

January 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.

Chairperson Bergquist called the meeting to order at 12:03 P.M.

2. Recording of the Roll.

PRESENT: Butler, Forslund, Isakson, Kinnunen, Newman, and  
Chairperson Bergquist. (Lorenson arrived at 12:15).

EXCUSED: Johnson.

ABSENT: Murphy.

OTHERS

PRESENT: DIDA Staff Support/Chamber Director William Andresen.

3. Consider approval of December 16, 1993, meeting minutes.

Motion by Butler, supported by Kinnunen. CARRIED. To receive and place on file the December 16, 1993, minutes as presented.

4. Election of Officers: Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.

Chairperson Bergquist explained that due to health problems, she would be unable to continue as Chairperson.

Motion by Butler, supported by Forslund. CARRIED. To nominate Darryl Johnson for Chairperson.

Motion by Kinnunen, supported by Newman. CARRIED. To close nominations and cast a unanimous vote for Darryl Johnson for Chairperson.

Motion by Butler, supported by Kinnunen. CARRIED. To nominate Alan Newman for Vice Chairperson.

Motion by Forslund, supported by Kinnunen. CARRIED. To close nominations and cast a unanimous vote for Alan Newman for Vice Chairperson.

5. Update on Action Plan Committee.

Mr. Andresen explained that the Action Plan Committee has only met once to review the purpose of the DIDA, their vision statement, goals

and objectives, etc. He asked that they stay focused on the Main Street Approach and that they recommend only one or two projects for each category of concern (organization, promotion, design, and economic restructuring). The Committee will report back to the full Authority at a later date with their recommendations.

One of the topics discussed at the first meeting was parking. Mr. Andresen asked that Member Forslund bring the Authority up to date on what was discussed. Forslund noted the possibility of hiring a metermaid to chalk tires at 9:00 A.M. and to check back at 11:00 A.M. for people parking beyond a two hour limit. The fee for the parking violation would be \$5.00. The metermaid could have staggered hours so people would be unaware of what time the parking would be checked. Salary for the metermaid would be self sufficient through tickets or through City and DIDA funding.

Member Bergquist reminded the Authority why the meters were removed from the downtown area. It was felt that having regulated parking discouraged shoppers from coming into downtown Ironwood. She also believed that a two hour limit was not sufficient. Member Isakson noted that Ironwood is the exception to the rule, every other town has some form of regulated parking and that the maximum time limit as a rule is two hours.

Lorenson indicated that if parking ticket revenue was going to be used to support a metermaid, then the City will ticket. Because of the outcome of previous parking solution attempts, the City will not think about regulating parking unless the DIDA is 100% behind the idea. Lorenson noted that should the DIDA decide on hiring a metermaid, the possibility of utilizing Public Safety Cadets was suggested.

Member Newman left the meeting at 12:20 P.M.

It was determined that most violators of parking are employees of businesses in the downtown. When asked if those people could be ticketed, Lorenson noted that because the City of Ironwood does not have regulated parking in the downtown, the City cannot do selective ticketing. Lorenson reminded the Authority of City Code requirement that businesses supply parking for their employees/tenants. However, the Code has not been enforced over the years.

Andresen suggested the possibility of looking at incentives for employees/tenants not parking in front of businesses.

Motion by Butler, supported by Forslund. CARRIED. That the DIDA write a letter to put emphasis on business owners to encourage their employees/tenants not to park in front of businesses in the Downtown District.

6. Other Business.

Mr. Andresen asked that the Authority think about utilizing a combined "Newsletter" with the Chamber. The costs could then be split between the two organizations.

Mr. Andresen informed the DIDA of the Chamber of Commerce function called "Round Table" discussions - this could also be a dual effort between the Chamber and DIDA. The first discussion was held this week and the topic was US-2 Safety.

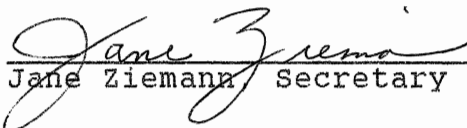
Mr. Andresen informed the DIDA that he is working on inventorying downtown vacant buildings.

Mr. Andresen informed the DIDA of the Chamber of Commerce Family Fun Day being held February 19th. He would like to see the DIDA get involved (promotional ideas, selling popcorn, volunteer work, etc.) especially because the function will be held in a two block area of the downtown. Activities for the Fun Day will be three categories of snow sculpturing (Schools, organizations, and residential) and races. He also noted that on February 12th representatives from Michigan Tech. will be in Ironwood to demonstrate snow sculpturing techniques. Member Kinnunen and Isakson will head a Committee to determine if the DIDA can put together a snow sculpture for the event.

Motion by Butler, supported by Kinnunen. CARRIED. To authorize a contribution of \$100 (prizes, etc.) to be used for the Chamber of Commerce "Family Fun Day".

7. Adjournment.

Motion by Kinnunen, supported by Forslund. CARRIED. That this meeting be adjourned at 12:50 P.M.

  
Jane Ziemann, Secretary