



**Marquette Downtown Development Authority  
Meeting Minutes for January 8, 2026**

**Call to Order**

A meeting of the Marquette Downtown Development Authority (MDDA) Board of Directors was held on Thursday January 8th, at the Marquette Commons. The meeting was called to order by Board President R. Stern at 8:06 a.m. with directors A. Clark, B. Glitt, P. Sala, C. Klecha, R. Stern, and R. Caron present.

Absent: K. Kovacs, M. Weinrick, C. Durley

P. Sala made a motion to excuse the absences of K. Kovacs, M. Weinrick, and C. Durley. C. Klech seconded; motion passed.

Others in attendance were T. Laase-McKinney DDA Executive Director, M. Bradford-DDA Business Outreach & Promotions Director, and B. Shier-Farmers Market Manager.

**Agenda**

P. Sala made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. C. Klecha seconded; motion passed.

**Public Comment:** None

**Consent Agenda**

C. Klecha made a motion to approve the consent agenda with the minutes from 12/11/2025, bills for approval dated 12/1/2025 through 12/31/2025, and the financial reports as of 12/31/2025. A. Clark seconded; motion passed.

**December Bills:**

<b>Advance Auto Parts</b>	\$ 38.18	<b>MK Stores, Inc</b>	\$ 246.41
<b>All About Services</b>	\$ 28,350.00	<b>North Country Disposal</b>	\$ 750.00
<b>Blue Cross Blue Shield</b>	\$ 169.58	<b>OK Rental</b>	\$ 68.10
<b>Board of Light &amp; Power</b>	\$ 2,034.74	<b>Ore Dock Brewing Co.</b>	\$ 250.00
<b>Bromley's Books</b>	\$ 236.13	<b>Otis Elevator</b>	\$ 1,087.41
<b>C. Pesola LLC</b>	\$ 1,850.00	<b>Paul Olson</b>	\$ 300.00
<b>Capital One Commercial</b>	\$ 392.77	<b>Range Telecommunication</b>	\$ 712.80
<b>Card Connect</b>	\$ 5.19	<b>Richardson Jewelers</b>	\$ 250.00
<b>Case Country Farm</b>	\$ 142.00	<b>SEMCO</b>	\$ 180.91
<b>Charter Communications</b>	\$ 80.00	<b>State of Michigan - DELEG</b>	\$ 319.30
<b>Chesla &amp; Associates PC</b>	\$ 310.00	<b>State of Michigan DTMB</b>	\$ 180.00
<b>City of Marquette</b>	\$ 1,860.32	<b>Swick</b>	\$ 250.00
<b>Cook Sign Service</b>	\$ 78.78	<b>T2 Systems Canada Inc.</b>	\$ 1,900.00
<b>Digs Gastropub Vendor</b>	\$ 250.00	<b>Tara Laase McKinney</b>	\$ 25.94
<b>DLP Marquette Physicians</b>	\$ 60.00	<b>Tervo Agency</b>	\$ 250.00
<b>Enright Excavating</b>	\$ 10,190.86	<b>The Honorable Distillery</b>	\$ 250.00

Getz's Department Store	\$ 859.96	Third St. Bagel	\$ 250.00
Great Lakes Radio, Inc	\$ 4,000.00	Traffic & Safety Control	\$ 950.00
Harland Clarke	\$ 477.61	Trenary Toast	\$ 250.00
Heartland Services	\$ 815.13	Vestis	\$ 347.86
Integris	\$ 117.41	VSP Insurance Co.	\$ 78.21
Janell Bridges	\$ 500.00	Western Michigan Health	\$ 6,250.56
Jesse Wright	\$ 4,615.00	WLUC	\$ 4,295.00
Legal Services of Northern MI	\$ 810.00	Womens Center of Marquette	\$ 1,835.48
Midway Rentals	\$ 117.86	Xerox Corporation	\$ 551.36
Mining Journal	\$ 3,226.77	Payroll & Benefits	\$ 95,436.34
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 178,853.97</b>

**Presentation** – Michael Bradford presented a 2025 Visitor Review.

Following the presentation, a discussion was had about whether the Placer AI data accurately reflects the businesses' experiences, what more can be done to support businesses, possible collaborations with NMU and collaborations between businesses, how to make events more impactful, how weather affects events, and how the DDA can play a coordinating role if businesses take the lead on new or expanded events.

**Old Business:** No old business

#### **New Business**

1. Board Appointments
  - a. A. Clark made a motion to retain R. Stern as Chair. C. Klecha seconded, motion passed.
  - b. R. Stern made a motion to retain P. Sala as Vice Chair. A. Clark seconded; motion passed.
  - c. P. Sala made a motion to retain M. Weinrick as Treasurer: C. Klecha seconded, motion passed.
  - d. P. Sala made a motion to retain C. Durley as Secretary. R. Stern seconded; motion passed.
2. Board Committee Assignments
  - a. P. Sala joined the Personnel and Executive Committee, filling an empty seat.
  - b. B. Glitt and P. Sala joined the Farmers Market Committee, filling two empty seats.
  - c. B. Glitt joined the Design and Maintenance Committee, filling an empty seat.
3. Signatory Resolution: C. Klecha made a motion to approve the signatory resolution. A. Clark seconded; motion passed.

**Committee Reports:** No committee reports

#### **Director's Report**

1. T. Laase-McKinney mentioned snowbanks have been removed from at least some of Third St. and Washington St. should be done soon. Maintenance crews are making

some curb cuts in the meantime. Overall, the maintenance crew has done a good job of keeping up with adverse weather events this winter.

2. T. Laase-McKinney also discussed vacancies on W. Washington St. and if there is anything the DDA can do to help. Unfortunately, per governing legislation, the DDA cannot directly give money to businesses for moving expenses, security deposit, etc. She discussed other possible opportunities such as open houses to get eyes on the locations and possibly filled sooner than later.
3. The Executive Director also mentioned that the DDA is in the midst of changing Credit Card Processors for pay stations. Overall, it appears that our fees will be comparable, but we will no longer have to complete PCI compliance records yearly, as the new credit card processors will complete this on our behalf.
4. M. Bradford mentioned that the DDA is working with UP200 staff to make improvements in collaboration between the two entities, and possibly looking at getting pop-up shops into vacant Washington St. storefronts.
5. M. Bradford also mentioned that he is working hard getting everything ready for summer events.
6. B. Shier mentioned planning is underway for 2026 Farmers Market.

**Public Comment:** None

**Board Member Comment**

1. R. Caron thanked M. Bradford for the presentation and was anxious to compare the reported numbers to his existing Google Analytics numbers.
2. C. Klecha was very excited and appreciative to see last year's analytics.
3. P. Sala thanked the maintenance team for all their hard work in regard to snow removal.
4. B. Glitt mentioned he is excited to be on the DDA Board.
5. A. Clark is excited about Placer AI information and is interested in comparing it with business sentiment. She was happy to see an uptick in local turnout and that we have done a good job of balancing catering to local vs. tourists.
6. R. Stern had a preview of the presentation information and liked what he saw. He was glad that in the past few years, the DDA has been able to invest in better municipal tractors for snow removal purposes.

C. Klecha made a motion to adjourn. P. Sala seconded; motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:31 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



T. Laase-McKinney

Executive Director Marquette Downtown Development Authority

