

Ishpeming Downtown Development Authority
Minutes
Monday, August 24, 2015

The regular meeting of the Ishpeming Downtown Development Authority was held on Monday, August 24, 2015 in the City Hall Conference room. The meeting was called to order by David Aeh at 4:00 p.m.

Present: David Aeh, David Aro, Rosemarie Strom, Sandy Arsenault, Judy Hodges, Anne Giroux, Claudia Demarest, and Mark Slown (8). Absent were Diane Gauthier, Jay Clancey, and John Summerhill (3).

PUBLIC COMMENT

Stuart Skauge advised the Ishpeming Rotary Club would like to restore the ore cars which would involve transporting the ore cars to Baraga to be stripped and powder coated, transporting them back to Ishpeming, applying new lettering to identify area mines, and installing the ore cars back to the proper areas. The approximate cost for each ore car was \$150. Two sponsors had been secured so far: Stuart Skauge and Dr. Rao. He was requesting approval for the restoration by the DDA along with any financial assistance.

A motion was made by Mr. Aeh, supported by Mrs. Arsenault and carried unanimously to approve the restoration of the ore cars by the Ishpeming Rotary Club pending approval of the same by the Ishpeming City Council.

A motion was made by Mrs. Demarest, supported by Mrs. Hodges and carried unanimously to sponsor one ore car restoration by the Ishpeming Rotary Club in the amount of \$150.

Amy Lerlie presented an events grant application for RAMBA for their UPCROSS event to be held November 14, 2015. RAMBA was requesting \$250 to apply towards the renting of Al Quaal for the event. She advised RAMBA sponsored events and activities to benefit the downtown.

A motion was made by Mr. Aro, supported by Mrs. Strom and carried unanimously to approve the grant request from RAMBA for the UPCROSS event to be held on November 14, 2015 in the amount of \$250.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mrs. Demarest, supported by Mrs. Giroux and carried unanimously to approve the July 20, 2015 minutes as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Lampman reviewed the financial statements and summarized the fund balance, the revenues, and the expenses. There was some brief discussion on the fund balance. A motion was made by Mrs. Giroux and supported by Mrs. Arsenault and carried unanimously to approve the financial statements as presented.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

Linda Andriacchi advised 67 hanging baskets were purchased this year and questioned if the DDA would like to increase the number of baskets for next year to 75 along with purchasing additional hangers. She would like to place her order for next year so she could obtain the flowers she wanted. It was the consensus of the members to purchase 72 baskets for next year.

She would prepare a letter to send to the many volunteers that assisted with the gardens this year which would include a thank you, and an invitation to breakfast provided by the City Manager, as well as requesting assistance with the fall cleanup of the gardens.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPORT

Mr. Aeh advised Kori Tossava was not able to attend, the report was provided in the packet. Mrs. Demarest also reminded everyone there would be a roundtable at the Carnegie Library for the Event Policy on Wednesday, September 2nd at 5:30.

2016 BUDGET RECOMMENDATION

Mr. Slown advised the committee had not met yet to discuss the budget. A meeting would be scheduled and a recommendation would be provided at the September meeting.

BLIGHT ELIMINATION GRANT

110 Canda Street Update

Mr. Slown explained the title search did not reveal any state or federal tax liens on the property; he advised mBank would forgive approximately \$15,000 which would be the difference between the \$35,000 from the DDA and the mortgage debt. Mr. Slown recommended the DDA authorize a subcommittee to negotiate a purchase agreement with the Watts and bring the information back to the next DDA meeting.

There was concern expressed over the payment of the back taxes and the outstanding utility bills due on that property; these would have to be paid prior to closing. Also discussed were the problems with the shared wall; as well as the possible purchase price.

A motion was made by Mrs. Arsenault and supported Mrs. Demarest for the DDA not to go over \$35,000 for the purchase of the building. Ayes: Members Arsenault, Demarest, and Slown (3). Nays: Members Aeh, Aro, Strom, Hodges, Giroux (5). Motion failed.

A motion was made by Mr. Aeh and supported by Mrs. Hodges and carried unanimously to form a subcommittee comprised of Mrs. Giroux, Mrs. Demarest, Mrs. Arsenault, and Mr. Slown to negotiate with the Watts and meet with mBank.

GATEWAY SIGNS PROJECT

Mr. Slown reported the east entry sign location by the Wonderland Motel was not feasible. He advised staff would continue to look for another location for the sign and report back to the DDA.

ISHPEMING BUSINESS ASSOCIATION REPORT

Mr. Aeh reported the IBA held their meeting and Rich Devlin thanked the DDA for their assistance with the insurance certificate. He advised the members of the DDA were disappointed with the new Events Policy and hoped it would not have a negative impact on hosting events in the City. The IBA would be attending the round table events policy meeting at the Library on September 2nd.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Redevelopment Ready Communities Program

Mr. Slown reported much progress had been made with the six best practices for the Redevelopment Ready Communities Program. The MEDC would like to make a presentation to the City Council, DDA, and

Planning Commission on September 22nd. He advised there were many benefits to becoming redevelopment ready and after MEDC's assessment, they would provide us information on various funding that would be available.

Thank you from Cross Fit 906

Members acknowledged the thank you from Cross Fit 906.

Mrs. Demarest questioned the status of the repair on the railroad crossing on Malton Road. Mr. Slown advised it would be temporarily taken care of with some fill, and he would check into the status of the permanent repair.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Arsenault questioned the availability of handicapped parking on the city streets. She requested some handicapped parking be provided by Pioneer Square.

There was discussion related to expanding the DDA district to include more areas of the downtown.

Mr. Aeh advised the DDA would be looking for application for the vacancy created by John Summerhill. It was felt that another individual from the school district should fill the vacancy.

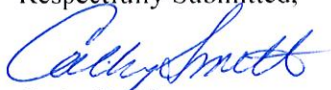
Mr. Aeh also requested the DDA contribute \$50 for the printing of the Anatomy of a Murder brochures that would be available at local retailers.

A motion was made by Mr. Slown, supported by Mrs. Demarest and carried unanimously to contribute \$50 and pay the Globe Printing bill for the Anatomy of a Murder brochures.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:00 p.m., a motion was made by Mrs. Demarest, supported by Mrs. Arsenault and carried unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cathy Smith
Recording Secretary