

**CITY OF ST. IGNACE**  
**DDA MEETING MINUTES**  
**July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
**City Council Chambers**

**Members Present:** Chairman Heather Aukeman, Kristi Gustafson, Barb Yshinski, Pat Ramsay, Cheryl Schlehuber, Quincy Ranville, Tom Cronan and Julie Lipnitz

**Members Absent:** Erik Heffernan

**Members Online:**

**Staff Present:** DDA Director, Scott Marshall; Museum Director, Shirley Sorrels

**Others Present:** Fred Ryerse, Jim Draze, Tom & Francie Wyers

Meeting called to order at 8:01 AM by Chair Heather Aukeman

- I. **MINUTES:** Motion by Ramsay support by Gustafson to accept the minutes of June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Motion passed.
- II. **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:** (1) Scott Marshall
- III. **FINANCIAL REPORTS:** Marshall reviewed the bills and the clerk revenue and expense Reports for June 2023. Motion by Cronan, support by Schlehuber to accept the financial report. Motion Passed
- IV. **BUSINESS:**
  1. **Excuse Absent Board Members:** Motion by Cronan, support by Lipnitz to excuse Heffernan Motion passed.
  2. **Property Management Update:** Committee met June 19<sup>th</sup>. Revisited the topic of removing the boarding house from the museum property and the bid specs. Committee recommends moving forward posting the project of relocating the house out for bids. Marshall presented the bid specification to the board for approval to move forward with the project. Motion to accept the bid specifications and move forward with the project Ramsay, support by Lipnitz, motion carried.
  3. **Community Cultural Pavilion:** The electric line is connected to the pavilion. Shirley and Tom are picking out the boulders for the plaque. The plaque will honor all the donors and another plaque to honor the life of Mr. Earl. Marshall spoke with the Earl family and they are very grateful for the DDA's efforts.
  4. **Boardwalk Update:** Marshall met with owner of Arnold Freight at the Favorite Dock to discuss the next steps for replacing the boardwalk. The owner is excited and supportive in efforts moving forward. Marshall reiterated that the walk will be concrete with some paver brick sections. Owner very happy. Marshall mailed a letter to Mr. Azzar requesting a meeting. Mr. Azzar is out of the office for an

extended period of time for personal reasons. Cronan said that erosion is an issue at the near the lighthouse.

5. **City Manager Update:** City Council and Marshall agreed on a contract at the July 10<sup>th</sup> council meeting. Council suggested a start date of August 14<sup>th</sup>. Motion to approve Marshall's official resignation and allow a start date of August 14<sup>th</sup> by Ranville, support by Cronan. Motion carried.
6. **Museum Manager Report:** Museum tours going very well. Sorrels working on grants, starting to receive revenue from other grants. Sorrels talked about adding a Huron Village to the museum grounds. Working on 3 new exhibits.
7. **Additions to the Agenda:** Marshall notified board that Shirley will be retiring. Personnel Committee met and recommends Tom Wyers as new Museum Director and Francie as Assistant Director. Shirley would leave August 14<sup>th</sup> and return for a few weeks in September. Sorrels thanked the board for all the support over the years and the board thanked Sorrels for an outstanding job. Marshall highlighted Sorrels impact at the museum and the community for building relationships. Motion by Schlehuber and support by Cronan to accept the Personnel Committee's recommendation. Motion carried. Sorrels praised Tom and Francie for their work at the museum and said the museum is in very good hands.
8. **Public Comment:** Jim Drazé talked about blight. Drazé said it should be a stand-alone ordinance. Important for DDA and City to be on the same page. Drazé informed the board about an MHS event recognizing the Boynton family. Cronan asked about Molly Moo bathrooms. Cronan said we need progress on this issue. Way overdue. Mr. Sposito needs to pay the bill. Schlehuber agrees that it is time to get this issue resolved. Marshall said the first meeting was productive. He will schedule another meeting. Ranville asked to bring Mr. Sposito an invoice and blight should be on the agenda for every meeting.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:46 AM

Respectfully Submitted by Barb Yshinski