

**RECORD OF
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY/GRAYLING MAIN STREET
PROCEEDINGS REGULAR MEETING HELD ON THE
12th DAY OF MARCH, 2020
1020 CITY BOULEVARD, GRAYLING, MICHIGAN**

I. Meeting called to order by Chairperson Shaw at 9:32 A.M.

II. Roll Call (E = Excused; * = Late Arrival)

Members Present: Matthew Shaw, Paul Crandall, Christine LaFontaine, Jill Tremonti, Jack Pettyjohn, Erich Podjaske, Doug Baum, Thomas Steffen

Members Absent: Shawn Abraham

Also, in attendance: Recording Secretary; Deb Mead, Main Street Manager; Rae Gosling, Grayling Promotional Association Member; Marianne Broski

III. Public Comment - None

IV. Approval of Agenda

20-015

Moved by Crandall, seconded by Steffen to approve the Agenda as presented.

Ayes: 8, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 1, Vacancies: 0, **Motion Carried.**

V. Approval of Consent Agenda

A. DDA/GMS Meeting Minutes for February 13 2020

20-016

Moved by Crandall, seconded by Tremonti to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Ayes: 8, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 1, Vacancies: 0, **Motion Carried.**

VI. Treasurer Report

A. Revenue/Expenditure Report through January 2020

Main Street Manager Gosling stated that there wasn't anything new to report.

Gosling stated that at the meeting next month, the Board will review the budgets with work plans.

20-017

Moved by Tremonti, seconded by Steffen to accept and file the Treasurer's Report as presented.

Ayes: 8, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 1, Vacancies: 0, **Motion Carried.**

VII. City Manager Report

City Manager Baum informed the Board that he had a visit from the Grayling Promotional Association ladies and they wanted to discuss some items downtown and he referred them to Main Street Manager Gosling.

Baum stated that he had a meeting Tuesday with MEDC, Member Podjaske and Main Street Manager Gosling and they walked around downtown.

Baum stated that demolition has started at the Northern Market site.

Baum informed the Board that the new DPW Building should be having a ribbon cutting in April, after the snow is gone.

Member Tremonti asked how the Northern Market meeting went the night before. Baum stated that it was light in attendance.

Baum asked Member LaFontaine how she thought the meeting was for the Northern Market, and she stated that she hadn't known about it until someone informed her about the meeting. LaFontaine stated that it was an informative meeting, but are we there yet and what is the next step for the Northern Market and how does the community orchestrate a meeting in Lansing? Baum explained the need for support from Senators and Congressmen for the Northern Market.

VIII. Main Street Manager Report

A. Monthly Report

Main Street Manager Gosling talked about the MEDC visit with Jeff Mason and Dan Leonard. Gosling stated that they talked about redevelopment opportunities for the downtown area.

Gosling stated that with the new administration at MEDC communities will have a harder climb in starting over their funding requests.

Gosling handed out a flyer about the Drive 4 Ur Community being held on May 15, 2020 at the City Park Pavilion from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Gosling stated that the Community Coffee Hour is going well and the next meeting is March 25th at 9:00 am at Thanks A Latte.

Gosling will be out of the office March 23rd and 24th for Quarterly training.

IX. Unfinished Business – DDA/Main Street

A. DDA District Expansion/TIF

Main Street Manager Gosling stated that she had done some research on this with other communities that have TIF in place.

Gosling stated that it would be about a \$5,000.00 investment for this project, that is not in the budget for this Fiscal Year, but could have it ready for 2021 budget.

Member Pettyjohn and Member Podjaske stated that they could be on the Committee with Vice Chair Steffen, Member Crandall and Main Street Manager Gosling.

B. TIF – This goes with the DDA District Expansion.

C. State of Properties

Shoppenagon's has an April 1st deadline to do something and the building inspector is not backing down from that date.

No date for the Sawmill demolition.

D. Do or Die Donor Development Work Plan

Member Tremonti informed the Board of a couple of donations received for \$1,000.00 each.

Tremonti stated that the next step is drafting a letter to businesses that are not already donating to the program.

Tremonti explained a fundraising idea of small donations from individuals, in the amount of \$5.00 or \$10.00.

Member LaFontaine stated that she will donate \$1,000.00.

E. Main Street Manager's Office

Discussion took place on the timeline and space available for the Main Street Manager's office.

City Manager Baum discussed more on how the Chamber of Commerce would like the office by summer time.

Further discussion took place on where to house the Main Street Manager until a permanent location can be found.

Chairperson Shaw did state that he would have a space in his building, after the renovations, that he would donate for the Main Street Manager.

X. New Business – DDA/Main Street

A. GPA Projects – DDA/Main Street

1. Year-round lights

Marianne Broski from Grayling Promotional Association gave an update to the Board about lights they have purchased to go into the gazebos in the City and the Township.

Broski stated that they are also looking into stringing lights from pole to pole downtown and not across the street. Member Podjaske stated that he was in the process of getting quotes for the lights and usage on the 100-200 blocks of Michigan Avenue. Podjaske and Broski stated they would work together on this.

City Manager Baum reminded everyone that this is a project downtown and that it would need a work plan that explains maintenance and ongoing energy costs, and how it will be funded.

2. Seasonal Sculptures

Discussion took place on having sculptures downtown and how this would go in with the Grayling in Bloom work plan.

Concerns were brought up with having the sculptures downtown, like rust from the sculptures going into the river, or spots left on the concrete from the sculptures.

City Manager Baum also stated that if damage happened to the sculptures that he didn't want that on the DPW workers shoulders.

Further discussion took place.

B. Work Plan Review – April Meeting

Main Street Manager Gosling stated that the Board would be going over the various work plans at the April Board Meeting.

XI. MS Committee Report

A. Org Committee

Member Tremonti stated that the next meeting was scheduled for March 17th at 8:45 am at Grayling Restaurant.

B. Design

Chairperson Shaw stated that he needed to pass the position to someone else, as he is too busy. Member Crandall stated he would take over the Design Committee.

A question was asked on what exactly was Design; Main Street Manager Gosling stated that it was a preservation of physical assets.

Member Pettyjohn stated that he would be on the Committee as well.

Gosling stated that there were a few people that were on the Design Committee, but they are all away for the winter.

C. EV (Economic Vitality)/Promotions

Discussion took place on Paddle Putt-Putt and that there needed to be a meeting set up soon.

Member Tremonti talked about a spring activation event for the downtown retailers.

Discussion took place on the talk of the Merchants Association and how it would affect the DDA/GMS program.

Main Street Manager Gosling stated to be aware of burning people out on projects, or people taking on too much during projects.

XII. Community Meetings Update

A. CCEDP

Member Podjaske stated that there was a meeting scheduled for Wednesday, January 18th at Grayling Township Hall at 8:00 am.

B. Blight

Nothing new to report. Member Crandall and Member LaFontaine to get with City Manager Baum on Blight.

C. Camp Grayling – Meeting was canceled last month.

D. Northern Market

Covered in City Manager's report.

E. 4-Mile Businesses

Vice Chair Steffen stated that there was a meeting scheduled in a month.

F. Historical Museum – Museum is closed for the winter, will open again in May.

G. GPA

Main Street Manager Gosling stated that she attended the GPA's last meeting with Member Tremonti. Gosling said that she had presented the annual report to the Committee.

Gosling stated that the meeting went well.

Discussion took place on GPA.

XIII. Public Comment – None

XIV. Member Comments

Member LaFontaine asked questions on how to help with the Northern Market project.

City Manager Baum asked Main Street Manager Gosling about EV Downtown and what was being worked on. Gosling stated that TIF was being worked on and also co-working spaces and identifying incentives for development.

Questions were asked about the yard containers that the Vargo's were working on. Main Street Manager Gosling stated that the new owners of Paddle Hard purchased this area as well. Gosling said that she would follow up with them on that project.

Gosling gave updates on some of the businesses downtown and what is being worked on with possible funding from MEDC.

XV. Correspondence – None

XVI. Adjournment

20-018

Moved by Baum, seconded by Crandall to adjourn the meeting.
Ayes: 8, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 1, Vacancies: 0, **Motion Carried.**

Chairperson Shaw adjourned the meeting at 10:43 A.M.

Deb Mead
Recording Secretary