

Munising Downtown Development Authority
Minutes of Meeting
October 21, 2020
Video Conference on Zoom due to Covid-19 Pandemic

Members Present: Dale Immel, Rick Bowerman, Travis Cross, Rod DesJardins, Debbie Nedeau, Jackie Reynolds, Pat Garipey, Cori Cearley

Members Absent: Tom Hall (e)

Others Present: Kathy Reynolds, Pat Sanderson, Jaymie Depew, Devin Olson

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Dale at 8:00 a.m.

Approval of Agenda: Dale amended the agenda to add Altran Superior Street Station under Other Business. Rick made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, Debbie supported. **The motion passed.**

Public Comment: None

Approval of Meeting Minutes for September 16, 2020: Pat made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Debbie supported. **The motion passed.**

Approval of Bills for Payment:

a. HTC	Phone land line	\$40.21
b. Kathy Reynolds	Cell phone data pkg.	\$50.00
c. GMBPCD	2 nd Quarter Contribution 23,295.00	\$23,455.35
	Envelopes for info packets 160.35 (50/50)	
d. Cranking Graphics	Qtrly. website maintenance 46.00	\$358.00
	Mural meetings 62.00	
	Design for Art in the Alley sign 250.00	
e. Big Bros. Prop. Maintenance	Lawn care-July/August (50/50)	\$95.00

Travis made a motion to pay the bills as presented, Jackie supported. **The motion passed.**

Budget:

a. September financials: The board received the September 2020 financial reports. No action was needed or taken. Dale and Kathy agree that everything looks good with the budget. The bond payment was made in September; the principal was slightly more than budgeted and the interest slightly slower than budgeted. Kathy will double check with Julie, but it is believed it was just a matter of budgeting with last year's payment and the principal actually increases and the interest decreases annually.

Old Business: None

New Business:

a. Holiday Façade Grants: Kathy discussed the holiday façade grants we have offered for the last few years. Debbie made a motion to approve up to \$1,500 in total to be spent on holiday façade grants, Jackie supported. **The motion passed.** This is a 50/50 match with businesses eligible for up to \$250.00.

b. Event Funding Request for Rekindle the Spirit: Kathy explained that with COVID-19 we are having to totally revamp plans for 2020 instead of canceling. We are developing 12 short videos – “12 Days of Rekindle the Spirit” – to take the place of the various activities surrounding the holidays that will be released on social media

in early December. We will be working with Scott Kusmirek for production and the Munising Visitors Bureau (MVB) has offered to cover the entire \$4,800 production cost. Santa and Mrs. Claus and The Grinch will all be involved with these videos, as well as some of the other holiday characters we have used in the past. Cori said it's great to be able to offer something for the community since we can't do all the traditional things. The GMBPCD is requesting \$500 in funding for Rekindle the Spirit. There will still be other expenses to cover and the GMBPCD is planning on a modified shop local program and will be seeking other sponsorship funds. The board will take the request under advisement and a decision will be made at the next meeting.

c. Honoring Don Corp: Kathy discussed the possibility of honoring Don for the decades he operated his barber shop in the DDA. The board suggested possibly a bench, a plaque or something in the sidewalk (walk of fame style) to honor him. Kathy will check into some possibilities and locations. Dale said we need to keep precedent in mind.

Other Business:

a. Altran Superior Street Station: In the last two DDA meetings there was talk regarding the Altran bus stop on Superior Street, the DDA's involvement/financial support and the fact that the building and grounds have not been open or kept up. Rod attended the Altran board meeting and said Altran doesn't know what they are going to do with the building. The grant and lease agreements are clear regarding Altran, MDOT and the DDA. The DDA has no obligation to operate or maintain the building or property. Altran is still using the area as a pick-up/drop-off location, but the building remains closed. There have been major issues with vandalism and Altran cannot find anyone to do maintenance. Rod said that with the large influx of tourists the building is routinely used as a public restroom. People are washing their camp dishes and doing their laundry in the sinks. Supplies are taken as fast as they are stocked. Current usage has changed significantly from the intended purpose. It costs approximately \$9,000-\$12,000 to operate the facility year-round, with electric heat costing up to \$800 per month in the winter. It's widely agreed that it's not needed in the winter but can surely be used as a public restroom for tourists and pedestrians in the summer/early fall season. Could workers needing community service hours or a private cleaning company be utilized? Cori believes that the MVB has some responsibility to help with funding as the facility is needed and the MVB is responsible for driving tourists to Munising. The building is currently winterized and closed. Dale said the DDA will facilitate a meeting with the interested parties and try to come up with a plan for next summer.

City Manager's Report: As Devin had to leave the meeting at 8:30, Rod gave an update on the M28 road project. They are currently working on the area from Embers Credit Union to the Frozen Flamingo and the push is on to have the area from Lynn Street to the Anna River completed this fall. Kathy added that the new streetlights will also be installed along M28 this fall. After the election, the new City Commission will be sworn in and a new Mayor and Mayor Pro tem will be appointed. This is Rod's last DDA meeting. Dale and the board thanked Rod for all his years on the City Commission and DDA board. A celebration will be held post-Covid-19.

Executive Director's Update/Partnership Update: Kathy said the office has been back to working remotely, due to the spike in Covid-19 cases in Munising. The planters and decorations are being taken down and put away and Art in the Alley will come down soon. Kathy showed the board the final drafts of the art murals for the west side of the bathrooms in Binsfeld Bayshore Park. Kathy said most of the art projects we have done in the last few years have been funded with grant money. She would like approval to use DDA funds to cover these latest installations. Cori made a motion to approve up to \$3,000 to fund the new murals on the bathrooms, Debbie supported. **The motion passed.** The funds will come from Signs & Streetlights. Kathy said we are currently working on a couple of other art projects. Kathy had a meeting with David Horne (PRNL), Cori, John Madigan and Devin and PRNL has had over 1 million visitors so far this year. They don't have a large budget to deal with the issues the surge in visitors (especially this year) is causing. Kathy has a Great Waters meeting coming up and they will be discussing and brainstorming ideas with the DNR, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore and Pure Michigan to come up with messaging about how to protect our natural resources.

Round Table Discussion: Rod discussed the old fire hall development. He said Renovare has reached an agreement with HTC regarding the parking lot property and are negotiating with the Moose Lodge, Dr Adams, and Dr. Winkler. They might be ready to bring a presentation to the DDA in a month or so. It looks like a parking structure will not be included in the development. They hope to break ground in the spring. Pat Sanderson said

the GMBPCD has applied for the Detroit Institute of Art Inside/Out program that they last hosted in 2017. We are hoping to be chosen again. Our next meeting should be November 18; it looks like we will have quorum so we will stick with that date.

Adjournment: Pat made a motion to adjourn at 8:58, Cori supported. **The motion passed.**

Next meeting: November 18, 2020