



VILLAGE OF SUTTONS BAY
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 12, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 9:09 a.m., by President Peterson.

Present: Lutke, Peterson, Pontius, and Popke
Absent: Bahle, Lambdin and Wierzba
Staff present: Fay, Larrea and Petroskey

Approval of Agenda

Pontius moved, Popke seconded, CARRIED, to approve the Agenda as amended, adding Agenda item C. 2011 Development Plan under Information and Comments, by an affirmative unanimous roll call vote. Ayes: 4, No: 0

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Lutke moved, Pontius seconded, CARRIED, to approve the DDA meeting minutes of August 19, 2020, by an affirmative unanimous roll call vote. Ayes: 4, No: 0.

Report VSB-2020—51

Pontius moved, Popke seconded, CARRIED, to adopt the proposed DDA budget and recommend approval to Council. Board members reviewed the revenue and expenses of the proposed DDA budget. The need for more revenue is apparent. Members discussed the desire for other taxing entities to buy into the DDA Plan. Larrea suggested DDA members reach out as a group to Leelanau County. Larrea will contact County Administrator Janik to see if he can gain some insight of their position with our DDA. Members discussed the possibilities of other funding sources and/or grants to help the DDA remain afloat, noting the Village as a good economic engine for Leelanau County. Ayes: 4, No: 0.

2021 Meeting Dates

Popke moved, Lutke seconded, CARRIED, to approve the proposed 2021 DDA meeting dates and times as presented, by an affirmative unanimous roll call vote. Ayes: 4, No: 0.

Manager Update

Larrea reported further communications with Viking Cruise Lines with another meeting set for next week. The Cruise lines have presented the concept of a four-month span for launching, none of which are summer months, one or two times monthly. Consideration for a launch at North Park would require an investment in that area, which currently has space for busses and restrooms.

The Village is still working on closing out the TAP Grant project. In addition, MDOT has stated milling and repaving the downtown area in the next year or two.

Networks Northwest have identified Millside and the old Silvertree building as areas they would like to see redeveloped.

Information and Comments

Board members – Pontius would like the Village to revisit an existing and detailed 2011 Development Plan never acted on, that involved areas such as Front and Jefferson Streets. Pontius will share the plan with Larrea. Larrea stated there is a plan to build on a small area at Waterwheel Park, at the end of Jefferson Street and next to Haystacks, eliminating some vegetation and adding seating areas. Members furthered discussed a seasonal trial period of closing Jefferson Street.

Board members state there is a huge issue with limited public bathrooms. Larrea stated in communities such as Traverse City, businesses provide their customers access to bathrooms. Currently, liability exists for businesses due to the pandemic. Should the Village bring in trailer bathrooms which are maintained by the company? Do grant opportunities exist for constructing bathrooms?

Board members discussed a Visitor's center, and the challenges presented for housing and staffing a Visitor's center. Members would like to see non-profit entities join together, perhaps a coalition, and brainstorm as to how the Suttons Bay can support a Visitor's Center. There may be some granting opportunities.

The meeting adjourned at 10:06 a.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by Shar Fay, Village Clerk.