

August 26, 1993

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 12:07 P.M.

2. Recording of the Roll.

PRESENT: Butler, Forslund, Murphy, Johnson, Newman, Lorenson
and Chairperson Bergquist.

EXCUSED: Kinnunen.
One Vacancy.

3. Consider approval of the July 27, 1993, meeting Minutes.

Motion by Butler, supported by Newman. CARRIED. To approve the July 27, 1993, Minutes as presented.

4. Discussion on C-3 District Arrow Signs.

Member Butler informed the Authority that the Chamber of Commerce discussed this item at length and decided to table this issue until the new Director has been hired. The DIDA was in agreement with the Chamber's decision.

5. Update on shared Director position.

Chairperson Bergquist updated the members by noting that the list of applicants have been narrowed down to five (one candidate has already dropped out). The applicants will all be contacted to discuss salary range. One applicant is from the immediate area.

It was Chairperson Bergquist's opinion that the DIDA has not received enough input on the applicants and felt that the Authority should have been allowed to review all the resumes. However, all others were comfortable with the selection process. They believe that the Chamber will pick the best, well rounded applicant because the Chamber realizes that the DIDA and City will be contributing financially to the position. The new Director will be a Chamber employee who will be contracted out to the DIDA and City.

It was noted that Pat Coleman has reviewed all applicants and submitted his recommendation. The selection committee will consist of one member from each organization involved.

Motion by Butler, supported by Forslund. CARRIED. To authorize member Alan Newman to represent the DIDA on the Selection Committee.

6. Other Business.

Mayor Lorenson requested the DIDA make a recommendation on the proposed changes to the Downtown Ironwood Signals on US-2 Business Route submitted by the Department of Transportation. He informed the members that City Commissioner Haukkala originally requested the stop lights be reviewed, however, her intent was not to have the lights removed. He noted that the Business Route is under State control but that the State was requesting City approval of the changes. Mayor Lorenson is asking recommendations not only from the DIDA but the Planning Commission and the Ironwood Chamber of Commerce.

Motion by Butler, supported by Newman. CARRIED. To submit a letter recommending that the proposed changes not be approved because of the major concern of pedestrian safety (aging population in the downtown) and the loss of parking spaces should the changes go into effect.

Chairperson Bergquist informed the DIDA that a representative from the Ironwood Theatre will be holding a meeting on Thursday, September 2, 1993, 12:00 Noon, on preserving historic downtown buildings such as the Memorial Building, Theatre, & Depot. All interested people are asked to attend.

An item of blight was discussed which involved a junk piece of carpeting by the site of the Iron Inn (First National Bank owns the structure). Member Johnson noted he will address the issue with Don Fortune of MFC First National Bank.

Discussion occurred on sidewalk brick replacement. Mayor Lorenson informed the DIDA of a program at the City whereby there is a 50/50 split for sidewalk repair/replacement between the City and homeowner. This might be an alternative to business owners, too. At present, there is no money in the City's budget to cover 100% of the cost for sidewalk repairs. Member Butler suggested repair of the sidewalk at the site of the First of America Bank as a possible kick-off project with regard to a 50/50 cost share program. It was noted that this would be a good topic for the Globe on "cleaning up the Downtown".

A green area at the site of the former S&L Building was discussed. Chairperson Bergquist agreed to pursue same with the owners.

Blight near the Depot area was discussed referencing the railroad's placement of ties, batteries, barrels, etc. on the site. The City has tried to encourage the Railroad Company to clean up the area but with no results. Chairperson Bergquist also noted that 10% of the ticket sales for the train rides were due the Depot Museum because of their agreement of selling the tickets at the Museum. She noted that the Museum has seen no payment, even though the Museum has incurred additional expenses (utilities).

Secretary Ziemann informed the Authority that she will be on vacation and will not be able to record minutes at their next regular meeting.

7. Adjournment.

Motion by Forslund, supported by Newman. To adjourn this meeting at 12:44 P.M.


JANE ZIEMANN, SECRETARY