

City of Ionia Downtown Development Authority

August 19, 2020 Meeting Minutes

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**CALL TO ORDER:** The Ionia Downtown Development Authority meeting was called to order at 8:06AM by Chairperson Mike Kirgis.

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:** Roll call revealed the following DDA Board of Directors present: Dave Cook, Mike Kirgis, John Krueger, Paul Lentz and Director Linda Curtis. Guests included City Manager Jason Eppler, Finance Director Chris Hyzer, Theatre Manager Gary Ferguson, Heather Sizemore, and Tracy Bergeron.

A quorum was not present – all action items to be tabled until the September 2020 DDA Board of Directors meeting. Discussion regarding Member attendance was presented. DDA Director will contact Board Members to discuss their current status. Meeting officially adjourned. Only open discussion items presented.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** DDA Semi Annual Report presented by Director Linda Curtis in compliance with State of Michigan PA57. It was noted that neither the City or County Clerk attended as requested.

Heather Sizemore reported on the background of the three banners she purchased for the downtown lampposts and she would also promote a fundraising campaign for the purchase of brackets to secure the banners. It was noted that the DDA Board of Directors recently discussed options relating to general purpose banners and set policy for non-City approved banners during the July 2020 Board of Directors meeting.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** All items tabled.

**THEATRE REPORT:** Theatre Manager Gary Ferguson noted the façade work was complete. All seating in the large and small Theatre has been repaired and cleaned. No movies are being shown at this time due to the continuation of the State Order relating to COVID 19. Curbside concessions continue to be a fundraiser for the Theatre.

**BOARD DECISIONS AND ACTION ITEMS:** No Action items at this time.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:** DDA Director and Chamber Director have met on numerous occasions to begin planning an alternate schedule and location for Autumn Celebration if we remain under a State of Michigan Order limiting crowd size for events. Neither want to cancel the event and are working diligently to secure a plan to meet health standards. Currently awaiting word from Independent Bank and Big Brothers / Big Sisters of Ionia County on their decision to move forward with the fundraiser. The Chili Dawg Challenge is sponsored by the above mentioned and has been a signature event for each for the past 20+ years. Member Lentz and Member Krueger noted that the event must remain in the downtown to support Main Street businesses. An updated report will be provided at the September Board of Directors meeting.

Due to time restraints, discussion regarding on the development of a community wide health mask campaign was not presented.

**OTHER:** Calendar of Events include 'The Cow Pie Classic Michigan Dirt Road Race' scheduled for Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup>. All other special events are pending or cancelled due to the COVID Pandemic / Michigan Executive Order. Farmers' Market is open each Wednesday and Saturday through October – weather permitting. Vendors and patrons are following health guidelines.

**GENERAL ADJOURNMENT:** Board discussions and comments continued until 8:55AM.