

**CALUMET DDA MEETING AGENDA  
CALUMET VILLAGE TOWNHALL  
340 SIXTH STREET  
CALUMET, MICHIGAN 49913  
October 6, 2020 – 1:00 PM**

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Leah Polzien at 1:04 PM and Chair Leah Polzien recited pledge.

Virtual Roll Call was Taken.

Present: Dave Geisler, Lorri Oikarinen, Leah Polzien, Tom Dumble, and Rick Campioni

Absent: Peter Hahn, Andrew Ranville (arrived late), JW Miller, Tim Bies

Vacant: None

Also Present: Manager Caleb Katz (arrived late) and one member of the public.

**II. Acceptance of Agenda**

Moved by Rick Campioni, and seconded by Dave Geisler.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes— Dave Geisler, Lorri Oikarinen, Leah Polzien, Tom Dumble, and Rick Campioni

Nays—None

Motion Carried: 5/0

**III. Acceptance of Minutes**

Moved by Dave Geisler and seconded by Tom Dumble.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Dave Geisler, Lorri Oikarinen, Leah Polzien, Tom Dumble, and Rick Campioni

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5/0

**IV. Agenda**

**Petitions from the Public- No Petitions**

**1. Greenspace Project**

Leah Polzien gave some updates. She discussed the two versions of plans that had been drawn up, since the council has asked for an arborist to review the tree situation in the theatre lot, they have taken that part of the plans out of the Greenspace plan for now. She would like to start some fundraising this winter and spring. Lorri Oikarinen

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gave a thought on a house that the Bausano's formerly owned, and the current owners place a plastic fence up at certain times of the year, she thought it might make a good partition.

**2. Community Garden Project**

No new updates on this. Chair Polzien has not submitted the application, time has run out because the streets department does not have time, and the council seems to be split on the shrubbery at the back of the lot. Chair Polzien plans to speak with some tree experts about what trees to use and what are the hardiest we can plant.

**3. DDA Plan Update**

Chair Polzien gave an update on the DDA plan update and how it is moving along. She explained about how Beckett & Raeder have sent out a survey and everyone has received a copy to make suggestions or edits. If people still want to make comments or changes there is still time, but it needs to be done immediately. Beckett & Raeder has compiled all the comments and changes, and has made those updates. Further discussion was had on how best to distribute these surveys to the Village of Calumet.

**4. CDBG Update**

Chair Polzien gave an update on where the façade grant stands. Work is continuing on Andrew Ranville's building, and Lorri Oikarinen is waiting on windows. There will be a phone call next week between Jeff Ratcliffe, Leah Polzien, Caleb Katz and Jen Tucker to discuss development and the recent purchases by a developer.

**5. WUPPDR Marketing Grant**

Chair Polzien is waiting to hear from Chelsea about updates. She believes she is doing some pictures and video of local businesses; she has visited some, including Cross Country Sports, and possibly Keweenaw Coffee Works.

**6. DDA Property Update**

Jeff Ratcliffe has spoken with the advisory commission to fund \$850 and there has been a few hundred extra dollars found to help with the cleaning and emptying of the Aho Building. Chair Polzien has spoken with Manager Katz about using a dump truck to help with this, and the Village will help and so will the DPW department.

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Additional discussion occurred on a small project on the Aho Building that Tom Dumble will be spearheading to create an overhead covering for the basement door. He believes \$80.00 will cover the expenses, he will also be contributing materials. Chair Polzien asked if there was a motion to expend funds to help complete this project.

Motion to expend up to \$100.00 made by Dave Geisler, and seconded by Rick Campioni.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes- Dave Geisler, Lorri Oikarinen, Leah Polzien, Tom Dumble, and Rick Campioni

Nays-None

Motion Carried: 5/0

**7. Community Watch**

No updates were given on this since Andrew Ranville and JW Miller were not at the meeting. Rick Campioni gave some news about a resident not hearing back from the State Police. Neither President Geisler or Manager Katz had much to update the DDA on regarding hiring a police officer. Manager Katz explained personnel has the police job description, but he has not received any calls or complaints about criminal activity. Lorri Oikarinen would like to see some cameras up and down the streets on businesses, including around Main St.

Off topic discussion began on Bill's Electric and buildings that are deteriorating. Chair Polzien wanted updates on how blight enforcement is moving along and what the next steps or buildings on the list are. Manager Katz gave update that multiple letters have been sent to the LLC that is the owner of Bill's Electric and he has also sent letters to the only known person attached to the building and all letters have been undeliverable. No one has been able to find contact information for the owner. Chair Polzien would like to see a deal struck to facilitate the sale of the building to a responsible owner.

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Additional discussion was had on the collapsed church and burned home next to the Village garage. Manager Katz gave an update on the new ownership of those lots, but there is not much we can do with these due to the owners having limited financial abilities, and it is not something we want to take on due to the cost of cleanup.

Last minute discussion was had, President Geisler asked about if there is anything, we can do with Brownfield's regarding the old church that collapsed since it was once used by a business at one time.

Manager Katz gave an update on the free smoke detector grant that the Village Fire Department received, where people can come get a free smoke detector. Also, he updated that the Village acquired numerous free snowflakes that can be placed to line all of 6<sup>th</sup> Street, and that he is currently looking for additional ones to fill 5<sup>th</sup> Street. Lorri Oikarinen was wondering about why those were chosen. She feels the Village and DDA are not working together about the decorations, and the DDA's opinion was not asked and not informed. She was also upset that new trash cans were bought without the DDA's opinion or consent, and that the Village needs to work with the DDA more.

Manager Katz also gave an update on the arborist from Lake Superior Tree Service, and that the arborist's opinion was that all four all dying and are hazardous. Hopefully the arborist can attend the next meeting, the DDA mentioned they would appreciate a second opinion.

**8. Bills**

Motion to accept bills made by Dave Geisler, and seconded by Lorri Oikarinen.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes- Dave Geisler, Lorri Oikarinen, Leah Polzien, Tom Dumble, and Andrew Ranville

Nays-None

Motion Carried: 5/0

\*Rick Campioni had to leave early.

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**9. Adjourn**

Moved by Tom Dumble and seconded by Dave Geisler to adjourn at 2:20PM

Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Dave Geisler, Lorri Oikarinen, Leah Polzien, Tom Dumble, and Andrew Ranville

Nays – None

Motion carried unanimously 5/0

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Caleb C.D. Katz  
DDA Administrator**