

MINUTES
ST. IGNACE DDA MEETING
October 11th, 2019
(unofficial)

Members Present: Chairman Jim North, Vice Chair Mayor Connie Litzner, Pat Ramsay, Barb Brown, Secretary Barb Yshinski, Cheryl Schlehuber, Linda Bell, Phil Ruegg, Heather Aukeman
Members Absent: None
Staff Present: DDA Director Scott Marshall, City Manager Mike Stelmaszek
Others Present: Erich Doerr from the St. Ignace News

Chairman Jim North called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

I. MINUTES

Motion by Schlehuber; support by Litzner to accept the minutes of September 13th, 2019. Motion carried.

II. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: Scott Marshall

III. FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Marshall reviewed the bills and the revenue and expense report inside the DDA budget. **Motion** by Schlehuber, support by Ramsay to accept the financial report. Motion carried.

IV. BUSINESS:

Excuse Absent Members – N/A

Mark Sposito Easement Request- Marshall met with Sposito on September 25, 2019. Sposito asked for DDA support for easement to access water for kayak business in return Sposito would give city easement for Chief Park access from south entrance at Star Line side of Chief Park. The public is already crossing Sposito's property to enter the park on the south side. Mike Stelmaszek asked Marshall to tell Sposito to make a written request to the city. Brown suggested relocating Chief Park sign and statue to make more prominent.

Little Bear Park Project: Marshall reported that Teryn Williams submitted the grant extension request on October 4th as instructed by the city manager. Marshall reminded the board that Stelmaszek will be the grant administrator for the City of St. Ignace responsible for all the paperwork and website administration and accounting. Marshall will be working with Stelmaszek on the project.

Budget Committee: The Budget Committee met on October 3rd. Jim North, Phil Ruegg, Barb Brown and Scott Marshall were in attendance. Shirley Sorrels was absent due to a broken ankle. Helen Thibault was asked to explain NAGPRA to the committee. The DDA received financial requests for NAGPRA expenses

from the city manager for up to \$3,000, MEA Co-Working Space Project of \$5,000 and \$10,000 for park maintenance by the City Manager. The board also discussed plans to provide \$1600 for retirement annually for Sorrels to be split equally by the museum and the museum store.

North spoke with Sorrels and suggests that the NAGPRA costs be split into 3rds to be shared by the DDA, the City and Museum. North said the committee reviewed all requests. North said that the budget was prepared conservatively. Marshall said that the plans for 2020 are to address the park, boardwalk and sidewalk maintenance issues. **Motion** by Ruegg, support by Bell to approve the Budget Committee budget recommendations. Motion carried.

Connors Park: Marshall said improvements are coming along well. Marshall received grants from the Community Foundation and Sault Tribe to replace rotten boardwalk boards with brick pavers. Marshall said public works did a great job assisting on the project. Questions about sponsoring benches and suggestions to put information on DDA website.

Crosswalk Update: Marshall submitted DDA crosswalk suggestions in a report to the city manager. City Manager Mike Stelmaszek states that he has read the report and is working with Billy Fraser and MDOT for next steps. The board thanked Stelmaszek for his update.

Azzar Boardwalk Update: Marshall informed the board that Azzar inquired through attorneys if there is any waterfront property available in the city. Marshall responded that the city didn't have any property to sell. Marshall isn't sure what the status is with the boardwalk but hopes that the conversation will lead to communication and possibly a favorable outcome. Brown suggested that Marshall should request a meeting with Mr. Azzar without attorneys present to find out exactly what Mr. Azzar wants from the city.

Museum Manager's Report- Sorrels is absent due to doctor's appointment regarding broken ankle. Marshall reports that Sorrel's doctor's recommendation is to rest and stay off her legs as much as possible. Marshall said that Sorrels continues to work hard from home and has completed a lot of grant work from home.

Additions to the Agenda-

Marshall informed the board that planning for the city's 350th celebration has started being spearheaded by the events committee. Marshall asked permission to attend grant writing class in Petoskey. All members agreed. Marshall talked about dumpster concern at pocket park. The owner of Zak's Fudge has worked out an arrangement with public works for driveway repairs and will place dumpster in business driveway in back of building. Marshall met with MEDC to discuss available grants and programs.

Shlehuber said she met with Daryl Brown and he has some great ideas to offer. Litzner reminded the board that the DDA should plan the 2021 budget with

considerations in mind for financial support for the city's 350th celebration. Brown suggested having commemorative ideas available for the 350th.

Other – None

Public Comment – Ramsay said that she recently visited Holland Michigan and made a special point to see the America in Bloom flower program. Ramsay said the flowers are beautiful and Holland has a lot of good ideas.

There being no further business: Meeting adjourned at 9:18AM

Respectfully submitted: Barb Yshinski