

MINUTES
ST. IGNACE DDA MEETING
September 11th, 2020 @ City Hall

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

Members Absent: Linda Bell couldn't connect online.

Staff Present: DDA Director Scott Marshall, Shirley Sorrels

Others Present: Eric Doerr from the St. Ignace News

Chairman Jim North called the meeting to order at 8: 07 a.m.

- I. **MINUTES:** Motion by Ramsay, support by Aukeman to accept the minutes of August 14th, 2020. Motion Carried.
- II. **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:** (1) Marshall
- III. **FINANCIAL REPORTS:** Marshall reviewed the bills for August 2020 and then reviewed the DDA Revenue and Expenses to date. Motion by Schlehuber, support by Ruegg to accept the Bills. Motions carried.

IV BUSINESS:

- 1. **Excuse absent members:** No motion. Did not realize Linda Bell was unable to connect.
- 2. **Little Bear Park Project:** Marshall updated the board on the progress. Reports that the public works department is doing a great job. Marshall reminded the board that this is a city project and there is a lack of funds due to increased costs from 2015. If the project doesn't get completed the City of St. Ignace is on the hook not the DDA. The public works crew is working hard to bridge the gap by completing the unbid excavation portion of the project which is a huge cost savings. The DPW will be paid for this added work out of the project budget but their billed out cost is still a lot cheaper than hiring an outside contractor. Marshall reports that the project received an anonymous donation of \$15,000 to be used solely to build a visitor dugout. North suggests that Marshall treats the public works crew to lunch. Everyone agreed.
- 3. **St. Anthonys Pocket Park:** Marshall said that the outdoor stairway project is out for bids with a deadline of September 29. Marshall said that the cost of material has increased dramatically but he feels it is good to get this project done in 2020 to make room for 2021 projects.
- 4. **Connors Park:** Marshall said that a majority of the rotten boards have been removed and pavers have been installed. Next week he plans to remove the elevated platform and to add deck boards to complete the patio layout.
- 5. **Amphitheater Update:** Marshall said that he doesn't have any updates. He was waiting for information from another community who has a large amphitheater. Marshall will set up a committee meeting..

6. **General Maintenance:** Marshall said that there has been a lot of work done on the downtown sidewalks, boardwalks and in the parks. Marshall would like to get the Indian Village fence done and get large rocks along the shoreline to protect the boardwalk before winter. Marshall is working on a Chief Wawatam sign to be placed along the business loop. North talked about opportunities for residents to adopt sections of the boardwalk. Marshall said that there would be opportunities with the Helper Helper APP.
7. **Museum Manager Report:** Sorrels reports that the museum received an award from the Michigan Humanities Association. Sorrels said late summer sales have been fantastic. Masks have been a popular selling item. Sorrels talked about the exhibits. Schlehuber wanted to know if the school kids will have an opportunity to see it. Sorrels said she will reach out to the school. Sorrels said she will get with Marshall over the winter to work on Hometown Hero Banners.
8. **Open Discussion:** Rasmay inquired about the crosswalk progress. Marshall said he turned over the DDA's written request last fall to the city manager. Billy Fraser worked hard on getting prices on signs for the city manager. Marshall said he will reach out to Billy Fraser to see if this project can be done before winter. Schlehuber inquired about food trucks. Marshall said that the Planning Commission will be reviewing the ordinance over the winter. Marshall said that the winter will be a great time to put in the necessary time to review and receive public input. Schlehuber said that she feels this is something the community really wants.
9. **Additions to the Agenda:** Marshall said he received a request from a resident to add a visitor sign in the American Legion Park where visitors can take their picture in front of the sign. Similar signs in other communities' visitors put their face in a hole in the sign to be part of the sign theme.
10. **Public Comment:** Huron Boardwalk was in a national article listed as #1 Boardwalk among the Top 40 Boardwalks in the United States.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: Barb Yshinki