

City of La Porte Business Improvement District
City Hall
La Porte, IN 46350
August 8, 2022

President Thaddeus Cutler called the August 8, 2022 meeting of the City of La Porte Business Improvement District Board to order at 5:03 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, John Spiggle, Clinton Worthington

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jim Kaminski, Lizz Ward

GUESTS PRESENT: Laura Cutler, Amy Feikes, Charity Hlavsa, Sierra Sue Jesch, Craig Phillips

MINUTES: President Cutler asked if there were any additions or corrections to be made on the July 11 minutes. In the announcements/observations portion, there was a correction to the spelling of Findlay, Ohio. Worthington made a motion to approve the July 11 meeting minutes with the correction and Adamsky seconded. There being no further discussion; motion carried.

GUEST COMMENTS: Sierra Sue Jesch came forward to talk about three issues: the lack of park benches downtown, the planter between Lincolnway and Jefferson that takes up half of the sidewalk where she said two people cannot walk side by side in that area due to the planter, and the trees downtown not being trimmed until last month.

In response to the tree trimming, Phillips said they just approved a new Forrester that will start next week.

President Cutler added that many business owners have requested to have the benches removed due to panhandlers and undesirable activity in front of their buildings.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance: Spiggle reported the schedule of income expenses are caught up to the 20th of July. For July the BID had (interest) and \$51,000 for tax revenues, \$2,700 for planter insurance. Expenses in July included \$7,200 for maintenance and \$33,000 went to Perennials Galore for planting in the spring and the annual maintenance contract. The BID has paid Perennials for everything agreed to so far this year.

\$202,187.56 is the amount left at the end of July.

Claims include Mystic Landscaping in the amount of \$1,800 for irrigation, Stephani Electric for removing receptacles on Lincolnway in the amount of \$8,260, Mofield Properties for sidewalk maintenance in the amount of \$2,000 and watering in the amount of \$1,100 for July totaling \$3,100 and 1st week of August in the amount of \$500 for maintenance and \$220 for watering totaling \$720. Adamsky motioned to approve the claims as presented and Clark seconded.

Those invoices are covered. Paul's removal of the planter at Jackson and Lincolnway totaled \$7,800, repairing the cap and brick on the planter at Lincolnway and Madison totaled \$3,840 and repairing the cap and brick to

the planter at Lincolnway and Monroe totaled \$4,800. Total \$16,440. They also fulfilled the pavers contract in the amount of \$51,500 so the total for Paul's is \$79,580. \$93,460 total in invoices this month.

Spiggle suggested approving and holding Paul's work until the BID gets the approval of appropriation through City Council. He would send an email to Parthun to request \$100,000 appropriation for maintenance, then it will be brought to the September 6th Council meeting for final approval. Spiggle made a motion to request an additional appropriation of \$100,000 for maintenance and Adamsky seconded. There being no further discussion; motion passed.

Spiggle brought forward a packet that outlined the disbursements for the year per vendor. He told the board they can move money between the different categories with a memo to the treasurer, but an appropriation needs Council approval. Adamsky asked if the cash for next year would be sufficient if we received the additional appropriation in question and Spiggle responded that this is the last year we could have an elevated budget. Adamsky motioned to approve the 2023 budget as presented and Worthington seconded. There being no further discussion; motion passed.

Maintenance: Worthington brought in a globe that was in front of Mucho Mas that has a crack in it. He said with some glue, it should be fine to put back on the pole.

Phillips told the board that the planter at Madison and Lincolnway has been hit again by a local company's dump truck. The estimate for repair would be \$2,200, and the estimate for removal would be \$6,950 (does not include plumbing or electrical). The planter in question has been hit three times this year. Spiggle motioned to repour the concrete cap and pursue the collection of \$2,200 from the insurance company and Adamsky seconded. There being no further discussion; motion passed.

There is another planter at State and Clay on the northeast side that someone apparently backed into as the damage is next to the parking space. The estimate to repair is \$7,700 and removal is \$8,300.

The planter at Clay and Lincolnway on the northeast corner needs minimal repair that consists of a new cap. The cost to repair is \$2,200 and removal is \$8,300.

Worthington motioned tabling the discussion for above planters until the next meeting after the appropriation has been approved and Adamsky seconded. There being no further discussion; motion approved.

Jennie Girton has requested to have the trash receptacle that is against 601 State Street moved to a different location since it keeps filling up and attracting flies. Spiggle suggested moving the trash receptacle away from the building but keep it in the same location.

Greg Samuelson has a concern about sinking pavers on the Monroe side of his building. Phillips will look at it and have water and sewer inspect it for serious issues. President Cutler also asked Phillips to talk to Greg about the signs he has been placing in the planters.

Leaf & Snow Removal: Feikes presented the quote for snow removal. She explained to the board that she had to raise her prices to \$135 from \$125 per hour. The quote was passed around the board for review. Adamsky asked her if she could tell the board what impact the price increase would have per year. Feikes replied it is hard to say what the state will allow and how that will impact their time. With snow being pushed out on the state highway last year, they averaged 10 hours as opposed to 12 hours when they were not able to push the snow. Worthington motioned to approve the quote as presented and Clark seconded. There being no further discussion; motion passed.

Flowers: There was no report.

Trees: Adamsky notified the board he will attend the next tree commission meeting.

Long-Term Planning: Phillips intends to connect with Kaminski regarding giving a presentation from the trip he was on in the Chicago suburbs. He will be getting a proposal together between the BID and Redevelopment Commission that includes a block-by-block design.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/OBSERVATIONS:

President Cutler notified the board that there are two vacancies on the board.

Adamsky said the La Porte County Symphony Orchestra is excited to have their 50th Anniversary banners up this year.

Adjournment/Next Meeting

There being no further business, Worthington entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 p.m. and Clark seconded. The next board meeting will be September 12, 2022. *If unable to attend this meeting, please contact Thaddeus Cutler by email at thaddeus@thaddeusc.com*

Respectfully submitted by: Lindsay Jongkind