



**Marquette Downtown Development Authority
Meeting Minutes for February 8, 2024**

Call to Order

A meeting of the Marquette Downtown Development Authority (MDDA) Board of Directors was held on Thursday February 8, 2024, at the Marquette Commons. The meeting was called to order by Board President N. Durley-Rust at 8:03 a.m. with Directors M. Morrison, R. Caron, L. Rowland, K. Kovacs, and M. Weinrick, R. Stern, P. Sala., A. Clark. Absent: L. Rowland.

P. Sala made a motion to approve L. Rowland absence. K. Kovacs seconded; motion passed.

Others in attendance were Sean Hobbins-Marquette Assistant City Manager, Tara Laase-McKinney-DDA Executive Director, Michael Bradford-DDA Business Outreach & Promotions Director, Jodi Lanciani-DDA Operations Director.

R. Stern made a motion to approve the agenda. M. Weinrick seconded; motion passed.

Public Comment

Tara read emails from Elizabeth Jane Bates and Demitri Kaltsas as summarized below.

Elizabeth Bates would like there to be a \$30 parking sticker available for residents to purchase rather than using the parking pay stations or parking app. She suggested having the DDA phone number on the parking pay stations. She suggested the DDA charge for parking on the weekends and have free weekdays, which she believes will benefit residents.

Demitri Kaltsas voiced his opinion that providing free parking coupons encourages car dependency, and he suggests increasing parking rates, which he believes would help promote other modes of transportation. He also suggested a later time for board meetings, which he believes would allow for greater public participation.

Consent Agenda

K. Kovacs made a motion to approve the consent agenda with the minutes from 1/11/24, bills for approval 1/1/2024-1/31/2024, and financial reports as of 1/31/2024 with corrected spelling error for P. Sala. A. Clark seconded; motion passed.

American Welding & Gas Inc	\$	39.52	Marquette Fourth of July Committee	\$	2,500.00
Aramark	\$	255.58	Marquette Maple Company	\$	5.00
Baraga Telephone Company	\$	6.18	Marquette Wallpaper & Paint	\$	24.71
Blue Cross Blue Shield	\$	(32.48)	Midway Rentals	\$	318.96
Board of Light & Power	\$	2,558.35	Mining Journal	\$	84.00

Brown Equipment Company	\$	6,784.44	Mission North, LLC	\$	3,932.50
C. Pesola LLC	\$	1,850.00	North Country Disposal	\$	455.00
Capital One Commercial	\$	611.92	OK Rental	\$	190.40
Card Connect	\$	16.61	Peninsula Fiber Network LLC	\$	343.06
Carquest	\$	157.41	Pitney Bowes	\$	143.91
Charter Communications	\$	79.98	Range Telecommunication	\$	234.00
Chesla & Associates PC	\$	140.00	Seeds and Spores Family Farm	\$	15.00
City of Marquette	\$	28,798.28	SEMCO	\$	374.47
Cook Sign Service	\$	223.17	Staples	\$	87.98
Crushing Mechanics	\$	26,495.00	T2 Systems Canada Inc.	\$	3,800.00
Curran & Company	\$	662.49	TK Elevator	\$	10,478.59
Dalco	\$	103.98	Traffic & Safety Control Systems Inc	\$	8,365.00
Enright Excavating	\$	7,857.15	UP200	\$	2,000.00
Farmspread	\$	462.00	VSP Insurance Co.	\$	162.35
Heartland Services	\$	1,243.00	Western Michigan Health Insurance Pool	\$	4,146.41
Jesse Wright	\$	1,963.75	WLUC	\$	7,299.96
Lake Superior Community Partnership	\$	360.00	Xerox Corporation	\$	203.01
Lowe's	\$	32.85	Payroll & Benefits	\$	44,582.44
Marquette Embroidery & Lettering	\$	34.25	Total	\$	170,450.18

New Business

1. Angry Brear Event Support

P. Sala motioned to approve the event support request contingent upon letters of support from surrounding businesses. M. Weinrick seconded; motion passed.

2. Festival of the Sled Dog Special Event Support

M. Morrison motioned to approve Marquette DDA staff to add trash cans to the Festival of the Sled Dog event area and approve the expansion of the Downtown Marquette Social District to include the City of Marquette Right of Way Permitted area closed to traffic from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday, February 16 with street closures beginning at 7:00 a.m. Additional side streets to be closed include 3rd St. to Bluff St. R. Stern seconded; motion passed.

3. Bluff Ramp Repair Quotes

P. Sala motioned to accept the quote from RAM Construction with option 1 and the miscellaneous concrete patching, with additional request to add Bluff St. ramp to Parking Committee discussion and J. Lanciani will ask RAM to provide a preventative maintenance estimate for potential Bluff St. ramp repairs R. Stern seconded; motion passed.

Committee Reports

TIF Committee

The DDA TIF Plan will be up for discussion at the March 11th City Commission Meeting. Tara will send the Board a calendar invite and key messages as stated in the updated TIF plan. Correction from last meeting, the DDA will request the Marquette City Commission to waive the Citizens Council requirement at the March meeting.

Farmer's Market

T. Laase-McKinney provided an update about the process of hiring a new Farmer's Market Director.

Business Development and Promotions Committee

M. Bradford provided an update about Art Week, Blueberry Fest, and Music on Third and has been working with Travel Marquette to gather visitor profile data. Planning for the Winter Light Festival in December 2024 is underway.

Director's Report:

T. Laase-McKinney provided an update regarding her response to public comments about parking. The DDA phone number will be posted on pay stations.

Public Comment:

Sloan Dorr, owner Dead River Coffee Roasters at 119 W. Baraga Ave. Customers have shifted to go to businesses on Third St. because of parking and offered her support to help with communication.

Darlene Allen, LWV asked if public notice for TIF will be posted in the newspaper and Tara stated it will be in the Mining Journal. She suggested posting the TIF plan on the DDA website.

Board Member Comment:

Ryan commented on the quality of snowplowing on the Bluff St. ramp and the issue of vehicles parked for an extended period of time. Strips of sandpaper are worn off on stairs and suggested replacement. Nicole will save her comments about parking for the Committee meeting.

Patricia, Karen, and Alison appreciated community feedback and public comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:41 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Meagen Morrison

Meagen Morrison, Secretary






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Final Audit Report

2024-03-18

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