



October 27, 1994

DOWNTOWN IRONWOOD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

A regular meeting of the Downtown Ironwood Development Authority was held on the above date, 12:00 Noon, Towne House Motor Inn, Ironwood, Michigan.

1. Call to Order.

In the absence of Chairman Johnson and Vice Chairman Newman, member Bergquist called the meeting to order at 12:10 P.M.

2. Recording of the Roll.

PRESENT: Lamberg, Bergquist, Powell, Forslund, Isakson, Lorenson.
(Newman arrived at 12:12 P.M.)

EXCUSED: Johnson.

ABSENT: Murphy.

OTHERS

PRESENT: Community Development Director Will Andresen and Steve and Lori Lahti.

3. Consider approval of the September 22, 1994, regular meeting Minutes.

Motion by Lamberg, supported by Forslund. CARRIED. To approve the Minutes as presented.

The meeting was turned over to Vice Chairman Newman upon his arrival at 12:12 P.M.

4. Consider action on request from the Ironwood Chamber of Commerce and the Save Hiawatha Committee.

Although all agreed that the Save Hiawatha project was a worthy one, it was explained that the request was not in the realm of the DIDA 2 mil tax levy.

Motion by Lorenson, supported by Powell. CARRIED. That a letter of support for the Save Hiawatha Project and explanation as to why the DIDA is not able to contribute to same, be written to the Ironwood Chamber of Commerce and the Save Hiawatha Committee.

5. Update on the Following:

a. Former S&L Building

Mr. Andresen informed the Authority that he has requested the City Attorney to review the status of the ownership of the wall since the removal of the S&L Building.

Mr. Andresen presented a design developed by James Somerville for the proposed greenstrip on the site. It was the consensus of the Authority that the City Staff continue to look into obtaining ownership of the lot.

Motion by Bergquist, supported by Lamberg. CARRIED. To authorize Will Andresen to proceed with looking into obtaining ownership of the former S&L Building lot and that a thank you letter be sent to James Somerville for his work on the greenstrip design.

Two large holes in the S&L lot posing a serious problem was brought to Mr. Andresen's attention. He indicated that he would mention it to Code Enforcement Officer Joe Rioni.

b. TIF

Mr. Andresen noted that by the end of December, he will have a formal recommendation on the TIF District for the City Commission. He suggested a work-study meeting to review the options that are available. A private dining section will be requested for November's meeting to review the necessary maps, etc.

c. Billboard.

Mr. Andresen updated the Authority by noting that a billboard site has been found. However, after further review, the Committee has decided that buying a billboard would be more cost efficient than renting one. They will attempt to find a City-owned lot to place the billboard on. He has requested that if possible the City Engineer make available a 50' strip of property when Easy Street is extended. Another option would be an area by Curry Park for the site of the billboard.

Motion by Lamberg, supported by Bergquist. CARRIED. To authorize Will Andresen to proceed with the design work for the billboard (not to exceed \$100), to present and obtain approval for the billboard and site from the City Commission and to look into fund raising for cost of the billboard.

d. Recruitment Committee

Mr. Andresen noted that the Recruitment Committee met on October 26th at which time their purpose, goals and approach were established. Lamberg complimented the Committee on developing a workable plan.

Mr. Andresen indicated that he will be requesting approval soon for preparation of the portfolio to give to interested parties.

6. Update on subsidized loan program.

Member Newman checked with D&N Bank representative Cindy Rosen. She noted that the bank is more than interested in participating with commercial type of lending. She also noted that she would be willing to come to a DIDA meeting to discuss same. Johnson and Lamberg to give update on First of America and MFC First National at a later date.

7. Consider resolution establishing signature designees on the DIDA Operating Account.

Motion by Lorenson, supported by Forslund. CARRIED. To authorize Bergquist, Lamberg and Andresen as designees.

8. Other Business.

Mr. Andresen noted that although it is important to recruit new businesses in the downtown, it is as equally important to retain existing businesses. Therefore, a letter was drafted to Pamida, Inc., Real Estate Division, offering DIDA assistance regarding their long term planning needs. Mr. Andresen requested authorization for himself and the Mayor to sign the letter on behalf of the DIDA.

Motion by Lamberg, supported by Lorenson. CARRIED. That Will Andresen and Mayor Lorenson be authorized to sign a letter to Pamida, Inc. on behalf of the Downtown Ironwood Development Authority offering assistance in their planning needs.

Mr. Andresen informed the members that Code Enforcement Officer Joe Rigoni noted that the Iron Inn (blight concern) has new ownership and that they are willing to comply with City Ordinance to correct the blight situation.

It was the consensus of the DIDA that a series of articles on DIDA goals/projects should be written educating citizens, especially the ones in the C-2 District. If they understand the goals of the DIDA, they would be more willing to accept a 2 mil levy increase when the TIF district is expanded.

Steve and Lori Lahti were present and noted that they were notified that their dumpster needs to be fenced in to be in compliance with City Ordinance. Mr. Lahti questioned why he was being singled out when there are a lot of old structures that look a lot worse than his dumpster. It was noted that Code Enforcement Officer Rigoni must have received a complaint on the dumpster and followed proper procedure. Mayor Lorenson explained that the City is attempting to find an "in" through fire inspections handled through the Public Safety Department to help the effort of the blight problem.

October 27, 1994

Bergquist informed the DIDA of a problem with skateboarders and roller bladders in the downtown. It is something that will need to be addressed in the Spring. Mayor Lorenson indicated that citizens need to report a problem and be willing to sign a complaint for the solution to such concerns to be effective.

9. Adjournment.

Motion by Bergquist, supported by Powell. CARRIED. That the meeting be adjourned at 1:00 P.M.



Jane Ziemann, Secretary