

**City of La Porte Business Improvement District**  
**City Hall**  
**La Porte, IN 46350**  
**May 9, 2022**

President Thaddeus Cutler called the May 9, 2022 meeting of the City of La Porte Business Improvement District Board to order at 5:02 p.m. The meeting was held at City Hall at 801 Michigan Avenue, La Porte, IN. Roll call of members of the Board was shown to be present or absent as follows:

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Brad Adamsky, Robin Clark, Thaddeus Cutler, Jessica Granger, Jim Kaminski, Erica Kanney, Lizz Ward, Clinton Worthington

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Dawn Melchiorre, John Spiggle

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Laura Cutler, Amy Feikes, Charity Hlavsa, Sarah Nimetz, Craig Phillips

**MINUTES:** President Cutler asked if there were any additions or corrections to be made on the April 11 minutes. There being no corrections, Ward made a motion to approve the April 11 meeting minutes and Clark seconded. There being no further discussion; motion carried.

**GUEST COMMENTS:** There were no comments from guests.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Finance:** Spiggle was not present. There were two claims. The first claim was for Jongkind's secretarial services from March to May in the amount of \$150. The second was for Mofield Properties for 3 weeks of summer maintenance in the amount of \$1,500. Adamsky motioned to approve the claims and Ward seconded. There being no further discussion; motion passed.

**Maintenance:** There was no report. It was mentioned the planter on the corner of Lincolnway and Monroe is still an issue and the planter on the corner of Lincolnway and Madison was hit again.

Phillips spoke about the irrigation situation in the planters. The company that was working on it is no longer able to service the city. There is an issue of the Mayor wanting the electric outlets fixed in the tree wells which also have irrigation running through them. We have no idea once we activate the system what we will run into. Phillips asked the BID if they would consider abandoning the irrigation system and using watering trucks instead this year. Feikes did confirm they can complete the watering. Adamsky asked what the cost of the watering truck would be. Feikes said the quote for 138 planters (two up for removal) would be \$500 each time that includes getting the water from the city and filling up their tank 5-10 times, which is \$12,000 total if they are watered once a week. Last year at the end of the season areas identified were courthouse and jail square, Michigan Ave dog park, and the SE corner of Madison and Lincolnway. Ward said there are three planters she can think of that do not have any water to them. Others have low water. There are four planters on the depot property that would not be included. The control point for those planters is in the depot so it is impossible to get to it.

Granger asked if we could look at more native plants that might not need as much care, but Ward explained that they looked at that before and it would not work because things grow differently due to sunshade.

Sarah Nimetz of the Engineering Department spoke about the trees in the BID and handed out a data sheet to better understand what we have and what needs to be done. The Pear Trees would be replaced with a street tree that is more tolerant of being near the street and salt, but it depends on what will work with the long-term plan. Nimetz said she will send the list of most damaged trees to the board. The quote to remove the electricity in the tree wells for last year was \$120 each. There is a grant pending with the HFL for the tree crew to continue through July. She said that irrigation in the tree wells is unnecessary and should be removed.

Jeff Eiler quoted \$1,600 to turn the valves on, clean the valve heads, and identify any leaks plus cost of repairs that may come up as work is completed.

Phillips is going to reschedule his meeting with Mystic out of Valparaiso. Clark would like more information before the BID can make an educated decision. Kaminski made a motion to improve the one-month contract for Feikes to water the planters beginning when the flowers are planted to the next meeting and Clark seconded. There being no further discussion; motion passed. Steps going forward will be Feikes watering the planters once Perennials Galore plants flowers then doing an inventory of the irrigation system so the BID can make a decision at the June meeting to either repair or abandon the irrigation system for the year.

**Leaf & Snow Removal:** There was no report.

**Flowers:** Phillips asked if the BID would like to make a decision about the damaged planters until after the assessment or if the board would like to go ahead and make a decision tonight. He suggested that if planters are removed, bollards should be put in their place. Both planters were damaged by semi-trucks this time and each planter will cost about \$4,000-5,000 each for either repair or removal. The one on Jackson in front of T-Berry's will cost more. The one on the corner of Madison can be capped and it will not affect any other planter. The one on Jackson may be an issue since there are more down the line. Phillips also suggested if the BID repairs the planter on Monroe, two or three bollards should also be put in to protect the planter from further incident which could be around \$5,000 per site.

Phillips will get quotes and a timeline for removal and repair plus bollard designs and send in an email as an emergency decision.

**Trees:** Adamsky did not have anything further to add to the tree report.

**Long-Term Planning:** Kaminski noted that the committee will be meeting on May 12<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m. in chambers

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

There was no old business.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

There was no new business.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS/OBSERVATIONS:**

There were no announcements.

### **Adjournment/Next Meeting**

There being no further business, Worthington entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:55 p.m. and Ward seconded. The next board meeting will be June 13, 2022. *If unable to attend this meeting, please contact Thaddeus Cutler by email at [thaddeus@thaddeusc.com](mailto:thaddeus@thaddeusc.com)*

*Respectfully submitted by: Lindsay Jongkind*