



**Marquette Downtown Development Authority
Meeting Minutes for December 12, 2024**

Call to Order - A meeting of the Marquette Downtown Development Authority (MDDA) Board of Directors was held on Thursday December 12, 2024, at the Marquette Commons. The meeting was called to order by Board Vice President R. Stern at 8:04 a.m. with Directors M. Weinrick, R. Caron, L. Rowland, C. Durley, C. Klecha, K. Kovacs and A. Clark present.

Absent: P. Sala provided notice that she was unable to attend. L. Rowland made a motion to approve the absence of P. Sala. 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 - M. Weinrick made a motion to approve the agenda. L. Rowland seconded; motion passed.

Public Comment – None.

Consent Agenda - K. Kovacs made a motion to approve the consent agenda with the minutes from November 14, 2024, bills for approval dated November 1, 2024 through November 30, 2024, and financial reports as of November 30, 2024 . C. Klecha seconded; motion passed.

November Bills:

906 & Company	\$ 250.00	Little Parsley Farm	\$ 43.00
Becky's Roadside Refreshment	\$ 40.00	Marquette Monthly	\$ 825.00
Blue Cross Blue Shield	\$ 103.08	Marquette Wallpaper & Paint	\$ 9.44
Board of Light & Power	\$ 2,123.83	Midway Rentals	\$ 130.05
Boreal Collective	\$ 300.00	North Country Disposal	\$ 501.00
Brian Shier	\$ 326.46	Range Telecommunication	\$ 125.00
C. Pesola LLC	\$ 1,850.00	Richardson Jewelers	\$ 250.00
Card Connect	\$ 22.17	Seeds and Spores Family Farm	\$ 15.00
Carquest	\$ 76.25	SEMCO	\$ 53.22
Charter Communications	\$ 79.98	Stericycle	\$ 79.72
Chesla & Associates PC	\$ 290.00	T2 Systems Canada Inc.	\$ 1,900.00
City of Marquette	\$ 3,392.53	Traffic & Safety Control	\$ 950.00
Cook Sign Service	\$ 104.05	U.P. Irrigation LLC	\$ 840.00
Curran & Company	\$ 762.49	U.P. Kubota	\$ 547.14
Dalco	\$ 390.22	UP Gourmet	\$ 4.00

Enright Excavating	\$ 8,571.43	Vestis	\$ 378.52
Ever Yielding Acres	\$ 177.00	VSP Insurance Co.	\$ 57.98
Fastenal	\$ 7.73	Western Michigan Health	\$ 3,688.24
Full Plate Farm	\$ 16.00	WLUC	\$ 700.00
Getz's Department Store	\$ 487.92	Womens Center of Marquette	\$ 1,072.00
Great Lakes Radio, Inc	\$ 4,000.00	Xerox Corporation	\$ 219.52
Heartland Services	\$ 1,998.00	Yoopers Country Farms	\$ 44.00
Independent Landscape	\$ 25,025.00	Payroll & Benefits	\$ 46,453.44
Integris	\$ 83.74	Total	\$ 109,364.15

Annual Presentation T. Laase-McKinney presented the first of two required presentations as per Act PA57.

New Business

New Year's Eve Event Changes: The New Year's Eve Ball Drop Event will be on the 100 block of W. Washington, with a proposed change in location to directly in front of Digs instead of in front of the Masonic Building. The stage would be parallel to Third St. facing east towards the 100 block. To facilitate the stage setup, the block of 100 W. Washington would need to close at 10 a.m. rather than 5 p.m. M. Bradford discussed the closure with the businesses, who were mostly in favor of this. He spoke with the police and the fire department who also agreed with the arrangements. There will be a 30-foot buffer from the back of the stage to the intersection. Third St. will remain open. Pedestrians will be able to utilize the sidewalks. L. Rowland made a motion to approve the changes. K. Kovacs seconded. Motion carried.

Personnel Policy Updates: Changes to the personnel policy were made to reflect the Earned Sick Time Act which goes into effect in February 2025. A. Clark made a motion to approve the new personnel policy. L. Rowland seconded the motion; motion carried.

Proposed 2025 Board Meeting Dates: The proposed 2025 board meeting dates were presented with the correction from May 9, 2025 to May 8, 2025. L. Roland made a motion to change the date to May 8, 2025 and approve the board meeting dates. A. Clark seconded; motion carried.

Committee Reports

Parking Committee: The committee awarded 15 parking grants to businesses with part-time employees. The committee discussed adding 19 reserved parking spots in the lower Bluff Ramp while maintaining the first 2 rows as hourly parking and continuing to monitor parking usage on both levels of the ramp. The committee also formalized the process of allowing paper permits for group events, with the agreement that we will charge \$5/day for these permits and allow them primarily at the Lakeshore Lot and occasionally at the Upper Bluff Ramp. The committee took a preliminary look at the parking agreement for managing the lot between One and Two Marquette Place, and this will be brought to the board in January.

Executive Director's Report – The Oscillation Light Display has been installed at the Commons. The Holiday Tree Lighting, Parade, and Yule Market will take place this Friday and Saturday. The DDA maintenance staff has been busy with the recent snow and establishing winter routines. There will be a TIF meeting on Friday, and the TIF Committee will meet again soon.

Business Development and Promotions Director's Report - M. Bradford provided a synopsis of the early November committee meeting. Twenty Holiday Lights grants were given, and all the light displays have been put up by the businesses. The committee also discussed Music on 3rd and the full street closure, with possible changes to include a longer timeframe for the evening of the event but fewer event dates. The Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting is tomorrow. M. Bradford plans to meet with his committee in January to evaluate the holiday events and plan for the upcoming seasons.

Farmers Market Manager's Report - The Yule Market has 20 vendors. There will be fire pits, smores, coco, the Oscillation Display, and fire dancers.

Public Comment: Ryan from 906 and Co. spoke about the Ladies Night date change. He felt the later date was too close to Black Friday and too far from opening day of hunting season. He mentioned how large turnouts at events help businesses stay open for winter. He had questions and concerns about a potential public art space on the Delft Building.

Erica Smith, owner of Re-Wild and Seiche on Third St. said she seconded the date conflicts with Ladies Day Out and added that it conflicted with other big markets at the same time in Appleton, WI. She also had concerns about parking on Third St.

Board Member Comment: A. Clark thanked the public for showing up and giving their perspective. She said the business development committee is considering the needs of Third St. vs. the core downtown concerning events and parking. R. Caron had no comment. M. Weinrick also thanked the public for coming to voice their concerns. C. Durley thanked the public for their comments. C. Klecha thanked the public for participating and the staff for their work. R. Stern commented about parking on Third St. and how it is not a one size fits all method. He thanked T. Laase-McKinney for the presentation which he felt was a good reminder of all the things the DDA has accomplished throughout the year.

C. Klecha made a motion to adjourn, C. Durley seconded; motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jodi Lanciani, Operations Director