



February 21, 1995

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 12:00 P.M.

2. Recording of the Roll.

PRESENT: Lamberg, Murphy, Powell, Bergquist and Chairman Johnson.

EXCUSED: Forslund, Newman and Lorenson.

One Vacancy.

OTHERS

PRESENT: Community Development Director William Andresen.

3. Consider approval of the January 26, 1995, minutes.

Motion by Bergquist, supported by Powell. CARRIED. To approve the January 26, 1995, minutes as presented.

4. TIF Plan Update.

Will Andresen informed the Authority that the first draft of the Plan has been completed. He submitted Section "D" of the Plan to the members for review to make sure the narrative is what the DIDA desired for the projects. Because some of the lots chosen for proposed parking are privately owned, Mr. Andresen suggested adding two more lots to the list (lot near the Memorial Building and the lot across from the Public Safety Building) to make sure the DIDA secures parking. Because it was confusing whether the estimated cost noted in the Plan included the price of the lot, it was suggested that the wording be changed to clarify that it is for development only.

Chairman Johnson suggested that under Item 9 - Facade Renovation Incentives - that the notation stating that local grants could be an incentive for investment, be removed.

Member Murphy suggested that under Item 4 - Downtown Lighting - that the cost figure be reviewed (it appeared low) and that the price of "historical" lighting be looked into for the immediate four block area of the downtown. Mr. Andresen cautioned the members that this item may not be doable if the dollar figure is too high. The cost has to be realistic, however, he did add that the DIDA can do less than what is described as the project.

Member Bergquist informed the Authority that under Item 8 - Rail-Road Right-of-Way Development - that the Historical Society is making this item a high priority. They would like to reroute the recreational trail away from the Depot site.

Mr. Andresen suggested that the DIDA attempt to obtain a large portion of this rail-road right-of-way in order to have land for development.

Motion by Lamberg, supported by Powell. CARRIED. To accept Section "D" of the TIF Plan with suggested changes and/or additions.

5. Business District Sign.

Mr. Andresen informed the Authority that Alf Craft Signs has agreed to add the additional signage for the amount of \$500. It was also noted that \$750 budgeted for maintenance of the Business District Sign last year was never completed. Rolf Hendrickson of Alf Craft agreed to do both the maintenance and the new signage at the same time. Member Lamberg questioned whether universal symbols could be added to the sign, however, it may become too costly and too cumbersome for the size of the sign.

Motion by Bergquist, supported by Lamberg. CARRIED. To authorize \$500 additional funds for the Business District Sign.

6. Downtown Marketing.

Mr. Andresen reviewed a sample of a marketing technique whereby the "Downtown" is promoted as a unit, but the cost is shared.

Member Lamberg informed the Authority of a March 1st breakfast hosted by the Ironwood Daily Globe to discuss all aspects of the downtown such as past promotions, projects that need to be worked on, new development or marketing ideas, etc. The emphasis is to get people "talking".

Member Lamberg questioned whether the DIDA has contacted the Pamida management about expansion ideas and/or locating a new site for a possible store. Mr. Andresen indicated that the DIDA has offered assistance but received only a letter of thanks.

7. Planning Commission Update.

Mr. Andresen noted that the Planning Commission tabled making a decision as to whether to sell the parking lot adjacent to the Memorial Building to a proposed developer until the renovations of the Memorial Building are complete. The developer is asking that the City owned park on Lake and E. Ayer Street be declared surplus in order that he may consider that area for his development. The Recreational Committee tabled making a decision on this issue until Monday, February 27, 1995.

It was the consensus of the DIDA that the area in question is not a good site for commercial development. They believe the developer would be hurting himself should he be allowed to build on that site.

Motion by Murphy, supported by Powell. CARRIED. To recommend to the Planning Commission that the zoning remain the same (Residential) at the site of the City owned park on Lake and E. Ayer Street.

8. Other Business.

Member Bergquist commented on the experimental parking lot implementing alternate (odd/even day) for overnight parking as follows:

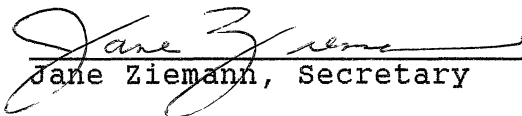
- Windshield letter campaign should be utilized
- Residents generally not using the lot as much as their overnight guests
- Signage wording may need to be improved - does not clearly say that the cars should not park in the center of the lot
- More enforcement is needed

The Authority requested Mr. Andresen to write a letter to the Public Safety Department requesting increased enforcement on this lot. Mr. Andresen will also check on the sign's wording.

Discussion revolved around Ironwood Motors putting snow on a City-owned lot. It was not clear if Ironwood Motors had permission from the City to do so. It was requested that Mr. Andresen make a phone call to Ironwood Motors to clarify this matter.

9. Adjournment.

Motion by Powell, supported by Murphy. CARRIED. That this meeting adjourn at 12:58 P.M.


Jane Ziemann, Secretary