



**Marquette Downtown Development Authority  
Meeting Minutes for April 9, 2026**

**Call to Order**

A meeting of the Marquette Downtown Development Authority (MDDA) Board of Directors was held on Thursday April 9th, 2026, at the Marquette Commons. The meeting was called to order by Board Vice President P. Sala at 8:01 a.m. with Directors M. Weinrick, K. Kovacs, C. Durley, B. Glitt, C. Klecha, and A. Clark present.

Absent: R. Stern, R. Caron

C. Durley made a motion to approve the absences of R. Stern and R. Caron. A. Clark seconded; motion passed.

Others in attendance were Tara Laase-McKinney DDA Executive Director, Jodi Lanciani-DDA Operations Director, Michael Bradford-DDA Business Outreach & Promotions Director, and Brian Shier-Farmers Market Manager.

**Agenda**

C. Klecha made a motion to approve the agenda. C. Durey seconded; motion passed.

**Public Comment**

Angela Palamaki: Palamaki's dentist office is in the Savings Bank Building. They are here to question whether the Vault Project meets city code for parking and challenge the claim that the project, specifically parking, will provide public benefit.

**Consent Agenda**

C. Durley made a motion to approve the consent agenda with the minutes from 3/12/2026, bills for approval dated 3/1/2026 - 3/31/2026, and financial reports as of 3/31/2026. B. Glitt seconded; motion passed.

**March Bills:**

<b>Accident Fund</b>	3,307.00	<b>Integris</b>	147.00
<b>Advance Auto Parts</b>	258.66	<b>Kiwanis Club of Marquette</b>	500.00
<b>Blue Cross Blue Shield</b>	169.58	<b>Lake Superior Comm Part.</b>	360.00
<b>Board of Light &amp; Power</b>	2,263.60	<b>Marquette Monthly</b>	235.00
<b>C. Pesola LLC</b>	1,850.00	<b>Metro Elevator Inc</b>	6,200.00
<b>Capital One Commercial</b>	219.36	<b>Mining Journal</b>	2,000.00
<b>Cardmember Service</b>	6,311.78	<b>North Country Disposal</b>	750.00
<b>Charter Communications</b>	93.47	<b>Passport Labs, Inc</b>	841.77

Chesla & Associates PC	324.00	SEMCO	598.08
City of Marquette	2,316.15	T2 Systems Canada Inc.	1,900.00
Cook Sign Service	167.68	Traffic & Safety Control	11,735.00
Corbin Design	1,692.50	Vestis	347.86
Darner, Jacob	150.00	VSP Insurance Co.	78.21
Enright Excavating	10,142.86	Western Michigan Health	6,250.56
Fair Food Network	10.00	Whispering Shoulder Hawk	25,000.00
Farmspread	603.00	Xerox Corporation	183.33
Independent Landscape	1,350.00	Payroll and Benefits	65,276.11
		<b>Total</b>	<b><u>153,632.56</u></b>

**New Business:** No new business

### Committee Reports

**Design and Maintenance:** The committee is reviewing Match on Main Grants. Eight grants were submitted. Grants are due to the state by April 20, 2026.

### Executive Director's Report –

1. A couple of dates have been proposed for a downtown board training through the Michigan Downtown Association and hosted by a Negaunee representative. Possible dates are July 29th, July 30th, July 31st (Blueberry Fest), August 6th, August 7th.
2. The DDA is starting to put together RFP's for different projects including sidewalk repair and Third Street project. T. Laase-McKinney is also working with the city on choosing the firm for the Sustainable Tourism Plan.
3. T. Laase-McKinney is reviewing the city's proposed updates to the mobile food vending ordinance for private property.
4. A Vault project update meeting was had, and T. Laase-McKinney gave input into parking spots on Main St. with the proposed driveway cutout.
5. A Fourth of July ball drop activity is being discussed.
6. The DDA is starting to work on budgeting and considering a maintenance equipment purchase. The last piece of maintenance equipment that was purchased was the Vermeer ATX. It doesn't fully fit the needs of what was hoped for in terms of sidewalk snow removal. The Holder, which does meet the needs of sidewalk snow removal, is nearing the end of its life. Nathan, the DDA maintenance coordinator, has put together a couple of equipment purchasing options that will be reviewed by the Design and Maintenance Committee, to make recommendations for the budget.

**Operation Director's Report –** Upgrades to pay stations downtown will begin next week.

**Business Development and Promotions Director's Report :** M. Bradford presented information about the proposed July 4<sup>th</sup> ball drop and the feedback he has gathered from businesses thus far. A formal request for the event may come to the DDA Board in May.

**Farmers Market Manager's Report** - Many new vendors are applying to the farmers market and additional room has been made to accommodate.

**Public Comment**

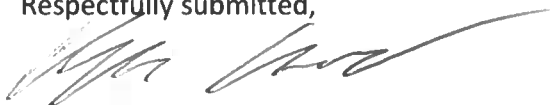
Angela Palamaki referenced the land development code for parking and, based on her interpretation of the code, she does not believe the Vault would be in compliance.

**Board Member Comment:**

1. M. Weinrick stated that a lot of topics were covered today and there are a lot of questions to still be answered particularly with the Vault Project and parking.
2. P. Sala said she likewise still has big questions about things presented today. She thanks our DDA team for snow removal during all the storms.
3. C. Durley: No comment today
4. K. Kovacs: No comment
5. C. Klecha was happy to share about an informal Baraga St. business block get together.
6. A. Clark feels there are still a lot of questions regarding the Vault Project. She is interested in learning more about sustainable tourism.
7. B. Glitt says he is always pro tourism.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05am. A motion was made by C. Durley, seconded by C. Klecha; motioned passed

Respectfully submitted,



Christopher J Durley.

Board Secretary

Marquette Downtown Development Authority

