



**Proceedings of the Downtown Ironwood Development Authority  
Thursday, July 25, 2024**

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A regular meeting of the Downtown Ironwood Development Authority (DIDA) was held on Thursday, July 25, 2024 at 8:00 A.M. in the Ironwood Memorial Building Women’s Club Room.

1. Call to Order: Director Bergman called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M.
2. Election of Chair and Vice Chair.

Corcoran nominates Flory as Chair.

Motion by Wiercinski to elect Flory as chair. Second by Corcoran. All in favor. Motion carried.

Corcoran nominates Greenhill as Vice-Chair.

Motion by Corcoran to elect as vice-chair. Second by Wiercinski. All in favor. Motion carried.

3. Recording of the Roll.

MEMBER	PRESENT		EXCUSED	NOT EXCUSED
	YES	NO		
Cathy Flory	X			
Vacant		X		
Kim Corcoran	X			
Vacant		X		
Lynne Wiercinski	X			
Eric Moran		X	X	
Vacant		X		
Robbie Sardinha	X			
Bruce Greenhill	X			
	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Quorum</b>	

Also, present: Community Development Director, Tom Bergman and Community Development Assistant, Tim Erickson.

4. Approval of the June 27, 2024 Meeting Minutes:

**Motion by Corcoran to approve the meeting minutes. Second by Greenhill. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

5. Approval of the Agenda:

**Motion by Corcoran to approve the agenda. Second by Wiercinski. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

6. Citizens wishing to address the Authority on Items on the Agenda (Three-Minute Limit): None.

7. Citizens wishing to address the Authority on Items not on the Agenda (Three-Minute Limit): None.

8. Receive and place on file the financial report: Bergman presented the report.

**Motion by Corcoran to receive and place on file the financial report, second by Greenhill. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

9. Items for Discussion and Consideration.

A. Introduction of Kevin Clarke from HKGI (Consulting Company for Comprehensive Plan Revision and Strategic Housing Plan Projects): Director Bergman discussed Kevin and what's been done and what is coming up for both plans.

B. First Friday Update: Erickson updated the Authority on the August First Friday and with the MACC grant application.

C. Ironwood Chamber of Commerce Update: Meyer gave an update on how Festival Ironwood went. The lead person at the Wakefield visitor center has retired. The center will be liquidated, and the visitor center will be abandoned. He mentioned that there may be some hope for the Western U.P. Convention & Visitors Bureau to move in. The fair will be conducted at the Civic Center at no cost other than the rides. The Chamber is hosting the Michigan State Demographer for a September event. Meyer is on the ballot as a Gogebic Community College Trustee. Meyer explained the Emberlight Festival photographer exhibit at the Depot Museum.

D. Social District Update: The Social District has been created. The State has received the application for approval. Signs and stickers are being worked on. Businesses need to be solicited to participate. Greenhill asked if people can bring in their social district drinks into the theatre or other businesses.

E. Update on downtown vacant buildings: The City is now Redevelopment Ready Certified through the State of Michigan. Staff can use its certification to help with large scale development projects. This certification will help the City deal with vacant and underutilized buildings. It provides funding and also technical assistance.

F. Bike Racks and Cigarette Butt Receptacles: The bike racks will be mounted into the tree grates which may make them permanent and/or easy to uninstall. A map has been given to DPW to install. Cigarette butt receptacles have been installed.

10. Other Business: Flory asked about downtown sign on Douglas Blvd. Bergman has reached out at Gogebic Range Bank. The President of the bank is open to a new sign but asked for a proposed design. Getting people from the Highway into downtown was discussed as a priority. Sardinha asked if the DIDA could do billboards. Greenhill commended the people who installed the historic walking tour signs. Corcoran asked about buildings downtown that have vacant storefronts and what can be done. Businesses without an active storefront were discussed. Staffing issues for restaurants were discussed. Bergman brought up insurance issues with the MEDC who will be discussing this.

11. Next Meeting: Thursday, August 22, 2024 at 8:00 a.m.

12. Adjournment. 9:00 a.m.

**Motion by Corcoran to adjourn the meeting, second by Wiercinski. All in favor.**



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Cathy Flory, Chair



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Tim Erickson, Community Development Assistant