

ISHPEMING DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
MINUTES
February 23, 2015

A meeting of the Ishpeming Downtown Development Authority was held on Monday, February 23, 2015, at 4:00 p.m. in the City Hall Conference Room. Chairman David Aeh called the meeting to order.

Present: David Aeh, Diane Gauthier, David Aro, Stuart Skauge, Rosemarie Strom, Anne Giroux, John Summerhill, Claudia Demarest, and Mark Slown (9). Jim Lampman was also present. Absent was Judy Hodges (1).

Also in attendance were Chamber Director Kori Tosava, Ben Banfield from U.P. Engineers and Architects, Linda Andriacchi, Diane Betts, Dan Perkins, and Councilman Mike Tall.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

Approval of Minutes – A motion was made by Mrs. Demarest, supported by Mr. Summerhill and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of January 26, 2014 as presented.

Financial Report - Mr. Lampman reviewed the financial report and gave a summary of the bond funded projects and advised the uncommitted bond proceeds were \$165,382.77.

Beautification Committee

Linda Andriacchi would like to get as many people as possible involved in beautification and she felt an organizational meeting should be held the end of March with a follow up meeting the middle of April. It was suggested the Beautification Committee seek help from middle and high school students to assist with planting. Also discussed was using part-time summer help from the DPW to assist with watering, lawn care, and preparation of plants for winter.

It was the consensus of the DDA to hold the Beautification Organizational Meeting on Monday, March 30, 2015 at 5:00 in the City Hall Conference Room.

Chamber of Commerce Report

Mrs. Tosava summarized her report covering updates on memberships, Be Local Buy Local program, other chamber services and events. She also discussed the possibility of business sponsored snow carvings in downtown Ishpeming for next year.

Request for Funds from Ishpeming Business Association

Three grant request were received from the IBA for the Music Series from June to August, the Festival of Treasures in July, and Ladies Night Out in mid-November. A motion was made by Mr. Aro and supported by Mrs. Giroux to approve the three requests for \$500 each. Motion passed 7-0; with Mr. Aeh and Mrs. Strom abstaining (2).

New Business Incentive Program (NBIP)

Mr. Slown suggested the DDA consider establishing a New Business Incentive Program (with a maximum award of \$10,000) to encourage new business starts which could potentially help fill some vacant store fronts on Main Street. The NBIP would need a complete legal and financial review before being implemented.

After discussion of the possibilities and concerns of this type of program, a motion was made by Mrs. Gauthier, supported by Mrs. Demarest and carried unanimously to request staff present a fully developed program for further review resulting in minimal cost to the DDA.

Update on 116 E. Canda Street Property

Mr. Slown provided an update indicating John Jilbert had not yet changed the name on the deed from the City of Ishpeming to the Downtown Development Authority; and he reported the County Brownfield Authority had allocated assessment grant funds to this project for the environmental review. A decision whether or not to accept the property would be made after the environmental review was complete.

Ishpeming Business Association Report

Mr. Aeh reported the IBA discussed funding and fundraising efforts as well as future events at their last meeting.

Old Business

Mr. Skauge updated the DDA on the grant awarded by Cliffs Eagle Mine Marquette County Community Foundation in the amount of \$250,000. He reminded everyone part of the grant included an additional \$25,000 for engineering and architectural services. He felt GEI Consultants should be hired to prepare a grant application for the April 1st deadline.

It was the consensus of the DDA, that no grant applications should be submitted until an official award letter had been received and ownership of the site had been obtained.

New Business

Discussion took place on the land needed for the gateway signs. Mr. Slown advised staff was currently working on the land swap between Negaunee-Ishpeming Water Authority property and City property; and, he was still working with the owner of the Wonderland Hotel to obtain property at that location.

Adjournment

At 6:25 p.m., a motion was made by Mrs. Demarest, supported by Mrs. Giroux and carried unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cathy Smith
Recording Secretary