

MINUTES
ST. IGNACE DDA MEETING
March 13th, 2020

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

Members Absent: Pat Ramsay, Linda Bell, Barb Brown, Barb Yshinski

Staff Present: DDA Director Scott Marshall

Others Present: Erich Doerr from the St. Ignace New, Betsy Hart

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 February 14th, 2020. Motion Carried.

II. **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:** None

III. **FINANCIAL REPORTS:** Marshall reviewed the bills for February 2020 and then reviewed the DDA Revenue and Expenses to date. Motion by Ruegg, support by Schlehuber to accept the financial report. Motion carried.

IV **BUSINESS:**

1. **Excuse absent members:** Motion by Aukeman, support by Litzner to excuse Ramsay, Bell, Brown and Yshinkski

2. **Hometown Heroes Banner Program:** Abbey and Adam from the Hometown Hero Banner Program gave an overview of the program. They discussed how the program works with a website, QR codes that can be accessed from the banners themselves as well as the website and other options available. A family member of the veteran will purchase the banner for \$500 which includes the pole and mount (The city would keep the pole and the mount). If funds aren't available there are fundraising options. They gave a quote of \$3,000 which includes the website.

3. **Garden Contract-** The contract expired the summer of 2019. Cedars of Mackinac has had the contract with the city for 10+ years. Cedars of Mackinac was the only bid that came in, \$17,140 for 2020, \$18,400 for 2021. They do a great job and it was moved by Schlehuber and seconded by Aukeman to award the contract to Cedars of Mackinac for the upcoming 2 seasons. Motion Carried.

4. **Little Bear Park Update:** Marshall reports that he is working on the project 98% of the DDA time. Marshall is working to include pre-fabricated building options. Mr. Olsen assured him it was a one-day turnaround, bid documents will be in to the DNR by March 20. Marshall is reaching out to contractors. Marshall will work with the city manager for

different advertising options such as radio ads. The radio advertisements will cost \$1,000. Schlehuber said to utilize social media options

5. **Amphitheater Project:** Marshall spoke with other communities that purchased amphitheaters from this company and they were extremely satisfied and didn't have any issues to report.
6. **Museum Manager Report:** Sorrels updated the board on her recent activity working from home on possible grants,, foundations, MCFTA and ongoing museum activities. She has been looking at repairs to the foundation, archway and kiosk. Will approach Robert St. Louis about his work crew. She will look into a possible grant for painting on the south side of the museum building, travel exhibits and implementing a mums and teens or fathers and siblings, "Mitten Program" incorporating traditional bonding. Excited about the upcoming Indigenous art fair that will be scattered throughout key areas of the downtown.
7. **Open Discussion-** Schlehuber announced the new MEA director recently hired, Chris Byrne as well as the current construction of the co-working space in the old Yoga Shop. Light discussion on the on-going extended birding trail development. Christopher Germain with MEDC is also involved. Updates on the current leasing or sale of downtown buildings and moving in the right direction with limited space now available for leasing. Ruegg voiced his concerns again about the severity of damage to the boardwalk and wondered if there was an action plan in place. Marshall acknowledged that there is no current plan but they will assess the damage once the ice goes out and he has time. Connie talked about a possible Boardwalk Clean Up volunteer event once they know the extent of what needs to be done.
8. **Public Comment:** Betsy Hart discussed the upcoming March 30th workshop regarding zoning and the CEDAM program, the workshop is for all government officials or applicable persons. Encouraged all that can attend should make a point of it.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: Cheryl Schlehuber