

Cheboygan Main Street DDA Regular Meeting – September 7, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 6:01pm by chairperson Eric Villanueva.

Roll Call

Present: Costin, Crongeyer, Mallory, Schneider, Stempky, Villanueva -

Absent: Khan-King, Weir, Tebo, Eckhart

Consent Agenda

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

New Business

- a. History of Hometown Heroes Presentation – Abby Cherry

Ms. Cherry explained the History of Hometown Heroes banner program. This program honors and commemorates the service and sacrifices of local Armed Forces Veterans by displaying custom designed banners for each individual veteran on a city lamppost. With each banner purchased HHH will donate a percentage to a local Veteran organization and the Main Street program.

Motion by Stempky, seconded by Costin, to recommend the History of Hometown Heroes banner program to City Council. Motion passed unanimously.

- b. Consideration to proceed with Stan's Electric proposal in the amount of \$26,944.25 to complete an LED street lighting update.

Motion by Stempky, seconded by Schneider, to proceed with Stan's Electric proposal in the amount of \$26,944.25 to complete an LED street lighting update. Motion passed unanimously.

- c. Discussion of Beautification Specialist job

- City Manager Sabolsky noted the possibility of hiring an additional full time Parks & Recreation employee. Wages would be split between the Main Street DDA and Parks & Recreation department and the employee would spend half their time focusing on projects within the DDA district.

- d. Consideration to purchase a plaque in the amount of \$52.00 to identify the new art installation "Urn-E" in Washington Park.

Motion by Schneider, seconded by Stempky, to purchase a plaque in the amount of \$52.00 to identify the new art installation "Urn-E" in Washington Park. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Bobie Crongeyer

Crongeyer referenced monthly financial reports provided by Clerk/Treasurer Bridget Brown and noted account balances.

Stempky asked about the invoice for waterproofing of the footbridge elevators.

City Manager Sabolsky commented the check was held until the second round of waterproofing was completed.

There was discussion about the possibility of replacing the elevators with ramps.

Committee Updates

Outreach Committee – Bobie Crongeyer

Crongeyer reported that a first draft of the holiday catalog has been reviewed.

Crongeyer reported that merchandise sales continue to go well.

Crongeyer reported the Main Street website has been updated with fall images and information.

Placemaking Committee – Christy Stempky

Stempky reported that the Design Guidelines were being reviewed to add some more information about historic preservation.

Stempky reported that “sun” planters will be changed out with fall décor while the “shade” planters under Festival Square will remain out as long as weather allows.

Stempky reported the Scarecrow Stroll will take place October 1-31.

Stempky reported that the multicolored hanging baskets were a successful addition to the traditional pink baskets.

Stempky reported on the festoon lights that have been installed at Festival Square.

Stempky reported that fresh greenery will be added to lampposts and the entrance to Festival Square this year as holiday décor.

Stempky reported the possibility to increase the number of trees available for Light Up Local this year.

Stempky reported working with a local landscaper to plan pruning and amending of the soil for Main Street trees.

Stempky reported that research for updates to the Water Street bathrooms will be completed this fall so work is ready to being in the spring.

Stempky reported that the new recycling bins have arrived. We are still waiting on the results of the Keep America Beautiful grant.

Costin commented that he would like to see a theme for the Light Up Local trees.

Schneider commented that participation might not be as strong if full creativity is not allowed.

Events Committee – Brandon Weir

Duczkowski reported that nearly 300 people participated in the Labor Day State Street Bridge Walk. A huge thank you to all of the sponsors and volunteers, especially Mary Darling, who took the lead on this event.

Duczkowski reported that there are two Downtown Thursday Nights Live concerts remaining. Future events include Ladies Night Out, Hospitality Night, and the Holiday Parade of Lights.

Business Development Committee – Polly Schneider

Schneider reported the committee is conducting a business survey to collect baseline information including if the building is owned or rented, number of employees, etc.

TIF Renewal Committee – Katie Duczkowski / Bobie Crongeyer

Duczowski reported that the DACC provided feedback on the first draft of the updated DDA and TIF plan. Feedback was also provided by Main Street DDA board members. All of this information was then combined and sent to the McKenna team. There are still some issues with determining the correct dollar amounts for future TIF projections. Once this issue is resolved a second draft will be released for review.

City Council Report

Mayor Pro Tem Mallory reported that a Brownfield plan for 225 N Main St was approved at the August 10, 2021 City Council meeting along with the liquor license which had been recommended by the Main Street DDA board.

Mayor Pro Tem Mallory reported that Community Development Block grants for 222 and 223 N Main St have been closed.

Mayor Pro Tem Mallory reported that summer blight enforcement intern cited 70 violations.

Mayor Pro Tem Mallory reported that a public hearing for consideration to vacate a portion of Antoine Street has been set.

Mayor Pro Tem Mallory reported that City Council approved forming a Coast Guard Connection Committee.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Sabolsky reported on several items including the hiring of Casey Clear as an executive assistant, the hiring of a CEDAM Fellow, city owned land near the marina, a potential pocket park, Brownfield and CDBG grants, wastewater treatment plant updates, water projects, housing projects, Inverness Township, the industrial park, and marijuana grow facilities.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Board Member Comments

- John Costin commented that downtown was exceptionally busy on Saturday September 4th and sales records were broken.

Adjournment

Motion by Mallory, seconded by Schneider, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 7:53pm.

Chairperson Eric Villanueva