



**Marquette Downtown Development Authority  
Meeting Minutes for May 8, 2025**

**Call to Order**

A meeting of the Marquette Downtown Development Authority (MDDA) Board of Directors was held on Thursday May 8th, at the Marquette Commons. The meeting was called to order by Board President R. Stern at 8:01 a.m. with Directors L. Rowland, C. Klecha, A. Clark, P. Sala, and C. Durley present.

Absent: K. Kovac. R. Caron. N. Weinrick.

L. Rowland made a motion to approve the absences of K. Kovac, R. Caron, and M. Weinrick. C. Klecha seconded; motion passed.

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

**Agenda** - L. Rowland made a motion to approve the agenda. P. Sala seconded; motion passed.

**Public Comment** – None present

**Consent Agenda** - P. Sala made a motion to approve the consent agenda with the minutes from April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025, bills for approval dated April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 – April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025, and financial reports as of April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025. C. Klecha seconded; motion passed.

**April Bills:**

|                        |             |                             |                     |
|------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Advance Auto Parts     | \$ 737.27   | NMPESA                      | \$ 80.00            |
| Blue Cross Blue Shield | \$ 120.54   | North Country Disposal      | \$ 411.00           |
| Board of Light & Power | \$ 2,127.85 | OK Rental                   | \$ 160.49           |
| C. Pesola LLC          | \$ 1,850.00 | SEMCO                       | \$ 526.99           |
| Capital One Commercial | \$ 926.84   | Superior Collision          | \$ 4,000.00         |
| Charter Communications | \$ 80.00    | T2 Systems Canada Inc.      | \$ 1,900.00         |
| Chesla & Associates PC | \$ 310.00   | TK Elevator                 | \$ 6,632.88         |
| City of Marquette      | \$ 258.45   | Traffic & Safety Control    | \$ 950.00           |
| Cook Sign Service      | \$ 168.80   | U.P. Kubota                 | \$ 1,257.98         |
| Curran & Company       | \$ 762.49   | Vestis                      | \$ 445.28           |
| Dalco                  | \$ 343.72   | VSP Insurance Co.           | \$ 70.34            |
| Enright Excavating     | \$ 8,571.43 | Western Michigan Health Ins | \$ 4,507.16         |
| Heartland Services     | \$ 1,028.05 | Xerox Corporation           | \$ 421.69           |
| Integriss              | \$ 144.16   | Payroll & Benefits          | <u>\$ 53,952.65</u> |

|   |           |              |              |
|---|-----------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Michigan Association of Planning</b> | \$ 80.00  | <b>Total</b> | \$ 93,476.06 |
| <b>Michigan Downtown Association</b>    | \$ 650.00 |              |              |

**Presentation by Michael Bradford** - M. Bradford presented data collected on the number of visitors and money spent in downtown in 2024. The data was collected using Placer.ai during a product demonstration.

**New Business**

- Marquette Ambition Façade Grant Amendment
  - o The recommendation is to amend the 100 N. Third St. / Marquette Ambition. LLC Façade Improvement Grant award to reflect the new project amount, with a DDA contribution of \$5,009.33.
  - o Board members discussed possibly amending our application for situations like this going forward so we have a clear guideline.
  - o P. Sala makes a motion to amend the grant application for 100 N. Third to reflect the new project amount. C. Klecha seconds. Motion passes.
- Video Recording Retention Policy
  - o The recommendation is to approve the Marquette DDA Video Retention Policy, to go into effect Monday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025.
  - o Recordings will be retained for 30 days unless notified within 30 days that it is necessary to retain them for a longer period.
  - o L. Rowland makes a motion to approve the Marquette Video Recording Retention Policy. P. Sala seconded. Motion passes.

**Committee Reports**

- Design and Maintenance Committee
  - o Two of the three projects submitted for the Façade Grant were approved.
    - Those locations were 130 W. Baraga and 201 N. Front.
  - o Wayfinding: The DDA is seeking proposals from firms to increase wayfinding in Downtown Marquette
    - The funding for phase one has already been included in the 2025 DDA budget.

**Executive Director’s Report –**

- The DDA received a letter from the landlord of the 5<sup>th</sup> St. garage stating that our lease will end September 30, 2025. The DDA is currently looking for a new garage or storage space, ideally located downtown but will consider elsewhere.
- The DDA agreed to work with the Michigan Downtown Association on a data gathering project focusing on downtowns. Once we submit the data, they will provide a report showing how the DDA benefits the local economy.
- The new hotel on Baraga St. is scheduled to open on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Operation Director’s Report –**

- The elevator doors on the Bluff ramp have been repaired.

- Parking signs at One Marquette Place are going up Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
- The DDA is currently interviewing for a full-time maintenance person.
- A survey was sent out to 3<sup>rd</sup> St. businesses regarding site distances at intersections.

**Business Development and Promotions Director's Report**

- Planning for summer events.
  - o The committee meeting will be held May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
- Art Week Project
  - o The project will cover the façade on the south side of the Delft building and is called "Now you see us." It features photos of people of Marquette that are not as well known in our community.

**Farmers Market Manager's Report –**

- Opening day is May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**Public Comment:** None present

**Board Member Comment:**

- A. Clark: None
- C. Klecha: None
- L. Rowland: Excited for summer
- R. Stern: The east stair tower at the Bluff Ramp has paint falling off the ceiling that is creating a potential hazard on the steps. R. Stern also thanks M. Bradford on his presentation.
- P. Sala: Snowbound books did a great video on social media about the blocked off sidewalk.
- C. Durley: Would love to see some sort of interactive map for downtown or a flyer with a QR code that links to a DDA business page to share with local business to support each other.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 am. Motion made by P. Sala. Seconded by L. Rowland. Motion passes.

Respectfully submitted,

C. Durley, Secretary



