

MINUTES
ST. IGNACE DDA MEETING
July 10th, 2020 @ City Hall

Members Present: Chairman Jim North, Vice Chair Mayor Connie Litzner, Cheryl Schlehuber, Phil Ruegg, Heather Aukeman, Pat Ramsey, and Barb Brown attended online.

Members Absent: Linda Bell, Barb Yshinski

Staff Present: DDA Director Scott Marshall, Shirley Sorrels

Others Present: Chris Byrnes from MEA

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

- I. **MINUTES:** Motion by Ruegg, support by Litzner to accept the minutes of June 19th, 2020. Motion Carried.
- II. **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:** Scott Marshall
- III. **FINANCIAL REPORTS:** Marshall reviewed the bills for May 2020 and then reviewed the DDA Revenue and Expenses to date. Motion by Schlehuber, support by Aukeman to accept the Bills. Motion by Schlehuber and support by Ruegg to accept the financial report. Both Motions carried.

IV BUSINESS:

1. **Excuse absent members:** Motion by Litzner and support by Aukeman to excuse absent members Bell and Yshinski. Motion Carried.
2. **Chris Byrnes from MEA:** Marshall introduced Chris Byrnes who replaced Alex Iseri on March 16th at the Mackinac Economic Alliance. Byrnes talked about creating a port authority and possible funding sources for area projects. Byrnes said he would get with Marshall in regards to Amphitheater project.
3. **Little Bear Park Project:** Marshall met with the building contractor and the plumber and the electrician to discuss opportunities to save money. Marshall will meet with all parties involved to determine a start date and to sign contracts.
4. **Amphitheater Project:** After reviewing Connors Park, board members suggested this location for the new amphitheater project. Since the city has a lease for the Favorite Dock with an option to buy, the Favorite Dock seems to be the perfect location. Marshall said he will meet with the city engineer and public works superintendent to get cost estimates to remove the rotten elevated platform to and prep the ground for amphitheater. Marshall will present information at the next DDA meeting to help determine a date for starting the crowd funding grant thru MEDC.

5. **St. Anthonys Pocket Park:** Marshall talked about efforts to build stairs and add informational signage in the pocket park for 2020. City engineer visited the site and is working on cost projections for the stairs. Marshall said that these 2 projects would fulfill the DDA intentions for the park.
6. **Star Line Events Parking Lot:** Marshall reported that Fish Feast and Brews and Blues have been canceled. The nightly music will be moved back to American Legion Park because the Events Committee feels it is a better location for families since it is next to the beach and playground. Marshall reported that he is still working with Star Line for the electrical upgrades at the Star Line events parking lot. Marshall had Rudyard Electric add outlets at city meter along the boardwalk for the nightly music and Farmers Market events to have power in the meantime. Marshall reported that the Farmers Market will still take place at the Star Line Events Parking Lot and possibly other late summer or fall events. Schlehuber said the parking lot would be a great location for food trucks.
7. **Hometown Heroes Banner Program:** Marshall met with Sorrels and Abby Baker from Hometown Heroes. Sorrels invited the DDA to work with the museum to create the website. The website will reflect the museum and the City of St. Ignace with history narratives and pictures. Abby Baker would like to know if the street light poles downtown with the flags are available for banners. Marshall said he needs to get an accurate count of poles along the boardwalk. Marshall reports that the museum is working to start the project late summer and plans for the DDA to start are next Memorial Day.
8. **Museum Manager Report:** Sorrels talked about the Hometown Heroes Program and how she plans to integrate the program on the inside as well as the outside. Sorrels is working on 4 grants that are due by August.
9. **Open Discussion:** Schlehuber talked about the possibilities of opening up to food trucks in the downtown. Litzner said that it would have to go in front of the Planning Commission and be open to the public for input. Marshall said it is very important to consult with restaurant owners for their input to make sure that they are represented in the discussion. Marshall said that restaurant owners aren't necessarily against food trucks. Marshall said that restaurant owners are paying taxes and providing jobs during the lean winter months and they just want everyone to be on a level playing field.

Schlehuber mentioned dirty picnic tables at pocket park. Schlehuber wanted to know what the DPW schedule is for cleaning. Marshall said the DPW cleans the bathrooms and the park at least once a day but most times twice a day, particularly last year when the park was having sewer problems. Schlehuber wanted to know if they could hire another person to be responsible for the parks. Marshall said that DPW advertised for a seasonal worker in the past and didn't receive any applications. Marshall said that the DPW does a great job but they are spread thin. Marshall said that the DDA has their 2020 budget directed towards repairs and maintenance. The boardwalk and sidewalk need repairs, the parks need maintenance, the fence in front of the Indian Village needs

maintenance, the shoreline needs to be addressed in a few locations, there are wash outs at the Chief Dock, the crosswalks need better signage. These are city issues and the DDA is here to help the city in every way possible. These maintenance issues has been building for many years and the DDA is motivated to finding ways to get the work done.

10. **Additions to the Agenda:** Marshall spoke with Krista Clement from Helper Helper. Marshall would like to see Helper Helper used as a resource for the Community Alliance. Clement would allow the Community Alliance to purchase the service for a highly discounted \$250. Marshall said that the Community Alliance doesn't have a budget but maybe local organizations could chip in and purchase the service. The service provides a platform for all organizations to work independently or in collaboration to post volunteer opportunities in the community.

11. **Public Comment: None**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: Pat Ramsay