



MARQUETTE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Meeting Minutes for February 11, 2021

Call to Order: A Meeting of the Marquette Downtown Development Authority (MDDA) Board of Directors was held on Thursday February 11, 2021 virtually via Zoom. The Meeting was called to order by Chairperson J. Ottaway at 8:00 a.m. with Directors M. Angeli, R. Caron, N. Durley-Rust, J. Johnson, E. Kucharczyk, M. Morrison, and T. Retaskie present.

There were no additions to the agenda. A motion was made to approve the agenda by T. Retaskie and seconded by M. Angeli. Motion carried.

Public Comment: None

Consent Agenda: It was moved by E. Kucharczyk and seconded by T. Retaskie to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the minutes from the January meeting, bills for approval for the period of January 7, 2021-February 3, 2021 and financial reports as of 1/31/2021. Motion carried.

906 Technologies	54.00	ELUC - Fox	153.00
All About Services	17,295.00	Heartland Services	1,060.05
American Welding & Gas Inc	34.76	IPS Group	2,263.51
AT & T	353.98	Lake Superior Community Partnership	325.00
AT&T Mobility	301.82	Lammi Fire Protection	75.00
Blue Cross Blue Shield	827.46	Lowe's	284.60
Board of Light & Power	2,568.25	Marquette County Ambassadors	225.00
C. Pesola LLC	1,700.00	Marquette Transmissions & Auto Repair	194.40
Capital One Commercial	682.77	North Country Disposal	514.73
Cardmember Service	568.51	Norway Springs Inc.	8.95
Charter Communications	336.71	Otis Elevator	899.94
Chesla & Associates PC	250.00	SEMCO	336.33
City of Marquette	1,599.06	Smith Construction	6,671.43
Clover Network Inc	5.25	State of Michigan - DELEG	620.00
College Laundry & Rental	211.00	Wright Electric	2,601.13
Curran & Company	520.00	Xerox Corporation	232.52
Dust For You	90.00	January Payroll	31,077.08

New Business: Washington Street Project Updates- R. Finco reported planning is underway with engineering with some slight modifications with tree placement and discussion on parking pay stations placement. Project will go to bid in the next two weeks. There is hope the project will start May 3, 2021 with an aggressive schedule of completion in five to six weeks. So far there has been no negative feedback by businesses that will be affected.

Paid Holiday Policy Amendment- Currently MDDA staff has 5 additional floating paid holidays that can be redeemed but it is problematic to determine dates that accommodate the entire staff. R. Finco wants to amend the policy to fall in line with the City of Marquette's paid holiday schedule. A motion was made by M. Angeli and seconded by J. Johnson to support this change. Motion carried.

Committee Reports: J. Ottaway gave an update on the Executive committee and noted that he is keeping lines of communication and support open for Executive Director R. Finco through bi-weekly phone calls. A committee

meeting was set for Friday March 5th, 2021. Topics will include additional employment, refining roles in the organization, and a discussion on the staffing situation. J. Johnson provided a recap of the Farmers Market Committee Meeting. The meeting discussed moving forward in a Covid-friendly way, \$28,000 loss of revenue due to less vendors this year because of social distancing restrictions (which is a temporary loss the MDDA knows it has to endure for now as the acceptable amount budgeted is \$13,000), encouragement of the market becoming independent in the next three to five years, and vendor representation restructure. The MDDA would like to draft official by-laws for the Farmers Market and vendor representation which should include three MDDA members and 3 farmers' market representatives that would be annually recommended by the farmers' market manager and appointed by the MDDA board. M. Morrison gave the recap on the Business Development and Promotions meeting. This included a review of scheduled events for the year that the committee feels can still occur in a Covid-friendly capacity including Restaurant Week, Blueberry Fest, Classic Cars on Third St., and Music on Third. Music on Third can hopefully expand to south Third Street in an effort to spread groups out more and adhere to social distancing. The MATI movie series will continue throughout the year and it was agreed upon that the upper level of the Baraga St. Parking Ramp will now come with a fee to rent in order to cover maintenance costs. There is also a new application that will need to be filled out to host an event in the downtown district. The Parking Committee meeting is scheduled to meet 2/25/2021. M. Angeli also noted that the City Commission has created a new Housing Committee which will be discussing the controversial issue of the Winter Parking Ban.

Directors Report: R. Finco welcomed newest Director R. Caron. Two applications were submitted for the resident vacancy which should be filled for the March meeting and then the board will be back to full capacity. Recognition plaques of service were given to previous Directors including S. Geary, J. Frost, and K. Hendricks. R. Finco was approached by the Michigan Downtown Association to submit her application to join their board of directors. Currently there is no representation for the Upper Peninsula so this is an exciting opportunity. She was also asked to be a panelist for their Spring Workshop on planning events during Covid. R. Finco is currently researching the expansion of TIF to Third Street as well. Veridea Group LLC has purchased the Bank Building on the corner of Washington and Front Streets. There are a few economic development groups applying for grants to occupy the space as well as hopes of a restaurant.

Public Comment: None

Board Member Comment: All members welcomed R. Caron to the MDDA board and are excited to move forward in their respective committees for the 2021 year.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nichole Durley-Rust, Secretary

