City of Iron Mountain
Downtown Development Authority
Monday, June 6, 2026
Regular Meeting Minutes
12:00pm

**I. Meeting called to order -** at 12:01pm Joe Linn, Jordan Stanchina, Mark Klossner, Megan Blomquist, Kim Webb, Lucas Davidson, Tim McCauley, and Katherine Mentel present. Also, Bob Peterson present from the public.

**II. Approval of Agenda** - *The agenda was approved on a motion by Klossner, seconded by Blomquist, and carried unanimously.*

**III. Consent Agenda Items** - The consent Agenda Items *were approved on a motion by Linn, seconded by Klossner, and carried unanimously.*

A. Regular Meeting Minutes

I. 05/11/2026

**IV. New Business**

**A. Treasurer Report for April 2026** - After a series of brief questions and clarifications, the April Treasurer Report *was approved on a motion by Stanchina, seconded by Klossner, and carried unanimously.*

**B. Request by Dickinson Iron Communities That Care (DICTC) for use of the Downtown Stage on September 13, 2026** - McCauley noted that the DDA staff recently received the request from DICTC for their third annual suicide prevention event at the Downtown Stage on the second Sunday in September. The recent request is identical, in terms of activities, layout, and closure of a portion of Iron Mountain Street, as their 2025 request. *On a motion by Linn, seconded by Klossner, and carried unanimously, the Board requested the staff to forward the DICTC request to the City Council with a DDA Board recommendation of approval.*

**C. Raise for Brian Hall** - McCauley noted that Mr. Hall, who performs watering of flowers and trees for the DDA, recently requested a raise in pay from $16 to $17 per hour. He also noted that Gary Lautzenheiser, the other person who watered flowers and trees during the past 2 seasons, will not be continuing for the 2026 season due to other employment commitments. Therefore, it will be necessary for the DDA to hire another watering person to replace Mr. Lautzenheiser. McCauley asked what would be an appropriate pay rate for a new hire in that position. With a brief discussion, including reference to increases in the Federal minimum wage over the past several years, it was agreed that the watering position should be standardized, with all persons earning the same hourly wage of $17 from this point on. *On a motion by Blomquist, seconded by Linn, and carried unanimously, the Board approved the raise to $17 per hour for Mr. Hall, and directed the staff to draft a job description with that pay rate.* In addition, it was suggested that a method or procedure for implementing raises - such as tracking with changes in inflation or the Federal minimum wage - be included in the job description.

**V. Old Business -** There was no old business to consider

**V. Staff Updates/Reports/Ideas**

A. **Update on grant seeking and sponsorships** - Walmart, ATC, We Energies, Enbridge, Bellin, Systems Control, etc. Mentel noted that, since late last year, she had investigated or applied for grants from some of the larger businesses in town such as Bellin, Walmart, Home Depot, Kwik Trip and others. She found that those organizations, as well as others in the non-profit sector, tend to have specific objectives and criteria for how and why they fund various activities such as downtown improvements and events. For example, she noted, Walmart "Spark Good Local" came through with a $650 grant for Out to Lunch - to non-profit Friends of the DDA. She added that many grant programs are for non-profits only. McCauley noted that other sources of funding for events in particular are important to consider since local and small business sponsorships are increasingly challenging to obtain.

B. We have a **$2000 season sponsor for the Farmers & Artisans Market** (Incredible Bank) - McCauley noted that the staff worked with Jerika Macholl at Incredible Bank to negotiate the sponsorship. The amount was initially set at $5,000 but there were no prospects for two years prior. Since Incredible Bank was very interested, they worked with the DDA to arrive at the right amount. McCauley noted that this was supplemented by Incredible Bank also providing 1,000 reusable shopping bags with the FAM and Incredible Bank logos on them - to help promote the FAM and the sponsor.

C. **Downtown/TIF Plan progress and proposed schedule** for advisory committee. McCauley distributed a proposed schedule and tasks to finish the Downtown/TIF plan (attached to the Minutes). He noted that the schedule is ambitious and would require a strong commitment from members of the advisory committee, which he would attempt to assemble and convene in June. Stanchina and Blomquist noted that it will be important to get County representation on the advisory committee since the DDA and future TIF district will need county approval/acceptance to be successful in generating sufficient revenue. They added that we may have to use some persuasion to make County officials aware of the importance of the Downtown/TIF plan. McCauley responded that he would work with Stanchina to come up with an appropriate approach with the County.

D. **Take a Board photo and give the public an update on new members and officers** in the DDA email Newsletter, Daily News, website - Given that several Board members were absent from the meeting, it was agreed to take a photo at a later date.

E. Potential changes to raffles - brought up at the last Events Committee meeting on May 26. Mentel noted that a discussion at a recent Events Committee meeting introduced a few ideas regarding raffles. One example was from the Bessemer area, wh

**VI. Public Comment** - Mr. Peterson noted that there were no benches downtown, and normally they are only placed around the parking lot and festival space near the Library and City Hall. Blomquist responded that there were roughly two dozen wood benches, and that they could be placed in other locations. After a brief discussion, it was agreed that 4 benches would be placed in other locations closer to Stephenson Ave. McCauley also responded that the wood benches were in the process of being repainted, and that local artists will get involved in adding designs.

**VII. Member Privilege** - McCauley was asked to follow up with Beck's landscaping to determine which areas of Downtown were sprayed with herbicide in the sidewalk cracks and curb areas along sidewalks. Stanchina noted that weeds were quite apparent in some areas, such as along A street near City Hall. McCauley responded that Beck's has historically not been great at communicating, especially with regard to the information being discussed.

Webb made a brief mention of the idea of having fountains in the Chapin Pit - something discussed in the past, at least on a conceptual level. Several other members noted that the Pit was located just outside of the DDA boundary, so doing anything with that area would require an adjustment of the DDA boundary.

**VIII. Adjournment -** Next regular DDA Board meeting: Monday, July 13, 2026.