

**CITY OF ALPENA, DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE AUTHORITY BOARD
APPROVED 9/5/2023**

Meeting date of Tuesday, June 6, 2023 at 3:00 pm

Meeting was held at City Hall Council Chambers, 208 N. First Ave. with the option for members of the public to join virtually.

Present: Todd Britton, Jen Calery, Cristi Johnson, Nick Lusardi, Mike Mahler, Rachel Smolinski

Absent: Corey Canute, Quintin Meek, Matt Wojda

Staff Present: Anne Gentry

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:02 pm by Chairman Mahler.

2. Citizens Appearing before the Authority:

- Kevin Gitner of 320 S. Lawn St. addressed the Board and shared that he came downtown last Friday night and noticed some buzz was going on. He shared that downtown was filled with people for the Flower Festival and thanked the DDA, Anne, and the City's Public Works for their work to get downtown ready, their investment in the new event, and their efforts to improve downtown. He hopes the event continues.

3. Late Additions to the Agenda: None.

4. Review and Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meetings (May 2023): It was moved by Smolinski and supported by Calery to approve the minutes from the May 2023 Board Meeting as presented. All ayes. Motion carries.

5. Hearings: None.

6. Executive Director's Report: Gentry gave an update on the Flower Festival which was held June 2 and June 3. The festival was a success, and downtown was filled with people. There were over 30 business sponsors whose funds covered the floral work downtown and partner organizations who organized events. The florists are all excited to do the event next year. Gentry also gave an update on the volunteer flower planting day on May 20, the alleyway closure, Fresh Waves 2023, and staffing for the future.

- Government for Tomorrow: Lusardi graduated from Alpena High School last weekend and gave an update on his Board role through Government for Tomorrow. He is working with Liam and the high school principal on his replacement. The deadline is tomorrow for students to submit their application. He hopes to work more closely with the student to have more involvement on the Board and have a younger student.

7. Correspondence: None to report.

8. Review and Acceptance of Monthly Financial Reports (May 2023): It was moved by Britton and supported by Johnson to approve the financials for May 2023 as presented. All ayes. Motion carries.

9. Committee Reports:

- a. Budget/ Finance: Did not meet.
- b. Education & Promotion: Did not meet.
- c. Design & Beautification: Britton gave an update on City Council's approval to close the alley for the season, the installation of string lights, furniture the committee selected to purchase, and strategic goals for the City related to downtown beautification.
- d. Economic Development: Did not meet.
- e. Parking: Did not meet.
- f. Boundary Expansion: Mahler gave an update. Gentry presented to City Council on the expansion and received feedback directly from Council. They would like to see a longer commitment from the County. The committee will organize a meeting with the County and City representatives to discuss next steps forward.

10. Report from the City of Alpena: Smolinski gave an update from the City:

- City Council approved the closure of the alleyway between 2nd and 3rd Avenue and next to Black Sheep (from 4 pm- close) through November 1.
- Council also approved street and alleyway parties being hosted by the Fresh Palate, June through September.
- The City is looking for volunteers or businesses to help adopt gardens throughout the City. The City can deliver flowers to be planted but looking for volunteers that can plant and take care of the gardens.

11. Unfinished Business: None.

12. New Business:

- July 2023 Meeting Date: Since the regularly scheduled Board Meeting falls on July 4, the July meeting will be pushed to Tuesday, June 11, 2023 at 3:00 pm.

13. Adjournment: It was moved by Smolinski and supported by Britton to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 3:28 pm.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Anne Gentry.