

**CITY OF ST. IGNACE**  
**DDA MEETING MINUTES**  
**May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
**City Council Chambers**

**Members Present:** Chairman Heather Aukeman, Erik Heffernan, Kristi Gustafson, Tom Cronan, Barb Yshinski and Pat Ramsay.

**Members Absent:** Julie Lipnitz, Quincy Ranville

**Members Online:** Cheryl Schlehuber

**Staff Present:** DDA Director Scott Marshall

**Others Present:** Erich Doerr; St. Ignace News, Mike Williford, Leigh Young (online)

Meeting called to order at 8:00 AM by Chair Heather Aukeman

- I. **MINUTES:** Motion by Gustafson support by Heffernan to accept the minutes of April 14, 2023. Motion passed.
- II. **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:** Mike Williford
- III. **FINANCIAL REPORTS:** Marshall reviewed the bills and the clerk revenue and expense Reports for April 2023. Motion by Cronan, support by Ramsay to accept the financial report. Motion Passed
- IV. **BUSINESS:**
  1. **Excuse Absent Board Members:** Motion by Gustafson, support by Cronan to excuse Lipnitz, Ranville and Schlehuber. Motion passed.
  2. **Michigan Mainstreet Presentation:** Leigh Young from the Mainstreet Program attended online. Young gave an online presentation discussing the program. The board asked questions and thanked Young for her presentation. The board decided to form a committee at the next board meeting to research and discuss the Mainstreet Program.
  3. **Property Management Update RE: Gyftakis Property:** Marshall invited Je McGraw to the meeting to discuss the history of the boarding house. McGraw discussed the history of the house and presented documents to the board depicting the history. McGraw felt it was important to know the history of the house. Marshall said the plan at this time is to put the boarding house out for bids to be removed from the property at the bidder's expense.
  4. **Michigan Economic Development Association Meeting:** Marshall is unable to attend due to a schedule conflict. He will attend the August meeting and the registration fee will be applied to the August meeting.
  5. **Community Cultural Pavilion Update:** The electrical work is out for bids. Marshall will present a bid tabulation at next meeting.

6. **DDA Grants:** The DDA received \$4000 from the SI Community Foundation for the recreation trail and the William H Barnum Rudder site. The DDA received a \$5000 grant from Sault Tribe for the recreation trail. The board thanked the Community Foundation and Sault Tribe.
7. **DDA Projects Committee Update; RE Swing Set:** On May 13, 2023, the DDA Projects Committee met to discuss a request to install a swing set at the American Legion Park. The board heard this request last year but the board decided to finish up the Little Bear Park and Pavilion before taking on new projects. The swing set would be added to the north end of the playground. Marshall said it would be a good time to include a landscaping wall to act as a fence between the playground and the highway. The wall would be at the bottom of the hill, not visible from the street. Marshall said that combining the projects would make it more attractive to grants. The board liked the concept.
8. **DDA Director Report:** Marshall is still working to meet with Mr. Azzar. Marshall is revisiting the Mainstreet Program through MEDC which opens up more grant opportunities for the community. Betsy Dayrell-Hart noted that the planning commission is working on the redevelopment ready process for the city. Schlehuber noted other local communities that have joined Mainstreet with positive results. Marshall said Mainstreet representative will attend an upcoming DDA Meeting to discuss the process. Marshall noted the MEA representative Chris Byrnes will attend the April meeting. Marshall noted that the citizen that was interested in a swing set at American Legion Park has reached out again and will discuss it at the next DDA Park Committee Meeting.
9. **Museum Director's Report:** Sorrels is excited about the Hometown Heroes Banner Program. She is working on a lot of grants including a \$25,000 Michigan Humanities Grant. She is working on three new exhibits including a Federal Policy Exhibit, Welcome to the Ojibwe World Exhibit and the Natural Healing Medicine Wheel Exhibit.
10. **Open Discussion:** None
11. **Public Comment:** Jim Drazé provided a Historical Society Update and noted that the Straits Cultural Center has recently been named as a beneficiary of federal appropriation which further closes their funding gap. The funding gap started at 5.4 million and now will be reduced to \$900,000. Mr. Drazé would like to make a presentation at the next DDA Meeting.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:45AM

Respectfully Submitted by Quincy Ranville, filling in for Barb Yshinski