



DOWNTOWN MANAGEMENT BOARD

May 17, 2022

A regular meeting of the City of Petoskey Downtown Management Board was held in the City Hall Council Chambers on Tuesday, May 17, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 7:10 P.M., and the following were

Present: Ben Slocum, Chairperson
Robin Bennett, Vice Chairperson
Gary Albert
Marnie Duse
Joe Keedy
Jennifer Shorter
Drew Smith

Absent: Mayor John Murphy

Also in attendance were Downtown Director Becky Goodman and Executive Assistant Sarah Bek.

Approve Consent Agenda Items

Downtown Management Board members discussed the first item of routine business, the April 19, 2022 regular meeting minutes; acknowledgement of bills since April 19, 2022 that totaled \$41,884; and April expense and income reports as prepared by the Downtown Director. Shorter moved that and seconded by Smith to approve the consent agenda. All in favor.

Reports by Downtown Committees

Marketing Committee – The Downtown Director reviewed that the shopping map was at the printer and that the committee is working with the web consultant on moving the website from Squarespace to Word Press with the goal of making it more functional for visitors.

Events Committee – The Downtown Director reviewed the summer celebration event and that Bliss Fest is taking over Saturday night music concerts, that there would be no street closure and staff is anticipating not as many Back to the Bricks cars.

Parking Committee – The Downtown Director reviewed that there was a parking meter software malfunction, but the issue is fixed and two new parking ambassadors have been hired.

The Downtown Director further reported that staff contacted property owner and the Rugport sign will be coming down on the corner of Howard and Bay Streets; that Spice Merchants will be opening on Howard Street and a new business on Park Avenue; that the Organizational Task Force will meet to discuss expectations of the committee for the Strategic Planner; that Wake Up Downtown is scheduled for 8:30 A.M. this Thursday; that staff has received push back from Gypsy Vodka concerning dining deck resolution; that she is still having trouble finding trolley drivers, reviewed cost of storing trolley and that the Board could make money servicing events and weddings with the trolley; that staff is researching allowing tickets to be paid online; that visitors are back sooner this year; and that Sarah Ford with Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation contacted her today regarding a grant for Lofts at Lumber Square requesting a letter of support from the Board on the project with a June 3 deadline.

Miscellaneous Comments

Reg Smith commented that he appreciates discussion on parking deck and encouraged the Board to ask for the minimum to get the process started and let City Council decide on specific details.

The Downtown Director reviewed that there would not be another joint meeting on Darling Lot and that staff will get back with Walker Parking Consultants and then final report to City Council; and that the Strategic Planner will be at the June DMB meeting.

Board members discussed Darling Lot draft concept and questioned if parking is a problem or is the property a better resource for a different plan; discussed cost per space and price analysis of different options; inquired if the lot is in decent shape; and were in favor of 90-degree two-way parking, capability of full steel roof and/or solar panels, mid-tier architecture and no green roof.

There being no further business to come before the Downtown Management Board, this May 17, 2022, meeting adjourned at 8:17 P.M.