



**Marquette Downtown Development Authority  
Meeting Minutes for November 13, 2025**

**Call to Order**

A meeting of the Marquette Downtown Development Authority (MDDA) Board of Directors was held on Thursday November 13th, at the Marquette Commons. The meeting was called to order by Board President R. Stern at 8:03 a.m. with directors M. Weinrick, R. Caron, P. Sala, C. Durley, K. Kovacs present.

Absent: C. Klecha, A. Clark, and L. Rowland.

P. Sala made a motion to approve the absences of C. Klecha. K. Kovacs seconded; motion passed.

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

**Agenda**

P. Sala made a motion to approve the agenda. C. Durley seconded; motion passed.

**Public Comment** – No public comment

**Consent Agenda**

C. Durley made a motion to approve the consent agenda with the minutes from 10/9/2025, bills for approval dated 10/1/2025 - 10/31/2025, and financial reports as of 10/31/2025. P. Sala seconded; motion passed.

**October Bills:**

<b>#9 Farms</b>	5.00	<b>Marquette Monthly</b>	825.00
<b>Accident Fund</b>	9,806.00	<b>Midway Rentals</b>	240.77
<b>Advance Auto Parts</b>	25.12	<b>Mining Journal</b>	2,748.80
<b>Bakery Barn Yooper Yummies</b>	16.00	<b>Moonlight Meadows</b>	30.00
<b>Blue Cross Blue Shield</b>	141.70	<b>New Dalton Farm</b>	132.00
<b>Board of Light &amp; Power</b>	2,112.07	<b>North Country Disposal</b>	750.00
<b>Boreal Collective</b>	500.00	<b>Northern Sky Orchard</b>	13.00
<b>C. Pesola LLC</b>	1,850.00	<b>OK Rental</b>	101.97
<b>Capital One Commercial</b>	1,607.17	<b>Pileated Farms</b>	70.00
<b>Card Connect</b>	61.99	<b>Placer Labs, Inc</b>	8,000.00
<b>Cardmember Service</b>	6,389.41	<b>Seeds and Spores Family Farm</b>	554.00
<b>Case Country Farm</b>	81.00	<b>SEMCO</b>	59.43

Charter Communications	80.00	Shady Grove Farm	24.00
Chesla & Associates PC	310.00	Snowy Acres Vegetable Farm	16.00
City of Marquette	2,853.78	Superior Culture	17.00
Dalco	796.58	Swanzy Farm	245.00
Dancing Crane Farm LLC	27.00	T2 Systems Canada Inc.	1,900.00
Doozers	55.00	The Burning Bush League	100.00
Employee Services LLC	2,500.00	The Remnants	100.00
Ever Yielding Acres	655.00	Tonella Farms	536.00
Fairest Promises	52.00	Traffic & Safety Control	2,750.00
For Goodness Cakes	110.00	Traunik Farm	77.00
Forsberg Flowers of Marquette	3,995.00	U.P. Irrigation LLC	825.00
Freshwind Farms	5.00	UP Gourmet	215.00
Full Plate Farm	167.00	UP North Roast	49.00
Gladstone Berry Farm	111.00	Valenti, Chris	100.00
Going Small Farm LLC	8.00	Vestis	467.59
Guindon Farms	108.00	VSP Insurance Co.	70.34
Heartland Services	1,909.52	Wally Tuccini	100.00
Honey Haven Baking Co.	19.00	Wellspring Farm	47.00
Integris	231.66	Western Michigan Health Ins	5,005.19
Knox Company	535.00	Yooper Country Farms	493.00
Lake Superior Press	640.00	Yooper Sisters	11.00
Little Parsley Farm	102.00	Payroll Costs and Benefits	66,925.38
		<b>Total</b>	<b><u>131,464.47</u></b>

Old Business: No old business

#### New Business

##### 1. Marji Gesick Event Support 2025

- a. An event support request has been submitted to host the start of a 50-mile bike race on Saturday September 19th, 2026. The closure would take place between 5:00 a.m. and 8:30 a.m.
- b. C. Durley made a motion to approve the event upon receipt of the insurance. P. Sala seconded; motion passed.

##### 2. Health/Dental/Vision Insurance Quotes for 2026

- a. Rate quotes were given by Western Michigan Insurance Pool and Acrisure.
- b. Estimated \$77,980 in health insurance expense budget depending on enrollment selections. The 2026 budgeted amount for health insurance is \$83,967.
- c. K. Kovacs made a motion to approve the health/dental/vision insurance for 2026. P. Sala seconded; motion passed.

The meeting was moved to a closed session at 8:13 a.m.

### **3. Executive Director Contract**

- a. An employment agreement was proposed between the Marquette Downtown Development Authority Board of Directors and T. Laase-McKinney to renew her service in the position of Executive Director, effective December 1, 2025.
- b. The executive committee met to discuss previous performance and review the agreement. The executive committee recommends approving the proposal.

The meeting returned to regular session at 8:17 a.m.

- c. P. Sala made a motion to approve the Executive Director Contract. Seconded by C. Durley; motion passed

**Committee Reports:** No reports

#### **Executive Director's Report –**

- a. The next meeting will be in a different spot, with location to be advertised to the public once available. During the meeting there will be an annual report given.
- b. The DDA is getting ready for Ladies Night this evening.
- c. Most of the holiday lights have been put up, as are the greenery baskets. There has been a problem with the wind taking the greens down, so a conversation for next year's decorations needs to take that into account.
- d. The parking grant is open for part-time downtown employees. Please remind downtown businesses to apply for the grant.
- e. A meeting with Enright Construction took place last week to go over the snow removal contract and expectations.

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

- a. Tonight is Ladies Night Out. The event also welcomes men. Seventy-seven businesses are participating.
- b. October was a good month. The Lake Superior Performance Rally went off without a hitch. Next year they are looking at having the event the second weekend of October.
- c. The light grant for holiday lights closes tomorrow.
- d. The city tree lighting and holiday parade are December 5th.

#### **Farmers Market Manager's Report -**

- a. There are two more Saturday Markets left, and Holiday Market as well.
- b. Some data collection was done with Placer AI to show customer counts and demographics.
- c. December 8th through the 13th will be the Yule Market.

**Public Comment:** None

#### **Board Member Comment:**

- a. M. Weinrick: Asked if what we are seeing with the holiday baskets currently is an example of what was approved. *Confirmed it is not.*

- b. R. Caron: No Comment
- c. P. Sala: The back lot of Flagstar is not being used as intended. The penny is officially not being minted. Businesses may want to talk to their bank about future issues and possibilities.
- d. R. Stern: Asked about the ramp coming out of the Vault. Is the ramp permanently affixed to the building? *For a year and a half*. Will that sidewalk corner be closed once things get going? *No*
- e. C. Durley: Thank you for taking care of the grease disposal overflow and plans have been put into place so it won't happen again.
- f. K. Kovacs: Enforcement is monitoring Food Trucks.

P. Sala made a motion to adjourn the meeting. K. Kovacs seconded; motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 am

Respectfully submitted,

  
Christopher J. Durley (Dec 17, 2025 13:28:14 EST)  
Christopher J. Durley