

**CITY OF IRON RIVER
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 19, 2018
12:15 P.M.**

Chairman Tarsi called the meeting to order at 12:22 P.M.

Roll Call: Glen Waarvik, Mark Saigh, Ed Lindwall, Roger Zanon and Tarsi.
Absent: Jim Duda and Adam Holroyd.
Also Present: City Manager David Thayer and City Clerk Rachel Andreski.

Public in Attendance: Robert Rafferty (TRICO).

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Saigh moved, with support from Zanon, to approve the agenda as presented. All in favor;
Motion carried. Absent: Duda and Holroyd.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Zanon moved, Lindwall seconded, to approve the following minutes as written:

- (a) February 19, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes

All in favor; Motion carried. Absent: Duda and Holroyd.

REPORTS:

- (a) City Manager: Thayer asked the group for their opinion on short term rentals (such as a bed and breakfast) in neighborhoods. The new hot topic is downtown businesses are being purchased and renovated using the lower level as office space and using the upstairs as a bed and breakfast. Saigh said he can understand and supports the downtown concept as you want people to spend in your downtown. Zanon asked if there is grant funding available to these groups to help with renovations. Thayer stated they are funding the projects themselves as it's a private entity. Zanon stated if it will help revitalize Iron River, why not? Lindwall stated he agrees with allowing them and as for residential, approval on a case by case basis.

Tarsi asked at the end of the fiscal year are monies not spent in the DDA stay there like a check book? Thayer stated that on June 30th, the remaining funds are rolled over into the fund balance for the new fiscal year.

Tarsi stated at one time, there were discussions about purchasing and installing new welcome signs and if this was still being considered. Thayer stated if that's what the group wants, absolutely. Tarsi feels the money should be used to better our City, rather than sit in an account. Lindwall stated at the Special Meeting, they discussed the incubator concept and questioned if our DDA was able to participate. Thayer stated yes, it could be used to fill these vacant storefronts. He said a background check could be performed, review their business plan and move forward.

Robert Rafferty stated there's a possibility of utilizing TRICO to perform manual labor like sweeping sidewalks or hiring Beck's to perform the spraying to kill weeds. Tarsi asked if there was a firm we could hire to plant and maintain flowers on M-189 in front of Thrivent. Thayer reported he was approached by a group of master gardeners that are interested in a project. He will make contact and report back.

- (b) Façade Committee: Thayer stated he's expecting applications from Dabeck's Eatery, Main Street Café and The Laughing Loon. April 6th the Façade Committee will meet to perform their preliminary review. Tarsi asked if Orv Sieger is going to do anything at his building on Genesee Street that would qualify for the grant. Thayer said as of now, he's focusing on the interior of the building preparing for tenants.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

DDA Financial Report – February 2018: Thayer reported there's nothing new to report and the DDA is in sound financial condition. Zanon moved to approve the February, 2018 Financial Report. Saigh seconded.

Roll Call: Ayes-5: Waarvik, Lindwall, Saigh, Zanon and Tarsi. Nays: 0. Motion carried. Absent-2: Duda and Holroyd.

OLD BUSINESS

Capital Plan for 2018 (Continuation of March 8th Special Meeting): Thayer stated he wanted to add to the Agenda prior to approval of it, the UP Rodeo, Inc. sponsorship. Thayer recommends \$2,500. The City also matches. Tarsi would like to see more activity during the week prior to the events. Thayer stated he will invite a representative from the Rodeo for next meeting, along with a copy of last year's financials.

Thayer touched on the incubator concept and feels the DDA should put together an outline or framework for new businesses. Thayer stated there's a need for dry cleaning, shoe repair and a jewelry shop which also can perform repairs. There's existing buildings with the equipment already in them.

Thayer would like to do something with the Coast to Coast lot as there is a potential grand available for 75-80% of the cost to build a pocket park for a crowd gathering place. Thayer likes the idea of a pocket park, but would like to reach out to an architect/designer for new ideas. Waarvik asked if he has spoken with WUPPDR as they also have funds for the creation of pocket parks. Thayer said he could potentially get funding from WUPPDR, however, he feels they get their funding from the same program he's speaking of.

Tarsi asked how Thayer feels about the possibility of renting the space utilizing it for a food truck. Thayer stated if it's just for a season, a fee would need to be instilled to take away the unfair advantage of taxes that owners of buildings pay.

Saigh would like Thayer to start working on an outline/framework for the incubator program. The group agreed.

Waarvik would like to see a plan, direction or theme on what we are looking for in the City such as type of business and why. What is going to be the vibe or theme that we want Genesee Street to be. For example, during the Rodeo, have a bbq cook-off. Other ideas are a tech town or sportsman's theme. Waarvik also feels funds should be set aside to use as public outreach such as mini business after hours.

Tarsi asked for an update on the Nelson building. Thayer stated he sent a letter, however, no updates to report. At this point, Thayer will wait a little longer, however, if negotiations fail, then will have to go the legal route.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rafferty stated as part of the Cool Cities program, a plan had to be in place and thought maybe Waarvik would like to review it. Waarvik stated he has the plan.

Thayer stated we received the critique for the RRC plan and it is being reviewed currently. Previous plans and studies could assist with its implementation.

DDA Member Comments:

Adjournment:

Zanon moved, with support from Lindwall, to adjourn at 1:28 p.m. All were in favor; Motion carried. Absent: Duda and Holroyd.


Rachel Andreski, City Clerk