

**CITY OF ST. IGNACE**  
**DDA MEETING MINUTES**  
**January 12, 2024**  
**City Council Chambers**

**Members Present:** Chairman Heather Aukeman, Pat Ramsay, Quincy Ranville, Erik Heffernan, Julie Lipnitz, Barb Yshinski, and Cheryl Schlehuber

**Members Absent:** Kristi Graham

**Members Online:** Connie Litzner

**Staff Present:** Museum Director, Tom Wyers

**Staff Online:** DDA Director, Ryan Sigmon

**Others Present:** Erich Doerr; City Manager, Scott Marshall

Meeting called to order at 8:05 AM by Heather Aukeman

- I. **MINUTES:** Motion by Schlehuber support by Ramsay to accept the minutes of December 15, 2023. Motion passed.
- II. **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:** N/A
- III. **FINANCIAL REPORTS:** Sigmon reviewed the bills and the clerk revenue and expense Reports for December 2023. Motion by Lipnitz, support by Schlehuber to accept the financial report. Motion passed.
- IV. **BUSINESS:**
  1. **Excuse Absent Board Members:**  
Motion by Ranville, support by Lipnitz. Motion passed.
  2. **Museum Office at Chamber of Commerce:**  
Sigmon, Aukeman, and Marshall put together a plan with Chamber Staff and board members. Property management committee met and wants to make sure verbiage is added that the DDA is not liable for damages. March 1<sup>st</sup> would be the move out date. Wyers will box up items and store them in Little Bear and City Hall. Motion by Ramsay, support by Schlehuber to approve with corrections and clarifications to item #3 to move forward with plan/agreement regarding moving out of the Chamber Office. Motion passed.
  3. **Stairs at First National Bank:**  
First National Bank doesn't want the liability, and the DDA doesn't want the liability either. The consensus of the board is to let FNB know they can remove them.
  4. **Garden Contract Bids:**

Cedars of Mackinac was the only bid, with a slight increase in annual expense. Schlehuber asked if we will be able to use Helper Helper for volunteers, Sigmon said according to the bid specs we will be able to use volunteers to help. Motion by Lipnitz, support by Schlehuber to accept the 2024-2025 Garden Contract bid from Cedars of Mackinac. Motion passed.

**5. DDA Director Report:**

Sigmon provided updates on signage from Arrow Signs. William H. Barnum plaque has arrived and Mike Lamb is working on a potential base design. Sigmon and Lamb met on designing the Little Bear East plaque as well as design work for the DDA Kiosk by Mackinac Grille. The Kiosk is in rough shape, Sigmon will reach out to Deb Evashevski and Sam Steffian about the original panels. Sigmon said he will get an updated quote on the Swing Set at American Legion Park without the engineered wood fiber and border. Sigmon shared that the property management committee met and discussed LBE as the potential area for a future dog park, and about potentially leasing out the Museum Boarding House building and property to someone who would help with the restoration cost. According to Sigmon, there are two new interested parties in the property.

**6. Museum Director Report:**

Wyers shared that he will continue to remove items from the chamber office to meet the March 1 deadline. He also shared that he had to reschedule the Under The Radar show visit to the museum. Wyers lastly stated that repairs will need to be done to the pavilion paint.

**7. Open Discussion:**

Litzner shared that she reached out to Senator John Damoose in regards to the Museum Boarding House. She said she would like him to see the building for possible funding. Litzner also spoke with Senator Wayne Schmidt. Wyers stated that we should keep the Sault Tribe in mind when considering actions with the property. It was mentioned that for the Dog Park project we should consider using a crowd funding campaign.

**8. Public Comment:** None

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:53 AM

Respectfully Submitted by Barb Yshinski