

MINUTES
ST. IGNACE DDA MEETING
February 14th, 2020

Members Present: Chairman Jim North, Vice Chair Mayor Connie Litzner, Cheryl Schlehuber, Barb Brown, Phil Ruegg, Secretary Barb Yshinski

Members Absent: Pat Ramsay, Heather Aukeman, Linda Bell

Staff Present: DDA Director Scott Marshall

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 January 10th, 2019. Motion Carried.
- II. **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:** Cheryl Schlehuber
- III. **FINANCIAL REPORTS:** Marshall reviewed the bills for January 2020 and then reviewed the DDA Revenue and Expenses to date. Motions by Schlehuber, support by Ruegg to accept the financial report with the budget amendments. Motion carried.

IV BUSINESS:

1. **Excuse absent members:** Motion by Brown, support by Ruegg to excuse Ramsay, Aukeman and Bell.
2. **St. Ignace Business Association Visitors Brochures:** The DDA has paid for the SIBA brochures over the years. Marshall reports that on average the cost is \$800. Marshall met with Janet Peterson. Peterson plans to improve the brochures for 2020 and will include advertising options to generate revenue. Peterson asked if the DDA will continue funding and promised the new additions will not cost the DDA any more than previous years. The added cost will be covered by paid advertising on the brochures. The board was in agreement to continue supporting the SIBA brochures.
3. **American in Bloom**– Marshall spoke with Sam Belonga. Belonga said that she is working with the Chamber of Commerce. Belonga said that she has received financial support for the American in Bloom application but she is still \$300 short. The DDA agreed to pay \$300 toward the American in Bloom application fee. The total cost for the application fee is \$1500. Motion by Schlehuber and support by Brown to contribute \$300. Motion carried.
4. **Little Bear Park Update:** RS Scott finished a portion of the bid documents. The documents were emailed to the DNR grant coordinator on February 7th. A portion of the trail around the pond passes a narrow stretch of land with water on one side and MDOT

right of way on other side. The original plan involved the NC Trail group building a 200' bridge. Marshall spoke with a NC Trail representative who said the bridge is probably more than the NC Trail group can handle with volunteers. Marshall spoke with MDOT to see if the trail can move over 10' onto MDOT right of way to eliminate the need for the bridge and to lower expenses. Litzner asked why the trail bid document wasn't part of the first round of documents to the DNR. Marshall said that the Major portion of the expenses will be the buildings and fence which will then dictate the next moves of scaling back to the buildings or fence. Marshall said he discussed the intended order of operations at previous meetings but can ask RS Scott to get the trail documents done right away. RS Scott said the Trail documents may take a day or 2. Marshall reminded the board that the focus is on getting the project done to meet the DNR specifications to get the DNR money. The DNR only is asking for the trail to lead from Marquette to Waste Management. They don't care if we have a loop around the pond. Marshall said he wants loop around the pond but focus is on the building bids and fence since they are the make it or break hurdle we are facing. Marshall also touched on the pedestrian bridge elimination and using MDOT right away which still need to be worked out and waiting on MDOT approval. Brown reminded the board about all the DDA time that is being used on the project. North reminded the board that this is a City of St. Ignace Recreation Project and the DDA is helping the city out to get this project done.

5. **Amphitheater Project:** Marshall is waiting on information from amphitheater suppliers to update the board.
6. **Museum Manager Report:** Marshall reports that Sorrels is unable to attend meeting this morning because she is working with a NAGPRA representative on the city's NAGPRA inventory.
7. **Open Discussion-** Schlehuber talked about the MEA office and Co-working Space Project. The project is taking place in the old yoga building. MAE is in the process of hiring a new director. Schlehuber discussed the DDA's pledge of \$5000 from the April 2019 DDA Meeting to the co-working space project. North said the money is already earmarked for the project. Marshall asked if the money would come out of the fund balance since it was part of the 2019 budget. Board agreed.
Brown talked about the Mackinaw Raptor Watch group. Brown gave a quick update about the group. Brown said that St. Ignace needs to be represented. The group brings people and money into the area.
Litzner talked about the HGTV contest for improving downtown areas. Litzner said she worked with the Visitors Bureau to get the video.
North talked about the business downtown started by Mike and Lara Gustafson. North said it will be an exciting addition to our downtown.

Public Comment- None

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: Barb Yshinski

