

Cheboygan Main Street DDDA
MINUTES
Monthly Board Meeting Tuesday, January 21, 2025
6:00pm, City Hall, Council Chambers

1. **Call to Order by Chair Ashley Myers at 6:00pm**
2. **Roll Call**
Present: Costin, Crongeyer, Dodd, Eckhart, Myers, Paull, Schneider, Stempky, Yeck
Absent: Villanueva, Mallory
3. **Public Comment on agenda items ONLY (3minutes per participant)**
4. **Consent Agenda: Motion to approve consent agenda by Costin, Second by Dodd. All in favor, motion carries.**
 - a. Minutes
 - b. Director's Report
 - c. Committee Minutes
 - d. Main Street Monthly Report
5. **Treasurer's Report – Crongeyer**
Beginning balance: \$461,704.93
Revenues: \$9,060.00
Expenses: \$16,252.81
New Ending Balance: \$468,897.74

Mallory showed up at 6:02pm

6. **Committee Updates**
 - a. **Outreach Committee – Crongeyer**
No updates.
 - b. **Placemaking Committee – Schneider**
The Festival Square collaborative mural project is up and running. A majority of the artists have picked up the packets. Polly has instructed them to bring them back ASAP. However, they must be back by March 14th so that they can be sent out for printing on the waterproof panels. Right now there are 20 artists and there are another 2 in line.
 - c. **Events Committee – Dodd**
No updates.
 - d. **Business Development Committee – Chris**

Chris asks to check your emails. There is a meeting coming up soon. Their first meeting was in the fall where they identified some of the tasks they wanted to tackle. Their top 2 being on collecting an inventory of spaces as well as filling the empty spaces. Those are the two biggest tasks and they will be needing some help.

Costin says that he attended an economic vitality meeting and mentioned that they talked about that exact goal. There is an app that can help with inventory etc.

Ashley says that there are more zoom meetings called the Mainstreet 101. These consist of 1 hour calls each month that talk about one of the four points. There will be one tomorrow on promotion and another one on Thursday for design as well as organization on Friday. We will talk more about that later in the meeting. Everyone can have access to these links so that any time you are interested in attending you can just click on it. It will also be reordered.

e. Coast Guard Connections Committee – Yeck

We helped facilitate The Christmas party and they received their ornaments that they received from the committee as a gift. They seemed to enjoy those. There was also a community skate that was scheduled but had to be canceled because the Coast Guard got called out. They should be back by now or right around this time. Their next project is for March Women’s History Month. They would like to facilitate something towards school children.

f. Farmers Market Committee – Schneider

Nothing new but a new organization haws scholarships for people to become Market Masters. Travis is very interested but he couldn’t do the most recent training because he was working a show at the Opera House. The Market Master class happens once a year. He is very interested.

7. Reports

a. City Manager Report – Daniel Sabolsky

There has been more progress on The Master Plan although not as fast as he would like. The final may be pushed to February. The city did go from having a part time contracted assessor to a full time employee working for the city. This will help us be able to get our assessment an everything else set up to order. We have had a property maintenance code since 2000 and something. There has probably been ten new additions produced so we are going to update ours so that we can continue with our enforcement and uphold code violations like we have been doing for about a year and a half now.

One bad thing is that our code enforcement officer Roy Hartman has re-retired, so we will be looking for another code enforcement officer with that. It is a

priority of the council so we have to get someone in there and start back up in the spring.

The Maritime grant we got with US Ventures for an additional oil tank at the mouth of the river- the \$500,000 grant we signed most of the paperwork for that so they should be starting sometime in the spring.

The new council members are doing fantastic. They are very eager to learn and eager to get quite a few things done. He is excited to have them on board.

He started the budget for the capital budgeting process. We have to have the first draft of that done in April. The final draft is then approved in late June. We are also exploring the option of hiring a community development/ economic development planner position. If we can get that that will allow us to undertake some other projects that have been on his shoulders because he is the planner. He is the community development person. So we are probably going to do that in order to move some projects along.

There is an RFP out for request for proposals for the Bodman Building. We did get that back about 6 months ago and we have to find a use for it. Right now the city doesn't have a use for it and it is draining resources and we are not very good at up keeping what we have. Adding a beautiful building and probably letting it deteriorate somewhat concerns him. So, he thinks it is better in the hands of somebody else at this point.

The million dollars that we borrowed for new equipment. All the equipment is here. The tele-loader rocks. Christmas decorations went twice as fast. The new front- end loader has been out on the street. The crew appreciated Council's action on that.

Costin asked for an update on the sufficient parking for the business downtown that we touched on during the last meeting. Dan answered that they are going to allow everything to go through. However, a long term solution does need to be found. They are looking at options from other cities. They will have to mix options and see what works best for us.

b. City Council Report – Hayley Dodd

They updated the zoning planning development fee. Some updated prices. They may have filled the vacant police officer position which is good news. If he passes his physical and psych exam he should be able to start mid-February.

c. Director's Report – Polly Schneider, Executive Director

She has been working on putting together tonight's material. Mapping out how the new committees will look. All the December events have been wrapped up

and this month we have been hyper focused on 2025. The new impact report was picked up today. There are additional copies at the table. If anyone else is interested there will be a digital copy on the website. It will also be on Facebook.

8. New Business

a) Vibrancy Microgrant Application from Wild Hearts Yoga

Consideration to approve Vibrancy Microgrant Application from Wild Hearts Yoga in the amount of \$140. Motion by Costin. Second by Dodd. All in favor, motion carries

9. Old Business

a) Footbridge- Myers

There is not much we can do in the winter. We are still trying to get the gentleman back to look at interior and exterior coating. He is the man who originally looked at it. We contacted him prior to policy ending so are hopeful that there will be no charge.

b) Festival Square updates regarding proposal- Schneider

There are various bids coming in for all the different works. There are two complete bids for landscaping, irrigation, and concrete. We have another for irrigation alone as well as concrete alone. Pay special attention to the February packet to look through all of the bids.

Costin asked exactly what we are doing. Polly responded that we are adding some irrigation and landscaping to Festival Square. Irrigation is one of the main things as well as removing the tree in front and implement a path. This will create a proper entrance off Mainstreet. We hope it will be done by Memorial Day weekend.

c) Michigan Mainstreet Technical Services- Fund Development Plan (Main 5 Communication Plan – Consultant). - Schneider

We are in the process of waiting for them to tell us. We have 8 webinars/zooms. The Mainstreet team recommends that there is a committee of 4-5 people that will commit to going through that process. Organization committee would be a good option. This will deal with budgeting and fundraising. Polly would like at least 2 board members at these meetings- the rest can be volunteers.

Polly said that we debated between Communication and Fund Development. We are going to contract with Ben Muldrow for Main Five Communication plan. Lee from Mainstreet is also working to coordinate with Ben. We will get a cost on that.

d) Main Street Accreditation Follow-up Summary- Schneider

We did not get accredited because we have no Work Plans. That is something that we need to begin. From now on if there is not a work plan- the event will not happen. We will not even bring it up for budgeting. Work Plans will be the basis for everything that needs to be done. Not difficult to do- but the basis of everything we

need to do. They will help with fundraising, planning, and accountability. We will be implementing them moving forward. Should not have problem getting accredited next year. We are affiliated instead of accredited.

Ashley says that two board members need to be on every new committee. We have to make sure there are work plans and that it does not all fall on Polly. We all have to work together to take responsibility and move forward. Polly can help but she should not be the only person and us not learning how to do them.

10. Public Comments

- a) Roger K says he was happy to hear about the mural. He says it is going to be so cool and that Rogers City had something similar. He believes it will attract a lot of people here. He is also excited about the Festival Square project.
- b) Pat Gilder says that it is nice to have collaboration between Art Vision and Mainstreet. Nice to work on this together and to be included.
- c) Shary Nelson says that she will be talking to us at the next meeting about when we would like to write a column for The Weekly Choice. We have a wonderful opportunity they give us every week that we can use for positivity each week. We want to keep that going.
- d) Army Recruiters Cavanaugh and Bell would like to give back to the community. Let them know if we have any opportunities for them to volunteer.

11. Request for Future Agenda Items – none

12. Board Member Comments

- a) Myers- She emailed everyone to ask to choose a group. Going through this new process she would like us to be more involved with the groups. She has granted a pardon to Mallory and Dodd. Between the rest of us there are two per committee. We don't need to be the chair or bass- just be as involved as possible. When we signed agreements this is part of what we agreed to stay involved and make sure we are being participating. After the meeting we are going to talk about each place and finalize those. If for some reason your committee chair cannot be at the meetings- they ask that we can talk about it.

13. Motion to adjourn meeting by Eckhart second by Costin