

Munising Downtown Development Authority
Minutes of Meeting
July 17, 2019

Members Present: Dale Immel, Rick Bowerman, Travis Cross, Tom Hall, Donna Grahovac, Rod DesJardins, Jackie Reynolds, Debbie Nedeau arrived at 8:03

Members Absent: Pat Gariepy (e)

Others Present: Kathy Reynolds, Pat Sanderson, Jaymie Depew, Marty Fittante and Joanna Wilbee-Amis from Invest UP

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Dale Immel at 8:00 am.

Approval of Agenda: Rod made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, Rick supported. **The motion passed.**

Public Comment: Marty Fittante and Joanna Wilbee-Amis from Invest UP were in attendance. Marty explained that Invest UP is a regional economic development association providing connections and resources for local economic development. They also offer content on why the UP is a great place to live, work and play. There will be new programming on TV6 to highlight various businesses and attract talent. Rod asked Marty for his opinion on "Opportunity Zones". Marty said it is somewhat controversial, as there are times when the opportunities and zones do not line up. There is a little concern about MEDC CDBG funding going forward. There are not a lot of programming changes expected with the new administration in Lansing. There are also challenges with the entire UP being considered rural areas. When asked about the Line 5 pipeline, Marty stated that he is concerned that it will more difficult to resolve the issue as it draws national attention.

Approval of Meeting Minutes for June 19, 2019: Rick made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Travis supported. **The motion passed.**

Approval of Bills for Payment:

a. Embers Credit Union	Snyder Drugs: Planters	\$79.92
b. HTC	Phone Land Line	\$40.27
c. Dog Waste Depot	Dog Waste Bags & 1 Station	\$279.77
d. Imperial Electric	Repairs: Bayshore Park & Art in the Alley	\$213.30
e. Display Sales	Small Art Banners	\$976.00
f. Munising News	Ads: Façade Grants 165.00	\$351.75
	Ads: Gardening 186.75	
g. Cranking Graphics	Quarterly Website Maintenance	\$46.00
h. Kathy Reynolds	Cell Phone Data Pkg.	\$50.00
i. Lady Killers	Downtown Weed Spraying	\$1,200.00
j. Carolina Flag & Banner	US Flags (balance)	\$734.25
k. Nagelkirks	Flowers for Triangle	\$1,270.95
l. Madigan's Ace Hardware	Gardening 235.74	\$1050.12
	Art in the Alley Supplies 71.54	
	Supplies 742.84	
m. GMBPCD	1 st Qtr. Contribution	\$22,971.50
n. Denman's Hardware	Art in the Alley: Supplies	\$5.10
o. Embers Credit Union-DPW	Mares Z Doats: Topsoil for the Triangle	\$58.80

Rod made a motion to pay the bills as presented, Donna supported. **The motion passed.**

Budget: None

Old Business: None

New Business

a. Façade Grant Application for 2019/2020: The board was given the Auto Value façade grant application that was tabled from the last meeting due to the lack of quorum. The request is for up to \$2,500 to have the east side of the building painted. Rod made a motion to approve the façade grant request for up to \$2,500 for the east façade, Rick supported. **The motion passed.** Tom Hall abstained from voting.

Other Business: None

Executive Director's Update/Partnership Update: Kathy discussed Gov. Whitmer's visit to the UP in August to speak at a MEDA meeting and for the Governor's luncheon at the U.P. State Fair. She will be in Munising for an evening cruise with Pictured Rocks Cruises with a short list of invitees and will stay overnight and go out kayaking the next morning. Kathy said three of the four new murals were put up in the last few days. The fourth is still in production. The historic walk will hopefully be up by August 1. Also, the new directory signs, which refer people to an online directory and map, are being finished. Kathy has met with PRNL personnel re: possible funding to help connect the bike trail to PRNL or the North Country Trail. It could possibly be tied into the 2020 M28 road project. There was a meeting here yesterday with Sarah Cambensy re: the new hotel/motel tax that is trying to be put thru with the proceeds going to the county government. The county still has not given any data on where the increases have been in their expenses due to tourism. They have not provided any stats as to the percentage of calls involving locals versus anyone visiting from outside the county. Kathy said tickets are available here for the Rotary Club Fundraising Cruise at the end of July. The fencing is up at the Dog Park and we have passed thru to the Alger County Animal Shelter \$5,000 in grant funding to help pay for it. PSB has provided additional funding and the park should open in a few weeks. Kathy is going to Manistique today for an Art Alliance meeting. TV6 reported that Gladstone is looking to replace their City Manager.

City Manager's Report: Rod reminded the board about the MDOT meeting at 4pm at the American Legion on July 23 for public input on the 2020 road project. He also said that Senator Peters will be riding his motorcycle from Detroit to Ironwood the first week in August and will be stopping in Munising at the Harley shop. The City will be doing the first reading to opt out of allowing recreational marijuana businesses until the state clarifies some of the rules and regulations and zoning is in place. Rod left at 8:40.

Round Table Discussion: Donna talked about the 285 bicyclists that were in town late last week and stayed at Mustang Stadium. Muldoon's provided dinner for them in the evening and they had to have breakfast catered out of Marquette, as they couldn't find anyone locally to provide it. (FYI: Pat spoke with Al Weymouth after the meeting and the Moose Lodge could provide something like that in the future.) Rick asked about the land swap for the airfield property. Kathy said the paperwork is done and just needs to be signed by the county (Jerry Doucette is out of town) and the deal can be finalized.

Adjournment: Travis made a motion to adjourn at 8:50, Donna supported. **The motion passed.**

Next meeting: August 7, 2019