

**CITY OF BRIDGMAN CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 11, 2022
5:30 PM**

A regular meeting of the Corridor Improvement Authority was held on April 11, 2022 at Bridgman City Hall, 9765 Maple Street, and was called to order by Chair Anderson at 5:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Hannah Anderson, Catherine Worcester, Suzy Barnes, Julie Strating, John Murphy, Beth McNeil, Wayne Hall (arrived at 5:34 p.m.)

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Ganum, City Clerk Holm, Building Official Mattner

HEARING OF CITIZENS:

- No one was present to be heard.

Approval of February 14, 2022 meeting minutes

Motion by Member McNeil, seconded by Member Worcester to approve the February 14, 2022 meeting minutes, **motion carried unanimously.**

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:

Red Arrow Highway corridor property maintenance target area – review draft property owner letters, amend and finalize

The board discussed the two property owner letters presented and made several changes within the first letter. The final letter that will be mailed to the property owners is attached to the minutes. The board also agreed to send the letter to all the properties within the CIA district instead of just doing Red Arrow Highway, so it doesn't look like they are targeting any certain properties.

Member Hall arrived at 5:34 p.m.

Social District enhancements and projects for 2022

Chair Anderson introduced newly appointed Member Strating to the board. Member Strating passed out some ideas that she came up with for the courtyard area. The board discussed the following ideas at length:

- Making the courtyard area a more intentional space to make it look softer and more inviting to get programming such as acoustic music on Sunday afternoons during the summer. Strating already has 8 weeks of music sponsored and is working on 5 more to have a full schedule for the summer.
- Removing the concrete blocks and installing troughs with arborvitaes and other plants to define the space.
- Discussed how much money to put into the courtyard and if this space is going to be permanent.
- Installing lights and sunshades and how those can be installed properly to withstand the wind.
- Discussed how electricity can be run into the courtyard and the City needs to make sure the Parks Department is going to water all of the flowers in the courtyard area.

- Member Worcester shared a picture of how she is going to have someone paint windows on the second story of her building to keep adding to the decor.

Chair Anderson told Ganum to send out a bulk email to the boards and schools along with getting ahold of Sarah Spoonholtz to put out information on Don Chepe returning for “Taco Tuesdays” beginning on April 19th. Member Worcester told Anderson she heard that they were not returning until May 2nd or 3rd. Anderson asked Ganum to reach out to Don Chepe and find out when they will be returning to Bridgman. She also asked Ganum to have a barricade put up at the entrance to the parking lot where Don Chepe’s food truck is located, so cars don’t pull in when people are in line.

After further discussion, Ganum will reach out to Wightman to find out the best way to install the posts to withstand the wind. Chair Anderson will attend the next city council meeting to get the City’s approval of allowing the courtyard to be a permanent space before the CIA agrees to spend up to \$10,000 for that area.

Chair Anderson asked Ganum to send a bulk email to the city boards and schools and get ahold of Sarah Spoonholtz to let everyone know that Don Chepe will be coming back on Tuesdays beginning April 19th. Member Worcester said she heard they wouldn’t be starting until May 2nd so Anderson asked Ganum to confirm the date. Anderson also asked Ganum if a barricade can be placed at the entrance of the courtyard when Don Chepe is there so cars can’t pull in while people are standing in line.

Motion by Member Hall, seconded by Member McNeil to allocate up to \$10,000 of the CIA’s budget for courtyard improvements that were discussed, **voice vote, motion carried unanimously.**

Ganum will inform the council of the CIA’s plan at Monday’s meeting. He will come back to the CIA with a cost estimate and send that information to the board ahead of their next meeting. Anderson asked Ganum to reach out to Corrine from Arcadia Gardens to let her know of their plan with that space and of the compost the city has should be used for dirt at the bottom of the troughs to save money.

Grant opportunities

Member Strating recently attended the Michigan Arts and Culture Council and explained the various grants available. To be considered for the grant, they want to see past accomplishments, see that there are strides being made at current projects, and the ability to follow through even if they do not receive a grant. She explained what an egregious process it is to go through the grant application process and the need to have a strategy that spells everything out in great detail. The board discussed the several types of grants they could apply for and decided that the first one should be for beautifying the exit 16 area.

Member Hall left at 6:51 p.m.

The board continued discussion on obtaining grants and making sure that there is a plan down the road to upkeep and maintain any projects that are done. The board also discussed the MDOT staging area at length along with the boardwalk and stairs at Weko Beach. Ganum shared a visual concept of the exit 16 area from 10 years ago and will work on an updated visual.

Staff Updates

Ganum gave the board the following updates:

- The Farmer’s market is very eager to start in May and have 123 registered vendors which they will have 40 – 50 vendors at each event.

- Molly's Beachwalk has a menu available online and they may be open before the next CIA meeting.
- The owner of Transient now owns the Chase bank building and he is not aware of any plans yet.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Anderson adjourned the meeting at 7:09 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Allyson Holm, City Clerk