

CITY OF ST. IGNACE
DDA MEETING MINUTES
March 12th, 2021
Hybrid Format

Members Present: Pat Ramsey, Vice Chair Mayor Connie Litzner, Heather Aukeman, Linda Bell, Phil Ruegg, Barb Brown, Cheryl Schlehuber

Members Absent: Chairman Jim North, Barb Yshinski

Staff Present: DDA Director Scott Marshall, Museum Director Shirley Sorrels, City Manager Darcy Long

Others Present: Charlie Chiara and Jeff Dornbush were online

Acting Chair Pat Ramsay called the meeting to order at 8:13 a.m.

- I. **MINUTES:** Motion by Schlehuber, support by Brown to accept the minutes of February 12, 2021. Motion Carried.
- II. **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:** None
- III. **FINANCIAL REPORTS:** Marshall reviewed the bills for February 2021. Motion by Schlehuber and support by Brown to accept the bills. Motion carried. Marshall reviewed the clerk reports. Motion by Schlehuber, support by Brown to accept the reports. Motions carried.

IV BUSINESS:

- 1. **Excuse absent members:** Motion by Schlehuber support by Brown. Motion carried.
- 2. **DDA Liquor License Request Charlie Chiara-** Mr. Chiara introduced himself. Mr. Chiara is renovating the Boardwalk Inn into a Boutique Hotel and w/a lobby bar. He said it turned out to be a bigger project than expected. He is spending over a million dollars in improvements. 12-15 rooms and lobby bar with a max capacity of 35 people. R.S Scott Engineering is the project engineer. Discussion about outdoor tables. Mayor Litzner said outdoor tables are now allowed due to Covid and likely will continue to be allowed in the future. Motion by Brown and Support by Litzner for DDA letter of recommendation to the city council. Motion carried.
- 3. **DDA Liquor License Request Jeff Dornbush-** Mr. Dornbush is the former owner of the Firehouse Inn. He is renovating the Two Bucks store into a tap room serving light finger food like pizza. Brown expressed support for the business. Schlehuber happy to see old buildings renovated. Motion by Brown and Support by Schlehuber for DDA letter of recommendation to the city council. Motion carried.
- 4. **Little Bear Park Project-** Marshall said the project received its 4th reimbursement from the DNR for \$92,196. Marshall is going to schedule a committee meeting in the near future to discuss the remaining items that need to be done. Litzner asked if the fields would be ready to play on in the spring. Marshall said no unless they put down sod and at this time there isn't enough money unless they do more fundraising.

5. **350th Banners:** Marshall said the DDA Events Committee met to discuss the 350th banners. Currently there are 48 light poles that are being used for summer banners. The committee would like ½ of those banners used for 350th celebration banners and the other 24 banners used for the Hometown Hero Banner Program. Marshall received a grant to pay for the 350th banners which requires match money. The Visitors Bureau is donating the required match money needed. The amount is TBD. Marshall suggested having the 350th banners represent important timelines in St. Ignace History. Native American culture, fishing, railroad and the Mackinac Bridge were discussed. Brown suggested the lumber industry and the maritime transportation be represented. Schlehuber would like to see emphasis on the water. Mr. Chiara suggested advertising current events on 350th banners and selling advertising to businesses on 350th banners. Marshall said he would work closely with the DDA Events Committee to come up with the designs.
6. **Band Shelter Update:** Marshall said that the Downtown Projects Committee would like to know what the city plans are for the Favorite Dock before moving forward on the band shelter in Connor Park. Lack of parking is a concern and the available parking at the Favorite Dock is important. Mayor Litzner said that there has been some discussion but nothing solid to report.
7. **Open Discussion:** None
8. **Museum Manager Report:** Sorrels reports that the museum will receive funding for outdoor activities similar to past years. Sorrels talked about moving the Memorial Day Native American Festival to August due to covid restrictions. Brown worried about too many events on the same weekend. The board agreed to have Sorrels work with the Visitors Bureau to make this decision. Sorrels will work with Marshall on the 350th banners.
9. **Additions to the Agenda:** None
10. **Public Comment:** None
11. There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:22 a.m.
Respectfully submitted: Heather Aukeman