

MINUTES
ST. IGNACE DDA MEETING
June 14th, 2019
(unofficial)

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

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

I. MINUTES

Motion by Litzner; support by Bell to accept the minutes of May 17, 2019.
Motion carried.

II. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: Scott Marshall

III. FINANCIAL REPORTS:

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

IV. BUSINESS:

Excuse Absent Members – Motion by Aukeman to excuse Schlehuber, support by Ruegg. Motion carried.

MEA Tax Freeze- Alex Iseri from MEA presented benefits of a 5 year tax freeze. Alex said the freeze would encourage owners to invest in their property without the worry of increased taxes for at least 5 years. The board asked Alex to keep the board updated on his progress. The board also suggested having the city assessor attend the next meeting to inform the board on what improvements actually raise the property taxes.

Street Light Update: Rudyard Electric estimates a start date just after car show.

Welcome Sign Update: Marshall spoke with Vital Signs and they said that the sign is visible from any angle and distance. Vital Signs expects to start on the sign just before car show.

Connors Park- Marshall met with the DDA Downtown Project Committee on June 13 to discuss improvement plans. The Events Committee is considering using the park for nightly music.

Bat House Project- Sarah Doran is currently building the bat houses and will update the board when they are installed.

Little Bear Park Update- Marshall believes that the project is very close to being ready to seek bids.

Cruise Line: No Update

Recreation Trail- No Update

Star Line Parking Lot- Marshall reported that the negotiations ran into a hurdle. The Visitors Bureau isn't allowed to use funds to repair pot holes in Star Line parking lot. North stated that negotiations are ongoing. Marshall said all efforts are to support the Events Committee goal of finding an event location and to draw visitors into the downtown district. Jerry Fetty and Star Line have been very supportive.

St. Anthony's Pocket Park Update: Marshall met with the owners of Zaks to discuss the fence. The owner would like a 5' metal fence to match the fence around the rock. Marshall received a quote of \$900. Gustafson's store also suggested having stairs since visitors are already climbing the hill.

Azzar Boardwalk Update: Marshall reported that the city received a letter from Mr. Azzar's attorney. Mr. Palmer our city attorney responded and we are hoping to find a solution. North suggested that we draft a new 5 year lease to show the city's dedication for improving the boardwalk and to consider possible enhancements to the boardwalk on Mr. Azzar's property like a mural. .

Museum Manager's Report- Sorrels stated that she is getting ready for event season and rain hasn't been cooperative. Sorrels said that she is working on new logos. Sorrels said that the museum has been nominated for a humanities award. Brown asked about parking areas. Sorrels said that she would look into possibilities.

Additions to the Agenda-

Marshall: Star Line is allowing free parking in the parking lot across from the First National Bank. Marshall asked Star Line if the DDA could put up a banner to let visitors know that they can park for free anytime for any reason. Marshall would like to put big banners on the Star Line sign that measures 10' x 16'. Marshall received a quote of \$600 per banner. Since the sign is two sided it will require two banners. Marshall is looking for organizations to help pay for the second banner. Marshall will also search for other banner suppliers.

Other – None

Public Comment –None

There being no further business: Meeting adjourned at 9:17AM

Respectfully submitted: Barb Yshinski