

Munising Downtown Development Authority
Minutes of Meeting
September 16, 2020
Video Conference on Zoom due to Covid-19 Pandemic

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

Members Absent: Pat Gariepy (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: Rick made a motion to approve the agenda that was emailed on 9/15/2020, Rod supported. **The motion passed.**

Public Comment: None

Approval of Meeting Minutes for August 19, 2020: Travis made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Rick supported. **The motion passed.**

Approval of Bills for Payment:

a. HTC	Phone land line	\$40.20
b. Kathy Reynolds	Cell phone data pkg.	\$50.00
c. Madigan's Ace Hardware	Gardening supplies	\$6.59
d. Hoholik Enterprises	Plumbing repairs	\$172.50
e. Munising News	Ad: Façade Grant 20.00 Office supplies 19.89	\$39.89
f. Embers Credit Union Visa	Decals for Bayshore Park 68.04 Signs for Bayshore Park 210.65	\$278.69
g. Airgas USA	Supplies for painting crosswalks	\$36.44
h. Signs Now	Art in the Alley sign 350.00 Maritime Alley panels 5,831.00	\$6,181.00

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

Budget:

a. August financials: The board received the August 2020 financial reports. No action was needed or taken. Dale discussed the fund balance and 20-year plan. Many of the items on the plan have been completed or are on track to be completed. Dale would like to see the board revisit the 20-year plan and develop a 5 to 6-year plan.

Old Business:

a. 2020/21/ Façade Grants: At the last meeting Wayne's Water and Das Gift Haus were given extensions to turn in labor estimates. The board received an updated recap of the 2020/21 façade grants and new estimates from Wayne's Water for their south façade including labor and for HealthQuest for a lighted sign (the previous estimate was for an unlighted sign). Das Gift did not turn in any new estimate. Pat Sanderson gave an update of

the new estimates and amounts for the grants. Pat suggested approving grants as follows:

Wayne's Water	South	up to \$942.82
HealthQuest	South	up to \$2,337.69

Cori made a motion to approve the revised grants as per Pat's suggestions, Debbie supported. **The motion passed.** No further action is taken re: Das Gift Haus, as they did not turn in any additional paperwork.

b. Family Dollar/ALTRAN Snow Removal: Debbie had mentioned at the previous meeting that Family Dollar has contacted her re: trying to get the City to help pay for snow removal for the Family Dollar parking lot, as it is utilized by many in the community. Dale discussed the agreement the DDA has with ALTRAN re: DDA funding to help cover the costs of cleaning and maintenance for the ALTRAN Transfer Station. In 2018 and 2019 ALTRAN did not fully utilize the funding from the DDA. Rod will have a discussion with ALTRAN re: the money they are leaving on the table and the fact that the DDA would like to see the building open as a public restroom as originally intended. The grounds (flowerbeds, etc.) have also not been kept up for the last few years.

New Business:

a. Downtown Streetlight Pole Repairs: Kathy discussed the streetlights downtown and the ongoing issues with water getting inside the bases. Devin said that while Wright Electric is in town working on the MDOT M28 road project they could give us an estimate to rehab all the current streetlights in the DDA. Devin will work with Wright Electric to secure an estimate for the updates. Travis asked about the lighting idea for Veterans Drive. Kathy said the rough estimate is \$75-100,000, but she does not have a detailed plan or estimate yet from UPEA. She mentioned this may be something the DDA wants to include in the 20-year plan.

Executive Director's Update/Partnership Update: Kathy discussed the Maritime Alley project that was installed on Monday and showed the board the new sign that was installed in Art in the Alley to explain the project. Many of the new installations have QR codes to lead people to our websites for more information. Kathy further explained that the information packets we are distributing this summer include three QR codes to direct people to various sites for paperless information and maps. Kathy said we are working on some murals for the west side of the bathrooms at Bayshore Park and has ideas for other areas as well. We will have to see what grant funds will be available. PRNL has a current count of about 900,000 visitors so far in 2020 and are well on track to hit a record 1 million. Kathy reminds people that we are not the only areas in the country seeing these increases in visitation. Many national parks and rural areas are experiencing the same spikes in visitors this summer/fall. The Harley apartment development is moving along, but it's a bit slow getting estimates from subcontractors and costs for materials are way up.

City Manager's Report: Devin reported that the M28 road construction project is moving along. The City water/sewer projects are all looking good. The City is refinancing bonds and other existing debts at extremely low rates. The Sand Point Rd project is moving along. The marina will be closing Oct 1 and Tourist Park is still booked solid through September. Work from Lynn St to the roundabout should be done soon and will open to two-way traffic. Work will then move on to the roundabout to the Anna River and work from Commercial St to Christmas is currently underway.

Round Table Discussion: Tom asked about Hanley Airfield, since all the land swaps are now complete. Kathy said the County plans on harvesting timber, but otherwise no news. Rod added that Mike Nettleton has been briefed and the County will use funds from the timber harvest to offset their administrative costs re: the airfield. Regarding the new roundabout, starting next year Claudia VanLandschoot and her volunteers will be planting a 3' wide ring of annual flowers around the shrubs and perennials that MDOT is putting in. Kathy said that 55 Alger County businesses applied for an MEDC Restart Grant and 30 will receive funds.

Adjournment: Cori made a motion to adjourn at 8:57, Rick supported. **The motion passed.**

Next meeting: October 21, 2020