

MINUTES
ST. IGNACE DDA MEETING
November 8th, 2019

Members Present: Chairman Jim North, Vice Chair Mayor Connie Litzner, Cheryl Schlehuger, Barb Brown, Phil Ruegg, Heather Aukeman

Members Absent: Barb Yshinski, Pat Ramsay, Linda Bell

Staff Present: DDA Director Scott Marshall, City Manager Mike Stelmaszek,

Others Present: Kaley Fech from the St. Ignace News

Chairman Jim North called the meeting to order at 8: 03 a.m.

I. MINUTES

Motion by Schlehuger, support by Aukeman to accept the minutes of October 11th, 2019.

II. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: Scott Marshall

III. FINANCIAL REPORTS: Marshall reviewed the bills and revenue and expense report inside the DDA budget. Scott answered a few questions. Motions by Schlehuger, support by Ruegg to accept the financial report. Motion carried.

IV BUSINESS:

1. **Excuse absent members:** Motion by Brown support by Ruegg to excuse Ramsay, Bell and Yshinski.

2. DDA Project Update

A: **Little Bear Park**-Marshall gave a brief report on the project and extension approval

B: **Connors Park**-Marshall updated the board on the successful progress and expressed his pleasure with how the project is coming along with the assistance of the DPW crew.

C: **Star Line Parking Lot**-winter parking is back and the park is roped off. The board indicated they would still like to keep the idea of a future purchase of the lot should it become available. The current lease is for 4 months. The work that was scheduled to be done by Star Line has not been completed at this time but he hopes it will be done in the spring.

D: **Poles:** Marshall updated the board with a sample pole made of a hard resin that can be purchased through All-Phase at a cost of \$400 each. The board approved of the new base and approved purchasing them as well as 3 additional bases for future needs. Discussion on insurance reimbursement was also included. He indicated the resin will probably hold up better than the fiberglass or metal.

E. **Crosswalk Update**-Marshall and the city manager have been in touch with David Rusch from MDOT on moving forward with the recommendations of the crosswalk committee (with the exception of 2 of the crosswalks). The manager read a letter from Mr. Rusch on his opinion. He is looking into it and will get back with us hopefully by the next meeting. The board affirmed they are taking away a dangerous crosswalk and hope this can be remedied soon.

F: **Amphitheater Grant**-Discussion on raising funds for the project and honoring Tony Earl (former St. Ignace citizen) in a way through the project. It will be sent to the project committee for work on how to proceed and report back. Discussion included the letter showing support from the DDA board when it hadn't been given at that time. All agreed the project is good but needs board approval first. Brown made a motion, Phil seconded. motion passed to send to committee.

3. **DDA Grant Update** -Marshall reported to the board on the process. Met with the Wellness Coalition and was asked to write a grant for signage. He wrote a grant to EUP Regional Planning for trail head siding which would cover quite a few area trail systems. All were supportive of directors' efforts and were happy to hear he attended the grant writing seminar in Petoskey.
4. **The Personal Committee Date** was set for the first week of December potentially December 5th for the committee to meet.
5. **James Azaar Boardwalk** Lease Update: Marshall reached out on October 15th and is waiting for an update. Nothing new at this point.
- 6.
7. **Museum Manager Report:** Shirley is still out and healing and working successfully from home. Marshall gave an update of the revenues for the year.

Additions to the Agenda-

Marshall gave an update on the 350th birthday celebration of the city. All are invited to attend the next meeting at the Mackinac Grille on December 5th. Brown asked that the decal that was adopted by the birthday marketing committee be crisped up and several members also agreed. Asked to keep in mind for budget donation.

The city will be giving a wreath donation for the annual XMAS downtown event, December 6th.

Rebate for the streetlights, \$2000-5000 should have update for next meeting.

Discussed the desire to have more event signage downtown strategically placed in areas people congregate.

DDA Board to support annual XMAS by cont. \$300 each and pay for the music.

Brown voiced her displeasure with the current DJ setup during the downtown XMAS event and other special events making it difficult to have conversations and asked that we are aware of how we set up the public speaker during these events in order to enable the public to carry discussion without a loud vocal interruption.

Public Comment-None

Motion by Brown to adjourn at 9:16 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: Cheryl Schlehuber