

**MANISTEE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 23, 2019
8:00 A.M., MANISTEE CITY HALL**

PRESENT: Valarie Bergstrom, Rachel Brooks, Tamara DePonio, Karen Goodman, Barry Lind, Kyle Moser, Thad Taylor, Jodi Walter

EXCUSED ABSENCE: T. Eftaxiadis

ALSO PRESENT: DDA Director Caitlyn Berard, Lynda Beaton, Kathryn Kenny, Tyler Leppanen, Tom St. Dennis

1. **Call to Order.** Meeting called to order by the Chair at 8:00 a.m.

2. **Approval of Agenda.** *MOTION* by Karen Goodman, second by Valarie Bergstrom to approve the agenda as presented. Voice vote – Motion carried.

3. **Public Comment.** - None

4. **Consideration of Design Committee Recommendation for the Approval of the Elk’s Façade Grant.**

The DDA Design Committee met last week to discuss a request from the Elks Club for a façade grant. It is important to note that this request would use up the façade grant budget for the year. The Committee recommends a façade grant for the Elks in the amount of \$10,000 with an additional \$5,000 (\$15,000 total with 50% match), contingent upon receiving additional funding from MEDC or others for the façade grant program. Discussion followed.

MOTION by Barry Lind, second by Thad Taylor to approve a façade grant for the Elks Club in the amount of \$10,000 with an additional \$5,000 contingent upon receiving additional funding from the MEDC. Voice vote – Motion carried.

5. **Consideration of Real Estate Purchase Option Agreement for 285 River Street, Former American Cleaners.**

The DDA has received a request to purchase 285 River Street, the former American Cleaners. Discussed original goal to purchase this property was to have control over future redevelopment to enhance the downtown gateway at US-31 and River Street. Reviewed past discussions regarding a shared facility for DDA/Chamber/CVB; building

is outside the Historic District and should be complimentary to the DDA; recent MSU design; consider donating property and create a partnership with a developer; cost recovery vs. goal accomplishment; and the Vogue Project.

The purchase request from Little River Holding has some urgency and the Chair asked for a motion to provide direction.

MOTION by Thad Taylor, second by Kyle Moser to direct the DDA Executive Director Caitlyn Berard to work with Little River Holdings and negotiate an agreement that will be brought to the Board in September for consideration. Voice vote – Motion carried.

6. **Old Business.** None
7. **New Business.** None
8. **Public Comment.** None
9. **Board Comment.** None
10. **Adjourn.** *MOTION* by Thad Taylor, second by Valarie Bergstrom to adjourn at 8:21 a.m.

Cynthia Lokovich, CAP OM
Acting Recording Secretary