



**Marquette Downtown Development Authority  
Meeting Minutes for April 10, 2025**

**Call to Order**

A meeting of the Marquette Downtown Development Authority (MDDA) Board of Directors was held on Thursday April 10, 2025, at the Marquette Commons. The meeting was called to order by Board Chairperson R. Stern at 8:02 a.m. with Directors A. Clark, C. Klecha, M. Weinrick, P. Sala, R. Caron, and K. Kovacs present.

Absent: C. Durley gave appropriate notice of his intended absence.

A. Clark made a motion to approve the absence of C. Durley. C. Klecha seconded; motion passed.

Others in attendance were Sean Hobbins-Marquette Assistant City Manager, Jodi Lanciani-DDA Operations Director, Michael Bradford-DDA Business Outreach & Promotions Director, and Brian Shier-Farmers Market Manager.

**Agenda:** P. Sala made a motion to approve the agenda. M. Weinrick seconded; motion passed.

**Public Comment** – None

**Consent Agenda:** C. Klecha made a motion to approve the consent agenda with the minutes from March 20, 2025, bills for approval dated March 1, 2025 through March 31, 2025, financial reports as of March 31, 2025, and audited financials of fiscal year 2024. P. Sala seconded; motion passed.

**March Bills:**

<b>Accident Fund</b>	\$ 1,533.00	<b>Marquette Wallpaper &amp; Paint</b>	\$ 7.08
<b>Advance Auto Parts</b>	\$ 479.03	<b>North Country Disposal</b>	\$ 411.00
<b>Blue Cross Blue Shield</b>	\$ 102.86	<b>North Country Engineering</b>	\$ 10,375.00
<b>Board of Light &amp; Power</b>	\$ 2,415.48	<b>Ore Dock Brewing Co.</b>	\$ 30.00
<b>C. Pesola LLC</b>	\$ 1,850.00	<b>Otis Elevator</b>	\$ 1,047.51
<b>Capital One Commercial</b>	\$ 276.19	<b>Pitney Bowes</b>	\$ 143.91
<b>Cardmember Service</b>	\$ 3,308.46	<b>SEMCO</b>	\$ 522.78
<b>Charter Communications</b>	\$ 79.98	<b>Stericycle</b>	\$ 79.72
<b>Chesla &amp; Associates PC</b>	\$ 310.00	<b>Superior Hearing Aid Center</b>	\$ 315.00
<b>City of Marquette</b>	\$ 10,429.08	<b>T2 Systems Canada Inc.</b>	\$ 1,900.00
<b>Curran &amp; Company</b>	\$ 762.49	<b>Traffic &amp; Safety Control</b>	\$ 950.00
<b>Dalco</b>	\$ 222.00	<b>Vestis</b>	\$ 329.34
<b>Elegant Seagulls</b>	\$ 15.00	<b>VSP Insurance Co.</b>	\$ 57.98
<b>Enright Excavating</b>	\$ 8,571.43	<b>Western Michigan Health</b>	\$ 4,009.13
<b>Heartland Services</b>	\$ 945.83	<b>Xerox Corporation</b>	\$ 233.46
<b>Integris</b>	\$ 354.24	<b>Yoopers Shirts</b>	\$ 1,316.00

<b>Lake Superior Com. Partnership</b>	\$ 2,500.00	<b>Payroll &amp; Benefits</b>	\$ 54,208.55
<b>Liam Gray</b>	\$ 98.52	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 110,190.05</b>

**New Business:**

**Marquette Ambition LLC Façade Grant** – Marquette Ambition LLC applied for a façade grant for their building at 100 N. Third St. Their project involves replacing 13 windows in the upper floor of their building. The total cost of their project is \$13,352, and they are requesting a grant of \$4,406.16.

It was discussed that this would be the fourth of committed facade grants from this fund. Because it is not a full amount, the DDA could potentially fund four or five more grants. There was discussion about the Façade RAP grant and Match on Main Grant and how they differ from our façade grant.

P. Sala pointed out that Marquette Ambition’s façade grant was well presented, with an easy-to-read application. P. Sala made a motion to approve the grant. C. Klecha seconded; motion passed.

**Committee Reports** – Design and Maintenance: The Match on Main grant is being submitted on behalf of two applicants. The deadline for grant submission at MEDC was extended by a week.

There is an open seat on the farmers market committee. No one joined at this time.

**Executive Director’s Report** – S. Hobbins, T. Laase-McKinney, and our local brownfield representative met with Midwest Construction Development and the 401 W. Washington St. property owner to discuss the proposed project. Due to the substantial brownfield funding request, the conversation included the possibility of either incorporating a larger public benefit into the project or limiting the brownfield capture period to 10–15 years.

Last weekend, there was a Hands-Off Rally at the Commons. There were no problems. Similar organizers want to have a rally on April 19, 2025. It was noted that all renters pay an hourly fee and, if applicable, a plaza use fee. Any involvement with the city is coordinated by the renters and fees are paid for things such as police escorts for parades.

M. Weinrick asked about rental contract wording for possibly limiting an organization to a certain number of rentals per year or frequency. This will be explored.

**Operation Director’s Report** – We are waiting on estimates for parking expense items before meeting with the parking subcommittee to discuss next year’s budget.

**Business Development and Promotions Director’s Report** – April 25<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for the Blueberry Fest Poster Contest and for vendor applications. M. Bradford has been communicating with businesses in the area proposed for the Blueberry Fest expansion on South Front Street, and so far, all have approved the street closure and festival expansion.

**Farmers Market Manager’s Report** – The Farmers Market starts in almost a month, on May 17<sup>th</sup>.

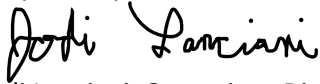
**Public Comment:** Students from NMU were at the board meeting to observe.

**Board Member Comment:** K. Kovacs commended the DDA and city staff for coordinating the rally smoothly. She also praised the DDA and city staff for the snow clean up this winter. R. Caron had no comment. P. Sala thanked the city and DDA for the snow removal. She commended M. Bradford on the DDA Business Connect meetings and said the information being presented was well received. She would love to see the data be presented to the DDA Board. M. Weinrick had no comment. C. Klecha was grateful to see the many applicants for all our grants and events. A. Clark said it was fun to review the façade grants and she appreciates the work put into revising the evaluation matrix. R. Stern attended the DDA Connect meeting and said it was very informational, and he felt the data presented was insightful, particularly the numbers concerning tourism. He also commented on his appreciation of the recent storm being cleaned quickly.

M. Weinrick made a motion to adjourn. P. Sala seconded; motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jodi Lanciani". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jodi Lanciani, Operations Director