

**City of La Porte Business Improvement District**  
**City Hall**  
**La Porte, IN 46350**  
**December 9, 2024**

President Ward called the December 9, 2024 meeting of the City of La Porte Business Improvement District Board to order at 5:05 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, Vice-President Robin Clark, John Spiggle, Tommy Viere, President Lizz Ward, Clinton Worthington

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Tu Bloom, Courtney Dickman, Jim Kaminski, Patti Pierson

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Amy Feikes

**MINUTES:** President Ward asked if there were any additions or corrections to be made on the October minutes. Adamsky made a motion to approve the October meeting minutes and Viere seconded. Motion carried.

**GUEST COMMENTS:** Amy Feikes notified the board that she stopped leaf blowing as of December 9<sup>th</sup> as we were expecting snow on Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. Viere noted the only place he had seen a build up of leaves was near 701 Lincolnway and Plaza 618. Adamsky suggested Feikes should shift to snow removal.

President Ward discussed an email packet that the board received from Novak regarding the proposal of an outdoor dining space for Trattoria Enzo. The plan calls for moving a light post, street sign, and a tree. The light post would be moved to another location, the street sign would be relocated a couple feet down, and the tree would be removed according to the long-term design plan anyway. Adamsky clarified that as a maintenance board, the BID is receiving the information only in case of strong objections regarding the light post and the tree. They are not in charge of decisions regarding sidewalk dining. Viere motioned to inform the city the BID board has no objection to the plan pending City of La Porte approval and Adamsky seconded. Motion carried.

President Ward also mentioned that Novak sent communication regarding a Joni Cole at 705 Jefferson Avenue would like to hang solar lights outside of her business. Ward indicated that in previous meetings, the board has made it clear that the businesses are not allowed to hang anything in the trees or place decorations in the planters. The request was denied for consistency.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Finance:** Spiggle presented the financial report. Looking back to October, the BID received \$192 in interest and \$1,000 from insurance for a deductible reimbursement. The board paid out five weeks of sidewalk maintenance for \$2,500. In November the board received \$175 in interest. This leaves \$113,000 in the bank. All the remaining budgeted items were moved to the repairs and maintenance accounts at the October meeting. Before this month's claims, there was a remaining appropriation of \$33,000 available for repairs and maintenance. He also noted that the board has not received the tax draw from November yet so there will still be about \$42,000 to \$43,000 coming in.

Spiggle reported there were four claims this month. The first two were for sidewalk maintenance from Mofield Properties totaling \$5,475. The last two from Paul's Construction totaling \$22,250 leaving about \$5,000 in the appropriation for this year. Worthington motioned to approve the claims and Viere seconded. Motion carried.

Adamsky motioned to approve the financial report as presented and Viere seconded. Motion carried.

**Maintenance:** There was no report.

**Leaf & Snow Removal:** There was no report.

**Flowers:** Ward reported gravel is being laid in the flatbed at Jackson Street and Lincolnway. The planter at Michigan Avenue and Lincolnway is still being worked on. There have been conversations with Perennials Galore regarding how to fill the flatbed and other ways we can lower the plant cost overall. The new plan is to keep the full spread on Lincolnway and the side streets will have smaller plants along with the sweet potatoes in various colors and grasses that will add height and shape. The biggest change is that the Pax Center expressed interest in filling the planters on State Street with vegetable plants and the mayor likes the idea. This would mean the board would pay \$12,545 less than the current setup with the Pax Center using 19 planters and the board cutting down the amount of plants. Ward would like to have a decision by the January meeting. Viere motioned to approve the bid for the proposed planters and hold off until January to see what the city and the Pax Center decide and Adamsky seconded. Feikes mentioned there is a possibility that the planters on State Street will require more frequent waterings.

The board decided to approve the bid for the proposed planters excluding the ones on State Street East of Monroe Street. Spiggle asked for a cost analysis that includes the 19 planters in case the Pax Center initiative does not move forward. If it does move forward the board will discuss turning those planters over to the Pax Center to avoid an annual approval.

**Trees:** Adamsky reported the City is working on a tree project along Indiana Avenue.

**Long-Term Planning:** There was no report.

**OLD BUSINESS:** There was no old business.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Adamsky, Clark, Dickman, and Worthington all wanted to be reinstated to the BID board, however, Kaminski expressed he will not be reinstated due to other commitments. There is one position open on the board.

David Heinhold will have the 2025 meeting schedule ready by the January 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS/OBSERVATIONS:**

### **Adjournment/Next Meeting**

There being no further business, Worthington entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:43 p.m. Viere seconded. The next board meeting will be on January 13, 2025. ***If unable to attend this meeting, please contact Lizz Ward by email at lizzward@gmail.com***

*Respectfully submitted by: Lindsay Kneifel*