**CITY OF ST. IGNACE**

**DDA MEETING MINUTES**

**March 11, 2022
City Council Chambers**

**Members Present:** Chairman Jim North, Andrea Green, Heather Aukeman, Phil Ruegg and Barb Brown.

**Members Absent:** Barb Yshinski**,** Cheryl Schlehuber attended online. Tom Cronan & Pat Ramsay were absent.

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

**Others Present:** Stephanie Baar, City Manager Darcy Long, Erich Doerr, Jim Draze, John Magnuson & Mike Lilliquist.

Chairman Jim North called the meeting to order at 8:08 a.m.

1. **MINUTES:** Motion by Brown, support by Aukeman to accept the minutes of February 11th, 2022 with a correction on the date. Motion Carried.
2. **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**: (1) Marshall
3. **FINANCIAL REPORTS:** Marshall reviewed the bills and clerk reports for February 2022. Motion by Green, support by Ruegg to accept the reports. Motion carried.
4. IV **BUSINESS:**
5. **Excuse Absent Board Members:** Motion by Brown support by Aukeman to excuse absent board members Cronan, Schlehuber, Ramsay and Yshinski. Motion carried.
6. **Museum Shelter Update:** Marshall reported that the committee met and discussed the design, size, location and costs. Marshall consulted with local contractors and Cedar Forest Products to estimate the expected costs. The committee estimated costs at $90,000. There is currently $10,000 of revenue collected by donations and grants. The committee would like Marshall to submit the application to MEDC as soon as possible with hopes of MEDC approval and a campaign start date of April 1st. Brown would like the video to include more information about Tony Earl. Marshall said MEDC upon grant approval would match all donations raised. Once we met our goal, the DDA could advertise for bidders for shelter and bidders for labor. Marshall would be the general contractor to guide the project to completion. Marshall is nervous about reaching funding goal but is confident in Sorrel’s ability to seek grant money and donations. Motion by Brown support by Ruegg to proceed with funding. Motion carried.
7. **Peddler’s Ordinance:** Marshall introduced Jim Draze from the planning commission to discuss the proposed amendment and the DDA suggestions to allow mobile vending on private property and to not allow mobile vending on public property. Draze discussed the sunset suggestion from the DDA, Draze encouraged the DDA to leave that part out and to actively review the ordinance each year and make changes as needed. Draze discussed the language to allow vending on public property during special events while considering potential conflicts. The board asked questions and offered input. Planning commission is looking for cooperation between all entities. Draze and the board discussed seasonality issues as well as number of vending units allowed per season. Brown had concerns about the language on private property in residential areas that may restrict private parties. Consensus is tweak the amendment, then it will be reviewed by attorney, the final draft goes to public hearing and then to city council for approval. Schlehuber thanked Mr. Draze and the planning commission for all their efforts.
8. **Director’s Report:** Marshall reported that he met with City Manger Long to discuss the boardwalk project. City Manager Long is excited and motivated to get the boardwalk improvements completed. Long would like Marshall and Fraser to come up with some estimated expenses. Marshall has video and pictures of boardwalk from the summer. Marshall and Fraser walked the boardwalk in February but it was difficult to assess with the snow covering the boardwalk. Marshall reported that the MDA meeting he attended March 2-3 in Lansing was extremely valuable discussing electric charging, lighting, grants, networking and small business improvement. Marshall thanked the board for allowing him to attend. Marshall said that the public works department needs a new weed trimmer and would like to purchase it for them. The board said to go ahead and it didn’t need a vote. Marshall said that public works need a couple push mowers and he is going to help public works write a grant for needed equipment.
9. **Museum Report:** Shirley Sorrels is back in person. The board expressed their joy to have her back. Sorrels introduced John Magnuson who lived in St. Ignace 1973-1979 working as a pastor. Magnuson is now a director of a small non profit Cedar Tree Institute. Magnuson gave an interesting review of our local history to include the history of Father Marquette. Father Marquette’s remains will be brought home to St. Ignace on March 30th and will be re-buried on June 18th during a celebration of a homecoming for Father Marquette who called this area home. The celebration will be provided at no expense to the city or the museum.
10. **Additions to the Agenda**: Marshall added Mike Lilliquist to the agenda so Lilliquist could give the board an update on the Gateway Garage Project. Lilliquist presented a power point presentation with pictures of the former garage and renderings of the new project. Lilliquist is working on a MEDC grant to assist with gap funding. Lilliquist said he will be requesting a letter of support from the DDA and council. North said that he sees no reason why the board wouldn’t offer their support and asked Lilliquist to update the board when Lilliquist gets to that point where a letter of support is needed.
11. **Open Discussion:** Marshall reported that he recently found out that billing clerk Kelly Simmons is retiring from the city next month. Marshall said that Simmons has worked for the city over 10 years and has been instrumental behind the scenes for the city and has done a lot of supporting work for the DDA over the years. Simmons is a dedicated employee and a joy to work with, Marshall said that a lot of employees have retired over the last few years and in his opinion the city needs to do a better job of thanking them and recognizing their service.
12. **Public Comment:** None

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:40AM

Respectfully Submitted by Barb Yshinski