

CALL TO ORDER: The Ionia Downtown Development Authority meeting was called to order at 8:10am by Chairperson Mike Kirgis.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Project Rising Tide Fellow Robin Suomi presented an update on current PRT initiatives. They included:

- General overview of Gen Z Study, Housing Study
- Rock the Block – buildings included Venue 404 / Elks, Edward Jones / Paul Lentz, The Jewel Box, and the Ionia Barber Shop. Future Rock the Block projects are currently on hold due to Habitat for Humanity scheduling.
- Handout “13 Ways to Kill Your Community” with discussion following.
- City website updates.
- Steering Committee meeting updates

Introduction of new Chamber Director.

ROLL CALL: Roll call revealed the following DDA Board of Directors present: Dave Cook and Mike Kirgis. Guests included John Krueger / Ionia Lock & Key, PRT Fellow Robin Suomi, Heather Sizemore / The Jewel Box, Chamber Director / Kat Reed, City Manager Jason Eppler, Finance Director Chris Hyzer, Theatre Manager Gary Ferguson, and DDA Director Linda Curtis.

A quorum was not present – all action items to be tabled until September Board meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA: All items tabled.

DDA DIRECTOR UPDATE: DDA Director’s report for the months of July 2019 attached.

THEATRE REPORT: Theatre Manager Gary Ferguson noted that the HVAC system covering both front offices spaces was repaired. SMAT graduation held on Monday, August 19th was a success – approximately 400+ in attendance.

BOARD DECISIONS AND ACTION ITEMS: All items tabled.

1. 2020 / 2021 Ionia Fireworks Display contract: Melrose Pyrotechnics has provided the opportunity for the Ionia DDA to lock into a 2 year agreement that would keep the costs of the display at \$12,000 for each of the years. The Board will determine the 2020 and 2021 event dates at the September meeting. City Manager recommended we speak with the Rotary Club to discuss options before making a final decision.
2. Farmers’ Market policies regarding CDB products.
3. Theatre façade repairs. Grant options.

OTHER:

1. Mural update: Artist Larry Lathrop is relocating.
2. New businesses on Main Street include: Market on Main, Cook & Co., and Izzy’s Barber Shop – opening soon.

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 9am.