



April 28, 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.

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order at 12:08 P.M.

2. Recording of the Roll.

PRESENT: Forslund, Isakson, Kinnunen, Bergquist, Lorenson, and Johnson. Murphy arrived at 12:15 P.M.

EXCUSED: Newman and Butler.

OTHERS

PRESENT: DIDA Staff Support William Andresen.

3. Consider approval of the March 31, 1994 meeting Minutes.

Motion by Bergquist, supported by Forslund. CARRIED. To receive and place on file the March 31, 1994, minutes as presented.

4. Update on the annual "Clean-Up Day".

Mr. Andresen indicated that he has had good media cooperation on promoting the clean-up day, as well as excellent cooperation from the designated block captains. Flyers have been distributed promoting April 30th as "Downtown Ironwood Clean-Up Day" and all block captains have received an information sheet explaining their role. Mr. Andresen will be meeting with City personnel on Friday to coordinate equipment, trucks, men, etc. Pending good weather, its a go!

5. Update on the 1994-95 Action Plan.

Mr. Andresen explained that this item was brought back to the Authority for consideration in choosing another project to complete. Mayor Lorenson suggested setting a date for the Chamber's "Round Table Discussion" with the topic of safety and/or concerns in the Downtown (cruising, skateboarding, roller blading, loitering, graffiti, etc.). It was agreed that at the May 26th regular meeting that only a 15 minute business agenda will be held. It will be followed by the "Round Table Discussion" with the topic of Downtown safety. Mr. Andresen will contact the necessary people informing them of same.

Mr. Andresen briefly discussed signage and billboards for promoting the Downtown. He noted that he has been approached by some

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businesses/organizations indicating that they would be willing to pay for promotional signage. The DIDA would spearhead the project but funding would come from private sources. Mr. Andresen will look into the feasibility of same and report back at the next regular meeting.

6. Discussion on Letter of Support for the Gym & Swim Program.

Because there was no formal proposal from the Gym & Swim Committee on specifics of the program, it was agreed to table this item until a more detailed explanation is received. It was noted that this Program is separate from other area swimming programs.

7. Other Business.

A letter written by Gary Lamberg, Editor & General Manager of the Ironwood Daily Globe to Chairman Johnson was briefly reviewed. The letter discussed Mr. Lamberg's interest in becoming a member of the DIDA and getting involved with groups dedicated to changing and improving the current state of affairs downtown. Also reviewed was a response to the letter from Mayor Lorenson. Secretary Ziemann was asked to mail an Agenda to Mr. Lamberg informing him personally of the next regular meeting.

Mayor Lorenson informed the members that the City is taking bids for a street sweeper. He also noted that the City is working with the City of Hurley for possible rental of their sweeper.

Member Bergquist expressed her concerns over the blight situation generated by the railroad company near the Depot site. She indicated that oil drums are accumulating and appear to be leaking generating a real safety hazard. Mayor Lorenson indicated that he has met, along with Code Enforcement Officer Rigoni, with Craig Burroughs regarding the condition of the site and informed him of a 60 day time table to clean up the area or he would be held accountable.

Member Kinnunen requested an update on the blight at the former S&L site. Secretary Ziemann noted that a written complaint was submitted to Code Enforcement Officer Rigoni but had no further update.

Mayor Lorenson informed the Authority that the City Attorney is drafting a new ordinance on handling blight. Hopefully it will make enforcing blight concerns easier.

Chairman Johnson submitted for review photographs taken by Mr. Ronnie Surprenant on Downtown parking violators. Mr. Surprenant would like to see one hour parking on Downtown streets between 8:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. Some of the photos showed vehicles parked on the streets in the evening, however, the members noted that this was not a valid concern. The DIDA will take Mr. Surprenant's comments under consideration.

Mayor Lorenson informed the DIDA of the new patrol dog recently added to the Public Safety Department.

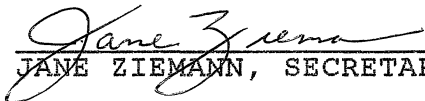
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Member Kinnunen asked if the City will be implementing new parking regulations in the City lots this winter. Mayor Lorenson noted that this was discussed with the City Manager but at this time did not have the specifics available.

Mr. Andresen informed the Authority of an attempt to sell the "Midway Circle Tour" to another organization when in fact the idea is owned by the DIDA. They are now looking at promoting this circle tour regionally. It was the consensus of the DIDA that they would sell the idea back and requested that Mr. Andresen ask for a written proposal on same.

8. Adjournment.

Being no further business to discuss, motion by Kinnunen, supported by Forslund. CARRIED. To adjourn this meeting at 12:45 P.M.

  
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JANE ZIEMANN, SECRETARY