

City of La Porte Business Improvement District
City Hall
La Porte, IN 46350
June 12, 2023

President Thaddeus Cutler called the June 12, 2023 meeting of the City of La Porte Business Improvement District Board to order at 5:10 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: Thaddeus Cutler, John Spiggle, Clinton Worthington, Lizz Ward, Jessica Granger, Tommy Viere, Robin Clark, Courtney Dickman, Jim Kaminski

MEMBERS ABSENT: Brad Adamsky,

GUESTS PRESENT: Amy Feikes, Jeanne Rafaj, Craig Phillips

MINUTES: President Cutler asked if there were any additions or corrections to be made on the June 12 minutes. Ward made a motion to approve the May 8 meeting minutes and Viere seconded. There being no further discussion; motion carried.

GUEST COMMENTS:

Jeanne Rafaj with the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) requested that the BID Board consider a collaboration with the HPC on banners to promote historic preservation downtown. After discussion and suggestions regarding possible sources of funding for the banners, it was suggested that a funding commitment be found and then to return to the BID Board to work with the HPC to find a time slot to put the banners up.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance: Spiggle reported \$212.00 in interest revenue in April. \$2,200.00 total was paid in May for expenses. For expenses, repairs and maintenance/sidewalks total \$2,200.00 in May. There is \$119,850.28 left in cash and about \$112,401.10 left in budget.

There were 4 claims; One for Paul's Construction for emergency for \$1,890.00, Mofield Properties that include 5 weekly maintenance jobs at \$2,500 total, Mofield Properties for 6 waterings at \$535.15 for a total of \$4,372.80 total, Perennials Galore for 2023 installation of flowers in planters for \$27,300.00 and Maintenance of \$6,700.00 for a total of \$34,000.00. Total for all claims is \$42,752.80. Kaminski motioned to accept the claims as presented and Clark seconded There being no further discussion; motion passed 9-0.

Maintenance: Phillips reported on current status of planters including updates on insurance claims. Work continues on repairs and assessment of damage. Phillips stated he will get estimates on the five worst planters that were identified for both repair and removal options.

Phillips discussed the status of the irrigation system. He noted that he is still having trouble finding a contractor to conduct repairs of the irrigation system, but is working diligently to find a solution. He noted that after the meeting it was discovered that the main control box for the irrigation system failed to work when he worked with the Water Department to turn on and test the system. He presented options for replacement of the control panel and an emergency vote to purchase a new system was taken and approved the purchase of the new system from Tucor Manufacturing TWC Flowmaster control panel for an amount not to exceed \$6,431.12 on 5/16/23. The new control panel was purchased and it has been received, but the old program information

did not show up in the new control panel. Phillips is working with the supplier and manufacturer to current this situation.

Leaf & Snow Removal: There was no report.

Flowers: Ward noted that the flowers have been installed in the planters for the season.

Trees: There was no report.

Long-Term Planning: Kaminski indicated that work continues to proceed with the streetscape plan with Hitchcock Design Group and that the Long Term Planning Committee held a workshop on May 24 to review the progress on the plan and go over options for materials selections. Another workshop will likely be scheduled in the next several weeks to continue the work of the committee on the plan.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

A request was received from La Porte High School Athletic Department via Mayor Dermody to consider moving the October 1-November 15 time slot for fall sports to the August 15-September 30 time slot to allow the fall sports time slot to align better with the beginning of the fall sports season. After considerable discussion, a motion was made by Viere and seconded by Spiggle to allow for a change in schedule but that all fall sports would need to move to the August 15-September 30 time slot, but that the schools would not have access to the banner that are used by the Sunflower Fair on Michigan Avenue and Jefferson Street, and the motion and after discussion the motion was withdrawn, then a motion was made that the time slots would be left as is and if the High School athletics, music, etc. would come as a group to discuss changes for next year at the November or December meeting by Clark and seconded by Granger. Motion passed 9-0

In other new business, it was also suggested that a conversation with the Mayor and Clerk-Treasurer be arranged to discuss concerns about the trajectory of the BID budget.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/OBSERVATIONS:

There were no announcements/observations.

Adjournment/Next Meeting

There being no further business, Kaminski entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:52 p.m seconded by Worthington. The next board meeting will be July 10, 2023. ***If unable to attend this meeting, please contact Thaddeus Cutler by email at thaddeus@thaddeusc.com***

Respectfully submitted by: Craig Phillips