



Marquette Downtown Development Authority Meeting Minutes for December 11th, 2025

Call to Order

A meeting of the Marquette Downtown Development Authority (MDDA) Board of Directors was held on Thursday December 11th, 2025, at the Tree House, located inside of Donckers, 137 W. Washington St.. The meeting was called to order by Board President R. Stern at 8:07 a.m. with Directors M. Weinrick, R. Caron, P. Sala, C. Durley, K. Kovacs, C. Klecha, A. Clark, present.

Absent: L. Rowland

Others in attendance were T. Laase-McKinney DDA Executive Director, S. Hobbins-Marquette Assistant City Manager, J. Lanciani-DDA Operations Director, M. Bradford-DDA Business Outreach & Promotions Director, and B. Shier-Farmers Market Manager.

Agenda

K. Kovacs made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of the wayfinding program presentation. P. Sala seconded; motion passed.

Public Comment

1. Amelia Pruiett -City Arts and Culture Office
 - a. Amelia shared that the Arts and Culture Office is renovating the former LSCP building. It will serve as a multiuse room, a wayfinding destination, and the entry hall will have a major mural/map.
 - b. Their office is working with local trail heads, destinations, and museums.
 - c. The timeline for moving in is the spring and opening in the late summer /early fall.

Consent Agenda

C. Durley made a motion to approve the consent agenda with the minutes from 11/13/2025, bills for approval dated 11/1/2025 - 11/30/2025, and financial reports as of 11/30/2025. P. Sala seconded; motion passed.

November Bills:

Advance Auto Parts	477.30	Marquette Ambition, LLC	5,009.33
Blue Cross Blue Shield	141.70	Marquette Embroidery & Lettering	117.50
Board of Light & Power	1,968.91	Marquette Monthly	825.00
C. Pesola LLC	1,850.00	Michigan Muncipal League	10,353.00
Capital One Commercial	2,370.05	Midway Rentals	309.00

Card Connect	15.06	Mining Journal	2,000.00
Cardmember Service	6,771.97	Noah Bauer	100.00
Charter Communications	80.00	North Country Disposal	750.00
Chesla & Associates PC	310.00	OK Rental	33.99
City of Marquette	3,246.50	Pileated Farms	36.00
Dalco	31.05	SEMCO	109.00
Doozers	15.00	T2 Systems Canada Inc.	1,900.00
Doughmama (Kelsey Stein)	15.00	TK Elevator	1,002.50
Enright Excavating	10,142.86	Tonella Farms	608.00
Ever Yielding Acres	496.00	Traffic & Safety Control	950.00
Fastenal	146.08	U.P. Kubota	599.97
For Goodness Cakes	22.00	Vestis	347.86
Full Plate Farm	462.00	VSP Insurance Co.	70.34
Getz's Department Store	1,148.00	Wally Tuccini	100.00
Heartland Services	1,917.67	Western Michigan Health Ins	5,005.19
Honey Haven Baking Co.	38.00	WLUC	1,095.00
Integris	136.00	Yoopers Country Farms	970.00
Little Parsley Farm	25.00	Payroll Expenses	59,217.67
M&M Specialties	120.00	Total	123,455.50

Annual Presentation to the Board

1. One of two required yearly updates
2. Key Notes
 - a. Six and a half miles of sidewalks being taken care of in the downtown district
 - b. Total business 335, Employees 2,650, Residents 350, Total Parcels 280
3. Initial Base Value (1992) - \$10,621,582 Total Captured Value - \$48,986,531
4. Parking
 - a. Eight parking lots, 755 spaces,
 - b. On street parking in core downtown, 321 paid and 122 free
 - c. On street parking on Third St. 142 (Free 2 hour)
 - d. Total Parking Spaces - 1,340 (20% free and 80% paid)
 - e. 14 Employee Parking Grants for businesses awarded
5. Farmers Market
 - a. Average customer count for Saturday Market has been increasing
 - b. Average customer count for Wednesday Market has been remaining steady
 - c. Less vendors this year because the current vendors are asking for more space for their booths
 - d. Food Assistance Reimbursements did decrease this year, which was the trend nationwide
6. Events and Promotions
 - a. Eight sponsored events/series in 2025 that DDA hosted

- b. Five events/series in 2025 that the DDA partnered with
- 7. Businesses
 - a. Eleven new businesses added to downtown in 2025
 - b. Twelve businesses left downtown in 2025
- 8. 2025 Accomplishments
 - a. Finalized TIF extension
 - b. Worked with businesses to obtain RAP grants for building facades
 - c. Improvements in sidewalks and parking lots

Wayfinding Presentation

- 1. Working with Corbin Designs on the first phase of our Wayfinding program.
- 2. DDA staff will be meeting with Corbin to review signage locations throughout downtown.

Old Business: None

New Business

1. Proposed 2026 Board Meeting Dates

- a. C. Klecha makes a motion to approve the dates as presented. M. Weinrick seconded;
Motion Passed

Committee Reports

1. Parking Committee

- a. Parking grants this year grew from 14 to 25 businesses.
- b. Discussed coming together again to tweak requirements for next year's grant
- c. Discussed restriping and reviewing recommendations from SAIL regarding handicap spaces downtown

Executive Director's Report –

- 1. Snow Removal
 - a. Upper-level Bluff Street Ramp is still an issue
 - b. Snow removal company is looking into a better piece of equipment to help with that area.
- 2. Yule Market
 - a. Now through Friday 3:00pm to 8:00pm

Business Development and Promotions Director's Report

- 1. Holiday parade and city tree lighting went well

Public Comment

- 1. Amelia Pruiett -City Arts and Culture Office is excited to work together on the Wayfinding project

Board Member Comment:

- 1. R. Stern: Looking forward to next year.

2. M. Weinrick Congratulations to Charlie on the cheese cave. Congratulations to the holiday parade and tree lighting. Looking forward to the Yule Market
3. R. Caron: No comment
4. P. Sala had an idea about closing the 100 block of Washington and doing a NMU alumni event to bring them into the business district
5. C. Durley: There is a problem with the main street lot and people blocking the pass through against the old theater and double parking.
6. K. Kovacs: The holiday parade was great. The city float did win. It was handcrafted. 400 W Washington received their grant for their multiuse building.
7. C. Klecha: Cheese cave expansion is now open at Everyday Wines. He asked if there was any known issue with recycling this week. Confirmed there was an issue and the city put out a PSA.
8. A. Clark: No comment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:39am

Respectfully submitted,



Chris Durley (Jan 13, 2026 12:56:02 EST)

Christopher J Durley.

Board Secretary

Marquette Downtown Development Authority





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Final Audit Report

2026-01-13

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