

Munising Downtown Development Authority  
Minutes of Meeting  
October 20, 2021  
Fuzzy Boyak Welcome Center, 8am

**Members Present:** Dale Immel, Mike Nettleton, Pat Gariepy, Travis Cross, Debbie Nedeau, Tom Hall, Cori Cearley

**Members Absent:** Rick Bowerman (e)

**Others Present:** Kathy Reynolds, Pat Sanderson, Jaymie Depew, Brice Burge

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Dale at 8:01 am.

**Approval of Agenda:** Pat made a motion to approve the agenda, Mike supported. **The motion passed.**

**Public Comment:** None

**Approval of Meeting Minutes for September 15, 2021:** Travis made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Mike supported. **The motion passed.**

**Approval of Bills for Payment:**

a. HTC	Phone land line	\$40.27
b. Kathy Reynolds	Cell phone data pkg.	\$50.00
c. Cranking Graphics	Quarterly website maintenance	\$44.00
d. GMBPCD	2 <sup>nd</sup> Qtr. Contribution	\$24,806.25

Pat made a motion to pay the bills as presented, Debbie supported. **The motion passed.**

**Budget:**

**a. September 2021 financials:** The board received the September 2021 financial reports. Kathy said the budget looks good. The Supply line is currently close to 84% of budgeted due to spending \$1,000 on trash bags.

**b. Budget adjustments:** Kathy said Julie Johnson has requested that we do budget adjustments for Miscellaneous and Plants and Decorations that are both over budget. The Miscellaneous account is over budget due to the return of insurance funds for a light pole that was knocked over and paid for by Gerou Excavating. Plants and Decorations is over due to some of the holiday decorations that were ordered in April and not shipped and paid for until September. Kathy said there are funds available in Façade Improvements to cover all the facades we approved and any holiday façade grants and spring beautifications grants in addition to covering these budget adjustments. Pat made a motion to move \$8,000 from Façade Improvements to Miscellaneous and move \$15,000 from Façade Improvements to Plants & Decorations, Cori supported. **The motion passed.**

**Old Business:**

**a. Superior Street Paving – Possible Bond:** Dale and Kathy had a meeting with the city bond attorney regarding bonding for all or a portion of the Superior Street Paving project. The thought is to use \$100,000-\$150,000 from cash on hand and bond for the balance to cover the project. The attorney said we cannot bond for more money that is needed for the project. Interest rates are currently very low and would be about 1.83%. The current sidewalk bond we are paying on will be paid off in Fall 2023 and we could pay it off early without any penalty. The attorney recommended getting the paperwork started. The project is currently estimated to cost \$510,000 + \$48,000 in engineering fees. The \$48,000 will be covered with funds from our current sidewalk bond and we have been approved for a \$250,000 grant. We could bond and budget for the same payment we have been making on the sidewalk bond. Dale and Kathy will get more of a breakdown on our cash on hand balance. Pat made a motion to proceed with using \$150,000 in cash and bonding for 3 years for the balance for the Superior Street Paving, Cori supported. **The motion passed.** Kathy and Dale will work with Devin to start the bond process.

**b. DDA 20-year goals:** The board discussed the bike path improvements that are still needed, how the bike path is nonexistent through Neenah Paper parking lot, and the possibility of connecting it to PRNL. Kathy said she had a meeting with Devin and MDOT regarding putting in a crosswalk at M28 and Maple. MDOT is not in favor of

putting in a crosswalk at that intersection, but Devin and Kathy will continue to pursue that endeavor. The City/DDA could put in a sidewalk at their expense, with MDOT approval, from Maple to the roundabout. There is a crosswalk from Big C over to Dogpatch. This is something the DDA could explore, and the board is in favor of pursuing. The board discussed other items on the list, and which are still viable. They would also like to consider putting in some playground equipment, and as Kathy had mentioned previously, some Adirondack chairs down by the water. Pat that MDNR grants could probably be used.

#### **New Business:**

**a. UP Arts & Culture Economic Study Funding:** Kathy said she sits on the board of UP Arts & Culture Alliance (UPACA) and explained that the arts can encompass, music, festivals, etc. UPACA wants to do an economic study to detail the economic impact or benefit of arts on communities. Usually these types of studies can help when applying for some grant funding. UPACA would hire Americans for the Arts at a cost of roughly \$15,000 to complete the study. Each of the 15 counties in the UP are being asked to fund \$1,000 each. The GMBP has approved 1/3 of the counties funding (\$333) and Kathy will also be asking the MVB for 1/3. Cori made a motion to approve funding of \$333.00 for the UPACA, Pat supported. **The motion passed.**

**b. Recycling Committee:** Cori attended a meeting yesterday representing the DDA and MVB. Currently there are the trailers at Wood Island landfill where people can take their recyclables. For any widespread recycling to take place in Alger County it needs to be convenient for residents and include businesses. North Country Disposal had to pull out of their recycling efforts in Alger County due to lack of local support.

**c. Holiday Façade Grants:** Kathy discussed the program we have been offering for the last few years. Cori made a motion to approve spending up to \$2,000 for holiday façade grants, Deb supported. **The motion passed.**

**d. Business decorating contest:** Kathy said we have awarded \$300 for 1<sup>st</sup> place, \$200 for 2<sup>nd</sup> place, and \$100 for 3<sup>rd</sup> place. The funds are within Kathy's spending limit.

**e. Event Funding Request-Rekindle the Spirit:** The board received a funding request from the GMBPCD for Rekindle the Spirit. The event will be hybrid this year, part in-person and part virtual. The board will take the \$500 request under consideration and a decision will be made at the next meeting.

**Other Business:** None

**Executive Director's Update/Partnership Update:** Kathy and Devin have been working with CUPPAD on the LMI survey. Postcards are going out re the upcoming survey. Kathy will be attending the virtual Michigan DDA Conference. Kathy also discussed the EV charging station meetings she has been attending. Pat said they allow EV charging at Tourist Park for a small fee. Kathy is having the GMBPCD board look at strategic planning for the organization. Rental structures are currently being put in place for the Harley building apartments. We continue to work on new art installations for the Veterans memorial. The next DDA informational meeting will take place at 9am on the same day as the November board meeting. Jaymie reported that she is working on some articles re: the office and the partnerships in town with the different organizations. Kathy added that it will try and explain what the different entities do.

**City Manager's Report:** None

**Round table:** Our next board meeting is scheduled for November 17. The board decided to have the next meeting on November 10, 2021

**Adjournment:** Cori made a motion to adjourn at 9:42, Debbie supported. **The motion passed.**

**Next meeting:** November 10, 2021