

**MINUTES**  
**ST. IGNACE DDA MEETING**  
**April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019**  
**(unofficial)**

Members Present: Chairman Jim North, Pat Ramsay, Linda Bell, Phil Ruegg, Heather Aukeman  
Members Absent: Vice Chair Mayor Connie Litzner, Cheryl Schlehuber, Secretary Barb Yshinski, Barb Brown,  
Staff Present: DDA Director Scott Marshall, Museum Director Shirley Sorrels  
Others Present: Erich Doerr from the St. Ignace News, Alex Iseri, City Manager Mike Stelmaszek, Dave Vargo, Mike Lilliquist, Rick Perry

Chairman Jim North called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m.

**I. MINUTES:** Correction Linda Bell was not present at March board meeting. She was listed as both present and not present.

**Motion** by Aukeman; support by Ruegg to accept the minutes of March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Motion carried.

**II. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:** Scott Marshall

**III. FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

**Motion** by Ruegg, support by Aukeman to accept the financial report. Motion carried.

**IV. BUSINESS:**

**Excuse Absent Members** – Motion by Ruegg; support by Bell to excuse Litzner, Brown, Schlehuber and Yshinski. Motion carried.

**Gateway City Gallery & Tap Room-** Scott Marshall introduced business owners Mike Lilliquist and Dave Vargo to the board. Mike introduced the Gateway City Gallery & Tap Room project and talked about specifics. It will be a multi-purpose business with its signature business being a “tap room” that serves Michigan brews. There will also be an art gallery space featuring Michigan artists. The former Gateway City Garage on the corner of McCann and North State will house this business. The facility will have a commercial kitchen, bar and an outdoor beer garden. Rick Perry project architect asked the board to review the parking rules for the general business district. Rick said the central district parking regulations are more suitable and the board should consider adopting the same parking regulations for the general business district. Dave Vargo said this business is a large financial investment and hopes to be open in 2019. Dave projected hiring 10-20 year round positions. Dave would consider donating to the DDA the property to the west of their business if the DDA would develop the area for city parking.

**Co- Working Space-** Alex Iseri from the Mackinac Economic Alliance talked to the board about his Co-Working Space Project. It’s about creating office space

opportunities to visitors in the community and to residents in the community that may not have a brick and mortar business, Alex is asking the DDA Board for \$10,000 of financial support for the project. The DDA Budget Committee met on April 4<sup>th</sup> to discuss this matter with North, Ruegg and Marshall in attendance. The committee felt it wasn't a matter if the board would help but more of a decision on how much they could afford to contribute. The committee recommends a (1) time donation of \$5,000 to the project stating specifically that the space or building must be located in the DDA district. The money is to be paid out once the project has received all other funding, stating that the DDA money would be the last financial piece of the puzzle. Motion by Aukeman to contribute a (1) time donation of \$5,000, support by Ruegg. Motion carried.

**Street Light Committee Report**- Marshall reported that Rudyard Electric, Ranck Electric and Masters Electric submitted bids for the light project. Marshall suggested following the city engineer recommendation of approving low bidder Rudyard Electric (\$132,444) for the job. Marshall inquired on project financing. North said that first thoughts were to take out a bank loan agreement through the city. The city manager said he is in support of the project but the city plans on borrowing money in the near future for new equipment and the light project costs would limit borrowing capacity under the city's debt ceiling. North suggested paying for the project out of the property management fund balance. Motion by Ramsay to approve Rudyard Electric and to pay for the project out of the property management account, supported by Bell. Motion carried.

**St. Ignace Community Alliance**- Marshall reported that the community alliance held a workshop on March 18<sup>th</sup> at the Little Bear East Arena. Guest speaker Brian Bosley formerly of St. Ignace spoke on how to develop a positive, productive and profitable community. Later that evening, the alliance had the kickoff meeting for all residents, groups and organizations. Both events were well attended with 30 or more people. Special thank you to the City of St. Ignace, First National Bank and the U.P State Credit Union for supporting the events.

**Welcome Sign**- Marshall presented an illustration of the sign and a contract proposal from Vital Signs. All board members liked the design of the sign. Bell questioned if the sign would hold up in cold temperatures. Marshall said he would find out. Marshall said the DDA has received \$34,821 from the insurance company. The quote from Vital Signs is \$36,459. Motion by Aukeman to accept the design and proposal from Vital Signs and to begin work on the condition that Marshall researches the signs performance in cold weather. Motion carried.

**Little Bear Park Project**: Marshall reported that the city has received the good news. The DNR has approved the revised plans that were handed in on July of 2018. The city can start bidding out the project.

**Cruise Lines**- Marshall told the board that he has reached out to cruise line planners to find out the necessary steps for making St. Ignace a cruise line port

city. Marshall formed a cruise line committee to share in the work load and to make the biggest impact.

**Bike Trails-** The DDA received a \$500 grant from the St. Ignace Community Foundation for bike trail signage.

**Star Line Parking Lot-** Marshall said that talks continue with Star Line negotiating lease possibilities for the parking lot on the north side of Ace Hardware. Marshall reports that Star Line has been very supportive for all ideas that help out the community.

**James Azaar Boardwalk Lease Update-** Marshall mailed a letter to Mr. Azzar as recommended by the DDA board and has made many phone calls to Mr. Azzar's assistant. The letter is inquiring if Marshall could travel to Grand Rapids to meet Mr. Azzar in person to discuss options. Marshall is waiting on a response.

**St. Anthony's Park Stairway Discussion-** Marshall brought in a draft and picture of what steps would look like at the pocket park. Marshall suggested wood stairs for appearance and they would be most affordable. Bell asked about the fence between the property. Marshall said he would meet with the property owner to discuss the fence and stairs and bring more information to the May board meeting.

**Request to Attend Upcoming Training-** Marshall asked the board if he could travel to the Sault to meet with the Sault Ste. Marie DDA. Board agreed.

**Museum Manager's Report-** Sorrels reported on the Kellogg Foundation Grant. Sorrels received a grant from the St. Ignace Community Foundation for the veteran's wall.

**Additions to the Agenda-**

Marshall reports that the DDA received \$2,500 from the St. Ignace Community Foundation to repair Connor's Park. Connor's Park is located to the north of BC Pizza. Marshall said that the boardwalk is in rough shape. Marshall would like to make the park a place to sit down and to be a destination. The park is located in the center of town and has a lot of potential.

North informed the board about a complaint he received from a local business person. The complaint pertained to the park reservation fees. Marshall told the board that the city in efforts to make the parks more welcoming for weddings and events started a reservation policy. The fee for some parks were \$50 for non-residents and \$150 for non-residents. The chief park is \$300 for both residents and non-residents. This local business person believes that the fee should be more affordable and competitive. Marshall wrote a letter to the city manager on behalf of the local business person. The issue was brought to council and it was decided to lower the fee from \$300 to \$150. The local business person would like to see it

lowered to \$50/\$75. Marshall met with the business owner and council members and the issue will be brought to a city council work session on April 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Other** – None

**Public Comment** –None

There being no further business: Meeting adjourned at 9:43AM

Respectfully submitted: Pat Ramsay