



**Marquette Downtown Development Authority
Meeting Minutes for July 9th, 2026.**

Call to Order

A meeting of the Marquette Downtown Development Authority (MDDA) Board of Directors was held on Thursday July 9th, 2026, at the Marquette Commons. The meeting was called to order by Board President R. Stern at 8:02 a.m. with Directors K. Kovacs, C. Durley, B. Glitt, C. Klecha, R. Caron, A. Clark, and M. Weinrick present.

Absent: P. Sala

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. Durley made a motion to approve the agenda. B. Glitt seconded; motion passed.

Public Comment: No public comment

Consent Agenda

K. Kovacs made a motion to approve the consent agenda with the minutes from 6/11/2026, bills for approval dated 6/1/2026 through 6/30/2026, financial reports as of 6/30/2026. C. Klecha seconded; motion passed.

June 2026 Bills:

#9 Farms	45.00	Loyaltees Vendor	1,290.96
Advance Auto Parts	79.98	Mares-Z-Doats Feed Supply	163.17
Airgas	287.50	Marquette County Exchange	250.00
Andrea Stader	100.00	Marquette Maple Company	74.00
Ashlyn Roskowski	75.00	Michelle Czygan	100.00
Bad Seed Hot Sauce	9.00	Midway Rentals	1,291.57
Bakery Barn Yooper Yummies	61.00	Mining Journal	2,177.00
Barton, Colin	175.00	Moonlight Meadows	36.00
Big Creek Farm	69.00	New Dalton Farm	130.00
Black Moon Clay	15.00	North Country Disposal	750.00
Blue Cross Blue Shield	148.25	Northwoods Publishing	315.00
Board of Light & Power	2,188.48	Passport Labs, Inc	1,163.98
Boreal Collective	700.00	Peace Pie Co.	10.00

Brian Wallen	100.00	Pileated Farms	113.00
Brown Equipment Company	997.29	Pomp's Tire Service	111.82
C. Pesola LLC	1,850.00	Prime Specialty	279.88
Capital One Commercial	419.69	Rock River Farm	722.34
Card Connect	125.44	Sacred Tattoo	7,500.00
Case Country Farm	154.00	Sarah Aldrich	400.00
Charter Communications	96.26	Seeds and Spores	434.00
Cherry Creek Baking	60.00	SEMCO	369.69
Chesla & Associates PC	324.00	Shady Grove Farm	10.00
Cicada	75.00	Snowy Acres Vegetable	14.00
City of Marquette	3,718.75	State of Michigan - LARA	150.00
Cricket Leg Creations	25.00	Superior Collision	4,000.00
Dead River Coffee	28.00	Superior Culture	32.00
Ever Yielding Acres	159.00	Superiorland Services Inc.	365.04
Freshwind Farms	87.00	T2 Systems Canada Inc.	1,900.00
Full Plate Farm	1,124.00	TD Backflow Services	1,297.72
GEI Consultants	-98.92	Tonella Farms	222.00
Getz's Department Store	915.96	Traffic & Safety Control	11,735.00
Gladstone Berry Farm	115.00	Uline	683.09
Guindon Farms	188.00	UP Gourmet	212.00
Imperial Dade	697.99	UP North Roast	45.00
Integris	147.00	Venture UP Farm, LLC	19.00
Jesse Wright	2,587.50	Vestis	402.62
Lake Superior Community	1,450.00	VSP Insurance Co.	64.14
Liam Gray	636.44	Wellspring Farm	191.00
Lily Venable	1,150.00	Western Michigan Health	5,624.12
Lisa LeClaire	300.00	Yoopers Country Farms	442.00
Little Parsley Farm	149.00	Payroll Expenses	58,098.90
		Total Expenses	<u>124,724.65</u>

Old Business: No old business

New Business

1. Downtown Sidewalk Planter Guidelines

- A proposal of guidelines to enhance the appearance of the downtown district by allowing businesses to place decorative planters on public sidewalks adjacent to their business frontage while maintaining safe and accessible pedestrian travel.
- Presented guidelines will not require additional permitting
- The city attorney was consulted, as well as department heads, and no concerns were brought up.

- d. C. Klecha made a motion to adopt the Downtown Sidewalk Planter Guidelines as presented, establishing standards for decorative planters placed adjacent to downtown business storefronts on public sidewalks between May 1 and October 1. The Executive Director is authorized to administer and enforce the guidelines on behalf of the DDA. C. Durley seconded; motion passed.

Executive Director's Report –

1. Working on a mural in the Main St. Walkway. Due to liability insurance requirements the recommended artist has determined the project is not possible at this time.
2. Report from Mike regarding 4th of July: 35,200 people downtown over the weekend. 21,900 for just the fireworks. Peak during 2pm, and then 8pm-9pm.
3. Working on putting up signage downtown to "Walk your Wheels"
4. The new piece of equipment was inspected and approved. Currently obtaining quotes to transport it.

Operation Director's Report –

1. Getting the budget finalized to present.
2. Closner is out starting on the concrete repairs

Design and Maintenance Committee -

1. Meeting on Wednesday 7/15/2026 at 3:00pm
 - a. Items to discuss include budget, finding consultants for a Third St. plan, wayfinding, holiday lights, and facade grants.

Executive and Personnel Committee -

1. Two meetings were held to discuss wages specific to the maintenance staff.
2. Wage adjustments and a standard 3% increase were proposed

Parking Committee -

1. A proposed fee for credit card use at the pay station was presented, and met with concerns that needed to be addressed. At this time that fee will not be happening
2. The bond should be paid off by 2028 and that will greatly reduce expenses in the parking budget.
3. We do plan to be in the red on the budget in 2027 unless rates are raised given rising costs.
4. A Third St. parking survey went out at the beginning of July to understand a baseline of parking habits and opinions.

Farmers Market Committee -

1. Decision made to make Brian a salaried employee in 2027.
2. Adjusting the amount that the DDA will contribute to the Farmers Market. The amount suggested is \$20,000.
3. Not doing the Yule market going forward, just having a farmers market during the tree lighting ceremony.

Business Development and Promotions Director's Report

1. Fourth of July reviews are opening
2. Music on third is happening Thursday July 16th
3. Blueberry Fest is July 31st.
4. Looking into event committees that business can participate in.

Farmers Market Manager's Report -

1. Halfway through the Wednesday markets. The weather has not been great, but people keep showing up.
2. Saturday markets are going well

Public Comment: No public comment

Board Member Comment:

1. R. Stern: The rate of speed of the bikes on sidewalks is high.
2. M. Weinrick: No comment
3. R. Caron: No comment
4. C. Durley: No comment
5. K. Kovacs: Homelessness and panhandling is starting to look like it is picking up. Encouraged people to read the message that the Co-op put out. In 2013 there were some changes to laws, panhandling on public property cannot be outright banned.
6. C. Klecha: The piers are looking rough on the shoreline. K. Kovacs said the sails are going up post fireworks and the docks are scheduled for repair.
7. A. Clark: Comments on the July 4th St closure.
8. B. Glitt: Thanks to our police and fire department. Commenting that if Mike Bradford had not stepped up to help, we probably would not have had the fireworks.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:11am. A motion was made by C. Durley, seconded by C. Klecha; motioned passed

Respectfully submitted,



Chris Durley (Aug 20, 2026 16:11:55 EDT)

Christopher J Durley.

Board Secretary

Marquette Downtown Development Authority

Attachment IV.1 DDA Board Minutes 7-9-2026

Final Audit Report

2026-08-20

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