

MAIN STREET DDA MEETING – DECEMBER 1, 2020

The meeting was called to order via Zoom at 6:01pm

Roll Call:

Present: Costin, Crongeyer, Eckhart, Herceg, Hillesheim, Mallory, Stempky

Absent: Khan-King, Lindeman, Tebo, Weir

Consent Agenda:

Motion by Stempky, seconded by Costin to approve the consent agenda. Motion passed unanimously

New Business

- a. Discussion and consideration of allocating up to \$1,000 for Façade Design Drawings to Jane Cutter for 232 N Main St.

Motion by Costin, seconded by Herceg, to approve Jane Cutter for a \$1,000 Façade Grant for 232 N Main St. Motion passed unanimously

- b. Discussion of Coming Soon signage

Much discussion was had about providing 24"x36" signage for buildings being remodeled and businesses coming soon to downtown Cheboygan. The signs will reduce rumors surrounding what is happening to buildings downtown and build excitement about new investments. These signs will be designed and provided by the Main Street DDA as way to welcome investors to our community. City Manager Eustice noted that there is no ordinance as far as window signage in the City of Cheboygan. Size limitations for window signage is not regulated.

Motion by Mallory, seconded by Costin, to allocate \$500 for this fiscal year to Coming Soon signage. Motion passed unanimously

- C. Discussion of Main Street DDA monthly workshops

Much discussion was had surrounding holding monthly or as needed Main Street DDA workshops. Board members liked the idea of workshops as a way to increase discussion and brainstorm as well as education opportunities. A workshop will be scheduled for December.

Treasurer's Report

Crongeyer directed everyone to the monthly budget reports provided by Clerk/Treasurer Bridget Brown. Revenues of \$240 came from Light Up Local tree sponsorships.

Committee Reports

- a. Outreach Committee – Bobie Crongeyer

- Due to COVID-19 and Thanksgiving there was not an Outreach Committee meeting held in November. Committee members have been communicating through email regarding projects they are researching including a Main Street DDA website.

- b. Placemaking Committee – Christy Stempky

- The Placemaking Committee met on November 9th at 6pm. The downtown clean up sub committee met prior to the Placemaking Committee meeting.
- The keep America beautiful grant opportunity to receive 10 recycling bins is being monitored by Ashley Bur.
- No new design bids had been received for hanging baskets downtown

- Garland and lights have been added to the “corner” lamp posts along Main St. 30 trees have been donated for Light Up Local. These trees have each been sponsored for \$40 and creatively decorated by local businesses, families, and organizations. 20 trees are along Main Street and 10 are at Festival Square. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped set up the trees and get this project up and running!
- Research continues on history and heritage signs
- Research continues on grants available for safe routes in our community
- Restroom signage has been spray painted on sidewalks downtown directing people to the public restrooms
- Landscaping requests for proposals have been mailed out. Irrigation options for green spaces will need to be researched.
- Rain gardens, flowers on the pedestrian bridge, and cigarette butt recycling, updated downtown maps are a few of the projects being proposed for 2021
- The next Placemaking Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday December 14th at 6pm
- Thank you to City Manager Eustice for ordering signage for the Festival Square crosswalks after receiving approval from MDOT
- c. Events Committee – Brandon Weir
 - Interim Director Duczkowski noted that the Events Committee did not meet in November but Brandon Weir has been communicating with folks interested in that committee.
 - Costin noted that he is interested in the Events Committee and hopes Ladies Night and Hospitality Night will continue in the future
- d. Business Development Committee – John Costin
 - Due to COVID-19 the Business Roundtable scheduled for November was postponed
- e. TIF Renewal Committee – Dennis Lindeman
 - Eckhart noted that the TIF Committee did meet in November and has a December meeting scheduled

City Council Report – Councilman Mallory

- Councilman Mallory reported on the new Mayor, City Council members, and Mayor Pro Tem Johnston
- The Police contract was passed
- The Coast Guard City application has been submitted
- Hope Network was not approved for funding. They will be able to apply again in April
- Applications for the City Manager position are being reviewed by the organizational committee
- Mayor Tebo sent a letter to Meijer to introduce himself and see what can be done to keep that project moving forward
- Costin asked for clarification on the submission of the Coast Guard City application

- City Manager Eustice responded that Cast Guard City application was originally submitted in February. Review of applications was scheduled to happen in July but delayed due to COVID-19. An email was received in August that applications would be reviewed in November. Our hope is that will know by mid-January if Cheboygan has been selected.

City Manager's Report

- City Manager Eustice thanked Councilman Mallory for his City Council report
- City Manager Eustice reported that there has been some vandalism on the pedestrian footbridge. Several windows were broken. Most of the damage will be covered by insurance but there is a \$500 deductible. There is a camera system on the footbridge but the cameras are often tampered with and there is no footage of the recent vandalism. The City is working to have new cameras installed that can not be tampered with. The City is also working with a company out of Traverse City to seal the elevators. Due to the high water table there is water in the elevator pits and they can not operate. This is a common issue throughout the state. A quote has not yet been received. Hopefully sealing the elevators will be the correct solution and can take place in the spring.
- City Manager Eustice reported on the Cheboygan Estates project. They hope to get 16 homes in next year. There are three homes on order and scheduled for delivery in the spring of 2021. The overall plan is to build 150 single family homes.
- City Manager Eustice reported that The Woods, medical marijuana and recreational marijuana provisioning center, located at the corner of Coast Guard Dr and State St is opening Thursday December 3rd.
- City Manager Eustice reported that there have been multiple issues with the Wi-Fi blanket downtown. The service has been up and down over the summer and Air North / Spectrum are now saying that the system has been compromised and the Wi-Fi is being misused. Air North reported that they buy the internet service from Spectrum and then charge the Main Street DDA for the Wi-Fi blanket and are losing money on that product. Air North wants to increase the monthly charge to \$310 / month. Conversation needs to be had to determine how to proceed.
- City Manager Eustice reported that Great Lakes Tissue is now back to work.
- City Manager Eustice reported that the recreation center is being reroofed.
- City Manager Eustice reported that the Ice Rink Pavilion is closed. This is very unfortunate because selling ice time is a major revenue source for the City and a big hit to the general fund. The ice is being maintained in hopes that it can be used after the first of the year.

Public Comments

- Connie Rieger congratulated the Main Street DDA on their great work, planning, and discussions.
- Kristin Antkoviak commented on the Coming Soon window signage. Change is coming is very powerful. Think about the experience for those who are driving and those who are walking.
- Kristin Antkoviak commented that she is attracted to the Main Street DDA because of the citizens. Their desire for change and their heart.
- Kristin Antkoviak asked what future plans are for the Main Street DDA.
- Pat Gildner noted that Kristin Antkoviak is listening in from Arizona. Pretty cool that the Main Street DDA meetings are traveling that far.
- Pat Gildner commented that she likes the Coming Soon signage.

- Pat Gildner commented that workshop meetings are excellent for discussion. She requested committee members be involved.
- Pat Gildner asked if there are any current design plans being worked on for the front of Festival Square.

Board Member Comments

Costin – good discussion tonight

Crongeyer – no comments

Eckhart – no comments

Herceg – The Chamber of Commerce Parade of Lights has been cancelled due to COVID-19. The Chamber office is currently closed to the public. Staff is rotating and can best be reached by email. The Chamber Board has a planning meeting scheduled. The county EDC broadband survey is being circulated. Please complete this very important survey.

Hillesheim – good meeting tonight

Mallory – no comments

Stempky – thank you to everyone for the conversation and feedback

Adjournment

Motion by Hillesheim, seconded by Mallory to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 7:47pm

Chairperson Emily Eckhart