a \$10,000 maximum award to a \$20,000 maximum award however the grant award would still be on a reimbursable basis for a single project.

A motion was made by Member Magnsuon, seconded by Member Milano, and carried unanimously to increase the maximum award amount for Façade Grants to \$20,000.

**d. Consideration of offering Grant Awards to existing businesses**

Member Beaumont suggested the DDA consider offering existing businesses an expansion/renovation grant which would allow existing business to get some funding and could potentially be used for safety and security.

There was discussion related to the existing façade grant which allows for ADA renovations and adding language to the existing façade grant to cover some additional funding for the existing business. Also talked about was the creation of micro-grants in smaller amounts such as \$250 to \$500 which businesses could apply to help stay open during special events and cover some of the costs.

**e. RRN Advertising Quote**

Liaison Sundberg Diana explained the proposal from Radio Results Network (RRN) would include 60-second features that would run two times per day on each of the five stations.

Caleb Gordon, RRC, explained how the advertising would run and briefly summarized his proposal. He noted the ads would run between 6am and midnight. There was discussion about the times the ads would run and if it were possible to move to different time slots if desired.

A motion was made by Member Sturmer, seconded by Member Buchanan, and carried unanimously to accept the proposal from Radio Results Network as presented not to exceed \$599/month.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

At 6:05 p.m., a motion was made by Member Buchanan, seconded by Member Argall, and carried unanimously to adjourn.

  
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Cathy Smith, City Clerk/Assistant to the City Manager