



March 31, 1994

DOWNTOWN IRONWOOD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

A rescheduled 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.

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order at 12:06 P.M.

2. Recording of the Roll.

PRESENT: Butler, Kinnunen, Bergquist, Lorenson and
Chairman Johnson.

EXCUSED: Murphy and Newman.

ABSENT: Forslund and Isakson.

OTHERS

PRESENT: DIDA Staff Support William Andresen.

3. Consider approval of January 27, 1994, meeting minutes.

Motion by Bergquist, supported by Butler. CARRIED. To receive and place on file the January 27, 1994, minutes as presented.

4. Update on Action Plan Committee.

A draft of the 1994 -1995 Action Plan for the DIDA was reviewed by the Authority. Chairman Johnson emphasized the need to get projects accomplished and not to continue to plan or do studies. One project that is very visible and easily accomplished is scheduling a clean-up day. Some suggestions noted were:

- Use of ROTC members for community projects (Member Lorenson to make contact for the clean-up project).
- Possible use of Camp Ojibwa personnel, however, there is now a fee for the use of the men.
- Requesting use of City equipment (dump truck, fire truck, etc.).
- Appoint "block" Captains in order to be more effective and efficient.
- Prepare a list (to be given to the block Captains) noting what supplies are needed, equipment available, etc.
- The importance of advertising in order to get everyone involved--business owners, organizations and the general public.
- City sweeper in not operational, other alternatives for removing the sand left from the winter season is needed. Due to the high cost of maintenance on a sweeper, other municipalities will not consider rental.

Motion by Bergquist, supported by Kinnunen. CARRIED. To schedule a downtown clean-up day for April 30, 1994 (alternate day May 7th) beginning at 10:00 A.M. until 1:00 P.M., block Captains to be appointed, and to advertise the project in order to receive maximum City and community support.

After this project has been completed, another item will be chosen from the 1994-95 Action Plan.

5. Discussion on the following:

a. Clean-up Day.

Scheduled for April 30th.

b. Graffiti.

Photographs were reviewed of the graffiti. It was noted by the Director of Public Safety that it involves gang-like activities (not from the Ironwood area), however, some area young people may be getting into the act. Discussion revolved around how to clean the graffiti from the brick surfaces. Mr. Andresen was authorized to contact companies selling cleaning products for recommendations on how to clean the surfaces. Comments on offering an award for information on graffiti activity was briefly discussed.

c. Round Table Discussions.

Mr. Andresen asked whether the DIDA would like to utilize the Chamber's "Round Table Discussions" as a vehicle for important issues of the DIDA. It was suggested by Lorenson that the DIDA discuss the safety concerns for downtown when loitering, cruising, etc., begins this summer. All thought this would be a very worth while topic.

d. News Letter.

Mr. Andresen explained the different price quotes should the DIDA decide to publish a news letter separately, jointly with the Chamber of Commerce (1/4 split), publishing cost alternatives, and how often the News Letter would be printed. It was the consensus of the DIDA that a separate News Letters is not practical, especially because the Director is a shared position.

Motion by Lorenson, supported by Bergquist. CARRIED. To authorize a 25% participation expense for a quarterly News Letter with the Ironwood Chamber of Commerce.

(Chairman Johnson abstained from voting.)

6. Other Business.

A letter written by Donald Fortune, President of MFC First National Bank to Edward Bailey, City Manager, was reviewed by the DIDA. The letter discussed the Bank gifting the property known as the Iron Inn to the DIDA or the City in return for a \$5,000 tax exempt receipt.

It was agreed that the building is of no use to the DIDA. The situation is a business problem for the Bank and would become a

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blight problem should the City or DIDA accept the gift. Demolition costs are too high and there would be no gain in land use. Mr. Andresen expressed his interest in viewing the building for any commercial feasibility. The Authority suggested that Mr. Andresen write a letter to Mr. Fortune requesting approval to investigate the property for possible commercial feasibility.

Member Lorensen updated the Authority on the results of the Joint City Commission/Planning Commission meeting involving the Municipal Memorial Building renovations. It was felt that support for renovation of the Memorial Building by millage increase would be accepted if increased utilization of the structure was shown. It was suggested that the Library Board consider the possibility of their resources being moved into the Memorial Building, along with the Historical Society utilizing portions of the building for their museum. The City of Ironwood will be scheduling a meeting with key officials and forming a Committee to look into this alternative. City Manager Bailey will be asking Mr. Andresen to spearhead the Committee.

Motion by Butler, supported by Kinnunen. CARRIED. That the Downtown Ironwood Development Authority go on record supporting increased utilization of the Municipal Memorial Building.

Member Bergquist informed the Authority that the general membership meeting of the Historical Society will be held at the Memorial Building on April 20th, to include a tour of the building.

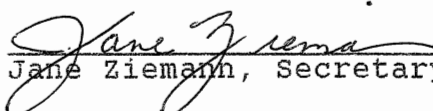
At the request of the DIDA, Mr. Andresen developed a letter to be distributed to occupants in the C-2 District regarding employee parking on downtown streets. It was the consensus of the Authority that the letter was very well written and that it be distributed as soon as possible.

Mr. Andresen informed the DIDA that the City Manager will be implementing new parking regulations for City owned parking lots prior to next winter in order to have better snow removal results.

Member Kinnunen submitted photos of the old S&L site which visibly shows the problem of blight since the structure was removed, as well as a real safety hazard involving the sidewalk. It was suggested that a letter be written to Code Enforcement Officer Joe Rigoni noting the DIDA's concern on this blight situation.

7. Adjournment.

Motion by Bergquist, supported by Kinnunen. CARRIED. That this meeting be adjourned at 1:05 P.M.


Jane Ziemann, Secretary