



November 22, 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 12:04 P.M.

2. Recording of the Roll.

PRESENT: Murphy, Lamberg, Bergquist, Lorenson and Chairman Johnson.  
Powell arrived at 12:20 P.M.

EXCUSED: Forslund and Newman.

ABSENT: Isakson.

OTHERS

PRESENT: Community Development Director William Andresen.

3. Consider approval of the October 27, 1994, minutes.

Motion by Bergquist, supported by Lamberg. CARRIED. To approve the October 27, 1994, minutes as presented.

4. Update on subsidized loan program.

It was the consensus of the Authority that representatives from each bank make a presentation (Mr. Andresen to schedule same for December's meeting) on the subsidized loan program. All area banks are looking for ways to increase rating for community development and see no problem with implementing a subsidized loan program. Member Lamberg briefly discussed the Michigan Strategic Fund which has \$50,000 available for improvements. Although it is not in the realm of the DIDA funding to subsidize loans, it should be their position to promote and package the idea.

5. Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

Mr. Andresen explained that with the adoption of the new City Charter, there is a requirement that the City have a Capital Improvement Program (expense involving \$15,000 or more and a life expectancy of 10 or more years). A "wish list" has been requested of the City's departments and the DIDA should consider themselves a department. A good example of a capital improvement would be parking lots. All members were asked to have some suggestions at the next meeting for their "wish list" item.

6. Snow removal in Public Parking Lots.

Discussion on how to better remove snow from the City parking lots was reviewed a year ago, noted Mr. Andresen. There is concern now that due to more downtown tenants, overnight parking will be even a greater problem. He and member Bergquist reviewed the situation and had two recommendations:

- 1) Creation of alternate parking days
- 2) Instead of pushing snow to the sides of the lot, designating two or three spaces for snow to be piled on

Mr. Andresen was asked to review the above recommendations with the Public Works Department for their perspective. Mr. Andresen questioned whether this item would have to go in front of the City Commission for final approval. It was Mayor Lorenson's opinion that if the Public Works Department had no concerns, that it could just be implemented. Also, Mr. Andresen can discuss signage expense with City Staff.

Discussion revolved around snow removal from City streets and sidewalks and how it could be accomplished more efficiently. Member Lamberg reviewed how some other cities handle this job.

Motion by Bergquist, supported by Lamberg. CARRIED. To authorize Mr. Andresen to present the recommendations for overnight parking in City lots to Public Works and if they agree that it is feasible, to implement alternate (odd/even day) parking and that the snow be piled in the area so designated.

Mr. Andresen requested that Item 8 "Other Business" be discussed prior to Item 7.

8. Other Business.

Mr. Andresen had the following updates:

A. Graffiti

Two products for graffiti removal were reviewed and Mr. Andresen requested authorization to purchase one for testing (approximately \$50).

Motion by Powell, supported by Lorenson. CARRIED. To authorize approximately a \$50 expenditure for a graffiti removal product.

B. Newsletter.

Mr. Andresen noted that the suggestion for working with the Chamber on a Newsletter was not possible at this time. He asked whether the DIDA would cover the expense themselves on a quarterly basis (\$100 estimate) for the approximately 350 mailing. He could utilize the Chamber Bulk Rate postage. Mr. Lamberg indicated the possibility of using the Daily Globe equipment to help with printing of same. Member Bergquist believes the Newsletter is a good idea because it will educate citizens on what is happening with the DIDA and the

Downtown. Member Lamberg believes that the first flyer should appear in January - a good way to begin the new year. Mr. Andresen agreed to prepare the articles for the Newsletter but would like authorization to utilize a design firm to make it look more professional.

Motion by Bergquist, supported by Lorenson. CARRIED. To authorize Mr. Andresen to develop a quarterly Newsletter to include hiring a design firm for same.

C. S&L Lot

Mr. Andresen noted that he has received a suggestion that when the greenspace is developed on the S&L lot, to somehow incorporate the memory of this historically significant structure in the plans.

D. Holiday Open House

Mr. Andresen informed the Authority that the Downtown will have a Holiday Open House the weekend of November 26th. Larry Peterson will be offering walking tours on historical sites just as an example of the agenda. Member Bergquist also noted that the Depot tree lighting will be held that weekend. She indicated that the Ironwood Jaycees has taken on the Depot lighting as a project and should be a special event.

7. Tax Increment Financing update.

Mr. Andresen reviewed the concept of tax increment financing (four projects already in place) and indicated that prior to implementation, there has to be a development plan and a finance plan. The future goal is to eliminate the 2 mill tax levy and work entirely with TIF funds. He also reviewed maps showing the proposed boundaries of the TIF district. In order to take advantage of 1994 projects, it must be approved by May, 1995. Further updates will be given at future meetings.

9. Adjournment.

Prior to adjournment, Member Lamberg suggested that the banquet room be the monthly meeting place for the DIDA vs. the Towne House dining room. It is too difficult to conduct business in a public area. Secretary Ziemann will check into this request.

Motion by Powell, supported by Lamberg. CARRIED. To adjourn this meeting at 1:00 P.M.

  
JANE ZIEMANN, SECRETARY