

THE ESCANABA EXPRESS

The Escanaba Express is a monthly newsletter that is published to keep the community informed about the City's services, programs, activities and opportunities to participate.



Happy Holidays & Warm Wishes

From the City of Escanaba



Holiday Notice in Observance of Christmas

City of Escanaba Business Offices & Escanaba Public Library

Friday, December 22, 2023— Closed all Day

Monday, December 25, 2023— Closed all Day

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL

CHRISTMAS PARADE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1ST
6:00 PM

Parade starts at City Hall
Ludington Street
Escanaba

Upcoming Public Meetings

Date	Time	Type of Meeting
12/7/2023	7:00 pm	City Council
12/12/2023	4:30 pm	Housing Commission
12/12/2023	5:00 pm	Harbor Advisory Committee
12/12/2023	6:00 pm	Recreation Advisory Board
12/14/2023	6:00 pm	Planning Commission
12/18/2023	4:15 pm	Historic District Commission
12/18/2023	5:00 pm	Board of Library Trustees
12/21/2023	8:15 am	Downtown Development Authority

Upcoming Public Events

DATE	TIME	EVENT / FESTIVAL
12/1/2023	6:00 PM	Escanaba Christmas Parade
12/01/23- 12/02/23	11:00 am—7:00 pm	Christmas in the Village
12/05/23	7:00 pm	Bay College 2023 Fall Concert Series: "A Very Switchback Christmas"
12/05/23	6:00 pm—8:00 pm	Bonifas Culinary Demo: Homemade Marshmallows
12/06/23	6:00 pm—7:3 pm	Bonifas Culinary Demo: Winter Macarons
12/07/23	7:00 pm	Bay College Film: Oppenheimer
12/09/23	6:00 pm—8:00 pm	YMCA Jingle Bell Hop
12/09/23— 12/10/23	10:00 am— 5:00 pm	Santa's Workshop Craft Show
12/15-23- 12/16/23	10:00am—6:00 pm	Frosty Wonderland Craft Show
12/16/2023	6:30 pm—8:00 pm	YMCA NERF Night at the Turf

Escanaba Library



ESCANABA
PUBLIC LIBRARY


**NEW OPEN
HOURS
EFFECTIVE JULY 5**

MONDAY	10AM - 5 PM
TUESDAY	10AM - 7 PM
WEDNESDAY	10AM - 7 PM
THURSDAY	10AM - 7 PM
FRIDAY	10AM - 5 PM
SATURDAY	10AM - 3 PM
SUNDAY	CLOSED

PLEASE COME IN



A background image of a sunset over a body of water, with the sun low on the horizon and its light reflecting on the water. The sky is a mix of orange and blue.

Escanaba Library



Story Time With Santa!

Saturday, December 16
1:00 p.m.
in the City Council Chambers





Ink Society Local Writers' Group

The Ink Society is an informal group of local writers that connect at the library monthly to discuss their current work, seek feedback, and share ideas. Bring your work and prepare to be inspired! The Ink Society meets the first Saturday of each month at 10:30 a.m.

For more information, call the library at (906)789-7323 or email jlynch@escanabalibrary.org

First Saturdays at 10:30 a.m.
Escanaba Public Library
Ages 16+




**Lego Club
Saturday,
December 9 at 1:00 p.m.**

"Santa's Lego Workshop"

Bring one container of Legos per child in attendance.
Be entered into a prize drawing!





Play like it's 1700

**Wednesday, December 13
5:30 p.m.**



Escanaba Library

Food Safety  

3-Part Series —
MSU Extension

Thursday, December 7 / 5:30-6:30 pm

Food Gifts

- Sharing food with friends and family safely with a focus on baked goods.



No registration is required. The events are free and open to the public.

Call us at 906-789-7323 for more information

About the presenter—Stephanie Ostrenga Sprague is an MSU Extension Food Safety Educator and has been a presenter for numerous MSU Extension programs here at the library.



Wrap Up the Holidays
at the Friends of the Escanaba Public Library's
Free Gift Wrap Station
with a donation to the Friends group
Wrap your gifts at the Library.
*We provide the paper, tape, scissors, tag, ribbons, & bows -
you do the wrapping!*
3:30 pm - 6:30 pm
Tuesdays
December 12 & 19
*Sponsored by the
Friends of the Escanaba Public Library*

Tech help—
from library staff—
every Tuesday!

TECH TUESDAYS

11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

You have questions—We have answers!






MONDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS
12:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Catherine Bonifas Civic Center Gym
225 North 21st Street

\$5 drop in or \$50 annually for in City
residents and \$60 annually for out of City
residents



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 16, 2023

Contact: Recreation Director Kim Peterson
Work Phone: 786-4141
Email: kpeterson@escanaba.org

GFWC-Escanaba Woman's Club Donates Funds to the Catherine Bonifas Civic Center Christmas Party

The GFWC-Escanaba Woman's Club donated funds to the Catherine Bonifas Civic Center's Christmas Party. Funds will be used to have a party for the youth that are registered for the After School Program in 4th – 12th grades.

Recreation Director Kim Peterson stated, "We are grateful for the partnerships with various organizations, such as the GFWC-Escanaba Woman's Club. Organizations such as this make it possible to go above and beyond for our After School Program. Every student that comes to the party will get a present, along with a pizza party. Students definitely look forward to the party every year as we display the presents in the trophy case prior to the party. We sincerely want to thank the GFWC-Escanaba Woman's Club for their generous donation."





MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 7, 2023

Contact: Recreation Director Kim Peterson

Work Phone: 786-4141

Email: kpeterson@escanaba.org

Community Foundation for Delta County and Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) Award Grant Monies to the Catherine Bonifas Civic Center “After School Program”

Community Foundation for Delta County and its Youth Advisory Committee have donated funds to the Catherine Bonifas Civic Center After School Program. The program is supported by grants and donations to youth in 4th to 12th grades. The Youth Advisory Committee is an affiliate of the Community Foundation of the Upper Peninsula. The City of Escanaba Recreation Department, along with the Catherine Bonifas Civic Center accepted the grant award.

Recreation Director Kim Peterson stated, “The After School Program has had challenges in the past with COVID and now with the increased cost of items such as food, hygiene products and school supplies. We are grateful for the support of the community and the businesses that provide the items and funding for the program so we can continue this great program to the youth in the community. We appreciate the Community Foundation for Delta County and its Youth Advisory Committee for recognizing the importance of the After School Program and for their recent donation.”





MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 14, 2023

Contact: Recreation Director Kim Peterson

Work Phone: 786-4141

Email: kpeterson@escanaba.org

Youth Assistance Program, Inc. Donates to the Catherine Bonifas Civic Center to Provide Hats and Mittens to the After School Program

The Recreation Department is happy to announce a donation from the Youth Assistance Program, Inc. to the Catherine Bonifas Civic Center. Funds were used to purchase hats and mittens for the 2023-2024 winter season.

Recreation Director Kim Peterson stated, "We are grateful for the partnership with the Delta County Youth Assistance Program, Inc. We purchased hats and mittens for the youth and will be distributing them all winter season."



Recreation Director Kim Peterson and YAP Member Jim Gehling





MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 14, 2023

Contact: Recreation Director Kim Peterson

Work Phone: 786-4141

Email: kpeterson@escanaba.org

Hannahville Indian Community Awards Grant Monies to the City of Escanaba Recreation Department

The Hannahville Indian Community's Tribal Council approved three 2% grant awards to the City of Escanaba Recreation Department. Funds will be used for the Webster Splash Park, Catherine Bonifas Civic Center After School Program and new chairs for the game room.

"The City of Escanaba Recreation Department is extremely pleased to be awarded funds for varying projects. The Hannahville Indian Community has been generous to the City and other organizations throughout the years and their support is important. Without their support a majority of projects would not take place within the community", stated Kim Peterson, Recreation Director.



Catherine Bonifas Civic Center Meeting Rooms 225 North 21st Street, Escanaba, MI 49829



Main Meeting Room—Up to 75 people can be comfortably seated in the main meeting room. This room is 1,700 square feet. Rate: \$25 hour resident and \$30 hour non-resident.

Room 121—Up to 50 people can be comfortably seated in this general meeting room. This room is 1,000 square feet. Rate: \$20 hour for resident and \$25 hour non-resident.

Club Room—Up to 30 people can be comfortably seated in this meeting room. This room is 900 square feet. Rate: \$20 hour for resident and \$25 hour non-resident.

Senior Activities Room—This room is available after 4:00 p.m. Up to 50 people can be comfortably seated in this room. This room is 1,200 square feet. Rate: \$20 hour for resident and \$25 hour non-resident.

Contact

City of Escanaba Recreation Department, 225 North 21st Street, Escanaba, MI 49829

(906) 786-4141 or recreation@escanaba.org





Gingerbread House Workshop

DATE: Saturday, December 2nd—10:30 am to 12:00 pm

Enjoy this traditional family holiday workshop by creating your own gingerbread house. This workshop will warm the hearts of your entire family as you create lasting memories. Adults and children are invited to attend this fun workshop.



Santa's Workshop

DATE: Saturday, December 2nd—1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

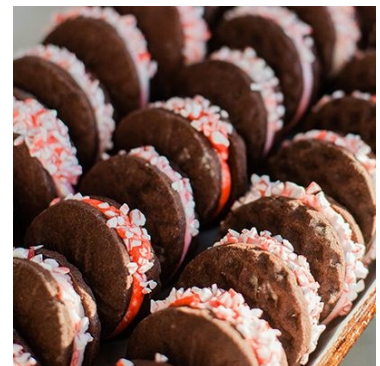


Come to Santa's Workshop and be an elf for the day as you learn to make gifts for your family and friends. Adults can help their little elves or sneak in gifts to wrap, while instructors help you master bows and other decorative touches to your holiday gifts. Please bring your own wrapping paper and feel free to bring ribbons and accessories, but we will have supplies for bows and other gift toppers. Guests are encouraged to dress as elves or in their favorite holiday pj's or attire.

Make & Take: Peppermint Jo Jos

DATE: Thursday, December 7th— 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Ho ho ho! Come make Peppermint Jo Jos with Alicia. She'll demonstrate how to make the batter and then will have you work with premade batter to finish the treats, sample and enjoy. If you prefer to cook with a partner, one guest can join you for the price of one. (Class will be held off site at the Escanaba Marketplace in the kitchen.) *Allergen warnings: gluten, dairy, egg, non-vegan



FREE CLASSES FOR VETERANS

The Bonifas Arts Center believes that art can be healing and therapeutic. Thanks to our partnership with Oscar G. Johnson, VA Medical Center,

All classes offered are free to all Veterans.

Thank you for your service.



BONIFASARTS.ORG



The Residential Energy Optimization Program helps qualifying City of Escanaba Electric Customers, like you, make energy-efficient choices for your home, by offering rebates when you purchase certain energy-saving products or equipment. You can earn rebates on a wide range of qualifying purchases, from ENERGY STAR appliances, LED Lighting, and HVAC Upgrades.

To see the full list of rebates available to you, download the Residential Program application by visiting: <https://www.escanaba.org/electric/page/energy-optimization-program>

Questions? Give us a call at 906-786-0061 or email us at cityelectric@escanaba.org



LED Lightbulbs



Appliances



HVAC Equipment



EV Chargers



The Commercial and Industrial Energy Optimization Program makes it easy for City of Escanaba businesses to reduce your energy usage, lower your costs and earn rebates when you make certain energy-saving updates. Whether you run a restaurant, dry cleaning business or corner market, we can help you make improvements – such as lighting, HVAC, and kitchen equipment – more affordable.

To see the full list of rebates available for your business, download the Commercial & Industrial Program application at <https://www.escanaba.org/electric/page/energy-optimization-program>.

Questions? Give us a call at 906-786-0061 or email us at cityelectric@escanaba.org



LED Lightbulbs



Kitchen Equipment



HVAC Equipment



EV Chargers



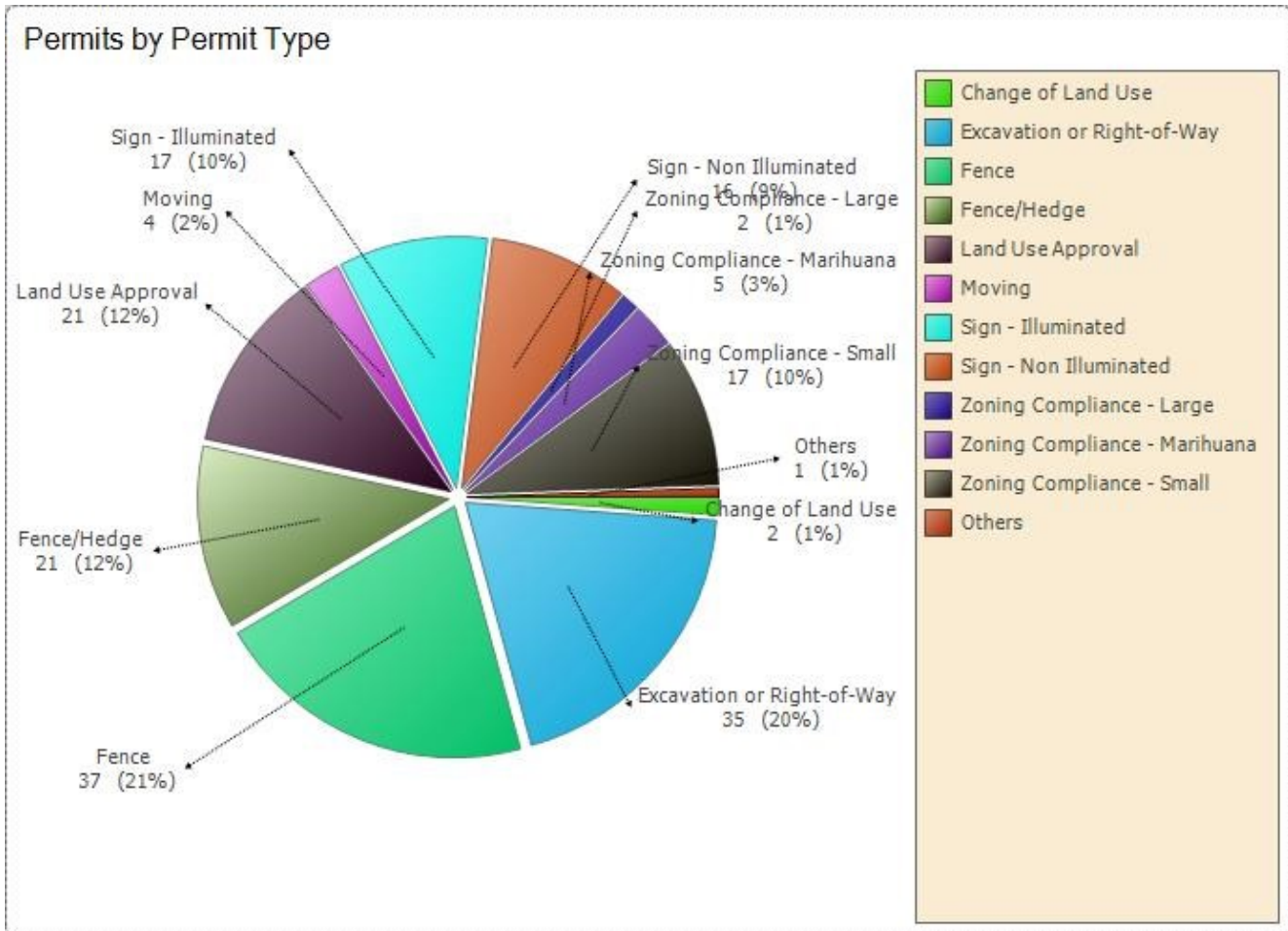
Escanaba Public Safety partnered with Elmer's County Market once again for Turkeys Not Tickets!

Elmer's County Market provided the turkeys that were distributed on various traffic stops on November 17th.



Zoning Permits Report

January 2023 through November 2023



CITY OF ESCANABA NEIGHBORHOOD ENFORCEMENT HOTLINE

Do you have rubbish, overgrown lawns, un-shoveled sidewalks, dilapidated buildings or non-running vehicles in your neighborhood?

You can call the City of Escanaba's Neighborhood Code Enforcement Hotline to report your concerns.

CALL: 786-6121 or e-mail:
jvandamme@escanaba.org & jcobb@escanaba.org



CITY SERVICES AND INFORMATION

ELECTED OFFICIALS	GENERAL GOVERNMENT OFFICE STAFF		
<p style="text-align: center;">Mayor Mark Ammel mammel@escanaba.org</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mayor Pro-Tem Karen Moore kmoore@escanaba.org</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Councilmember Ron Beauchamp rbeauchamp@escanaba.org</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Councilmember Tyler DuBord tdubord@escanaba.org</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Councilmember Todd Flath tflath@escanaba.org</p>	City Manager - James McNeil	jmcneil@escanaba.org	789-7322
	City Controller - Melissa Becotte	mbecotte@escanaba.org	786-0605
	Water/Wastewater Sup. - Jeff Lampi	jlampi@escanaba.org	786-3291
	Superintendent of DPW - Kent Dubord	kdubord@escanaba.org	786-1842
	Electric Superintendent - Gerald Pirkola	gpirkola@escanaba.org	786-0061
	Public Safety Director - John Gudwer	jgudwer@escanaba.org	786-5911
Recreation Director - Kim Peterson	kpeterson@escanaba.org	786-4141	
City Clerk - Phil DeMay	clerk@escanaba.org	786-1194	
Library Director - Carolyn Stacey	cstacey@escanabalibrary.org	789-7323	
HR Director/City Treasurer - Heather Calouette	hcalouette@escanaba.org	786-0552	
City Assessor - James McNeil	assessor@escanaba.org	789-7381	
Harbor Master - Shayne Sanville	ssanville@escanaba.org	786-9614	
Planning & Zoning Admin.- Tyler Anthony	tanthony@escanaba.org	786-9402	
IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS			
Escanaba Public Safety - Emergency 911			
Escanaba Public Safety - General	786-5912	Wastewater Questions/Issues	786-1301
Garbage/Recycling Information	786-1842	Escanaba Public Library	789-7323
Snow Plowing/Removal	786-1842	Escanaba DDA	789-8696
Potable Water Questions/Issues	786-3291	Electrical Questions/Issues	786-0061
Neighborhood Complaint Hotline	789-7317	Civic Center/Recreation	786-4141



City Council Left to Right:

- Todd Flath
- Tyler DuBord
- Mayor Mark Ammel
- Mayor Pro-Tem Karen Moore
- Ronald Beauchamp

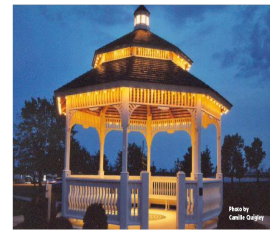
**CITY OF ESCANABA RECREATION DEPARTMENT
HAS FACILITIES AVAILABLE FOR RENT**
FOR RESERVATIONS CALL THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT
AT (906) 786-4141



LUDINGTON PARK PAVILION - The Ludington Park Pavilion is located near the south end of the 120 acre Ludington Park. The Pavilion support facilities include: Ample 110-volt electric service, potable water for cooking/cleaning and a large capacity barbecue grill. The facility is capable of accommodating 10 eight-person picnic tables with ample green space in the surrounding area to facilitate additional tables/persons. Clean, modern restroom facilities are located conveniently close to the Pavilion. Parking accommodations are also close by at the tennis court lot, Jenkin's Drive or the Band Shell parking lot.

Advance reservations required for family socials, picnics and outings. One-half day reservation fee of \$75 resident and \$100 non-resident. Half-day reservation can be made before or after 4:00 p.m. Full day reservation fee of \$100 resident and \$125 non-resident .

LUDINGTON PARK GAZEBO - The Gazebo is located across from the Sand Point Lighthouse near the east end of Ludington Park. The 20' x 20' Gazebo is equipped with both internal and external electrical outlets and external lighting for subtle nighttime illumination. Many people have found the Ludington Park Gazebo an excellent location for wedding ceremonies, wedding pictures and family reunion pictures. This facility provides beautiful views of the Ludington Park Fountain and the Harbor. On-street parking is available. Restrooms are nearby at the Municipal Marina.



Advance reservations required for wedding ceremonies, family/group pictures, etc. \$50 fee per two-hour block for resident and \$75 for non-resident.

LUDINGTON PARK BAND SHELL - The Band Shell is a multi-use facility capable of accommodating performances, plays, concerts, religious functions and other ceremonies and social events. Located on the south end of Ludington Park, the facility is capable of seating 300 people with a large expanse of green area and hills to accommodate hundreds of other spectators. Support facilities for the Band Shell include parking for approximately 100 vehicles and restroom facilities immediately north of the Band Shell area.



Advanced reservations required for use of the Ludington Park Band Shell. One-half day reservation fee of \$75 for resident and \$100 for non-resident. Half-day reservations can be made before or after 4:00 p.m. Full-day reservation fee of \$100 for resident and \$125 for non-resident.

THE ESCANABA MARKETPLACE is available to rent for private events from May to October. Your rental includes the use of the 8000 sq. ft. pavilion, restrooms, a commercial kitchen, a sound stage, a fire pit, a fenced in playground, a commercial gas grill, 40 banquet tables, 200 chairs and a parking lot for your guests! Residents can rent the Market Place for the entire day for \$150 dollars. Businesses within the DDA footprint can hold a once a year business event M-F for \$150. There is a fully refundable security deposit of \$150.

Call the DDA at 906-789-8696 for information.





HELP WANTED!

Boards, Commissions and Committees

Currently Recruiting Boards, Commissions and Committees

Applications are accepted anytime—submit yours today!

City of Escanaba residents are invited to participate in the process of the City of Escanaba government. One of the most effective ways to participate is through service on one of the City's citizen boards, commissions or committees. Through these services, civic minded citizens become involved in their local government and make recommendations to the Escanaba City Council. As a result, the City benefits from the vast knowledge, experience and expertise of its citizens.

Board and Commission Member positions are all voluntary and are appointed by the Mayor, with the consensus of City Council. Once appointed, the time commitment for each board/commission varies, some meet on a regular schedule, others on an as needed basis. Preparation for some meetings may require additional time obligations. Once committed, your attendance at all regularly scheduled meetings is critical.

How to apply for Boards, Commissions and Committee Appointment:

Board, Commission and Committee members are appointed by the Mayor with the consensus of the Escanaba City Council.

To apply:

1. Review the list of preferences and areas of interest and determine your top choices. Every effort will be made to accommodate your first preference, but vacancies vary and demand for some boards may be higher than others.
2. Complete the required Boards and Commissions Application Form online or mail/fax it, along with your resume to: Office of the City Clerk, P. O. Box 948, 410 Ludington Street, Escanaba, MI 49829 or fax (906) 786-4755 or e-mail to clerk@escanaba.org.
3. As vacancies occur, applications are reviewed.
4. All members of boards, commissions and committees must be residents of the City of Escanaba, unless directed by the Escanaba City Council to waive the requirement or as specified in the bylaws of the board, commission or committee or as mandated by State Law. Members may not serve more than two full, consecutive terms and are expected to attend all regular and special meetings.
5. Applications will remain on file for one calendar year. A new application is required each year.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION AND REVIEW

Meets: 1st Tues. following 1st Mon. in March

Hears appeals from all property owners who feel their property has been inaccurately assessed and has the power to make appropriate corrections in the tax roll. Consists of the Mayor and four members, two-thirds (2/3) which shall be tax-paying electors of the City. Board Members have indefinite terms and are reappointed every two years.

BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Meets: 4th Mon. of Month, 5:00 p.m., City Hall, Room 101

Responsible for formulation of general policies and procedures relating to library operation for preparation and submission of annual budgets, planning future operation, hiring and overseeing nonunion library employees, and other duties as may be assigned by the City Council. Five members are appointed for three-year terms.

BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Meets: Call of the Chair., City Hall, Room 101

Facilitates the implementation of brownfield plans relating to the designation and treatment of brownfield redevelopment zones and to promote the revitalization of environmentally distressed areas in the community served by the City of Escanaba pursuant to Act 381. Five members are appointed for three-year terms.

CITY COUNCIL

Meets: The first and third Thursdays, 7:00 p.m., City Hall, Room C101

Comprised of five elected citizens to serve four-year terms. The election is held on the first Tuesday in November each odd-numbered year. Candidates must be U.S. citizens and a City of Escanaba resident. They are nominated at large by petitions, signed by not less than 50 qualified electors, and shall be filed with the City Clerk. The Council constitutes the legislative and governing body of the City, possessing all powers and authority to pass ordinances and adopt resolutions as they shall deem proper in order to exercise any or all powers held by the City.

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (DDA)

Meets: 4th Thurs. of Month, 8:00 a.m., City Hall, Room 101

Established under P. A. 57 of 2018, the DDA Board made up of the City Manager and 8 members to be appointed by the City Manger with Council concurrence. Not less than a majority of the members shall be persons having an interest in property located in the downtown district or officers, members, trustees, principals, or employees of legal entity having an interest in property located in the downtown district. Not less than one of the members shall be a resident of the downtown district, as the Escanaba district has over 100 people residing within the district. The establishment of the DDA is to correct and prevent deterioration in the business district, as described in P.A. 57 of 2018. The City Manger serves for an indefinite period. The eight members meeting the criteria set forth serve for a four-year period.

ELECTRICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meets: Every Jan/Apr/July/Oct, 2nd Weds., 4:00 p.m., City Hall, Room 101

The Electrical Advisory Committee is charged with providing continuous information and recommendations to the Escanaba City Council on current electric policy trends that could impact the community. Five members are appointed for three-year terms.

HARBOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meets: 2nd Tues. of Month, 5:00 p.m., City Hall, Room 101

Created for the purpose of advising Administration concerning operation of the Municipal Marina and concerning development, and improvements. Five members are appointed for three-year terms.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS (Cont.)

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Meets: Every March/June/Sept/Dec, 3rd Mon., 4:00 p.m., City Hall, Room 101

Created to regulate the construction, addition, alteration, repair, moving, excavation and demolition of resources in historic district within the City limits. Seven members are appointed for three-year terms.

HOUSING COMMISSION

Meets: 2nd Tues. of Month, 4:30 p.m., Harbor Tower

Created for the purpose of providing public housing for low-income & elderly persons, including management of publicly-owned housing. Five members are appointed for five-year terms.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Meets: 2nd Thurs. of Month, 6:00 p.m., City Hall, Room 101

Primary objective is to develop and oversee a master plan for the physical development of the City. The Commission recommends action to the City Council on preliminary plat applications, reviews and makes recommendations concerning proposed land development, rezoning, or amendments to the Zoning Ordinance. Seven members are appointed for three-year terms.

PUBLIC SAFETY RETIREMENT BOARD

Meets: 4th Tues. of Month, 8:00 a.m., City Hall, Room 102

Administers the investments which constitute the Pension Fund of Public Safety personnel covered under Act 345. Membership consists of the City Treasurer, two Public Safety Officers elected by their peers for four-year terms, and two citizens of Escanaba serving indefinite terms.

RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Meets: 2nd Tues. of Month, 6:00 p.m., City Hall, Room 101

Advises the City Council and Administration about all phases of recreation in the City, including current operations, long-term planning, and expenditures. Five members are appointed for three-year terms.

TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meets: 3rd Tues. of every other Month, 6:00 p.m., City Hall, Room 101

Serves the City Council and Administration in an advisory capacity, particularly as concerns vehicular traffic in the City. This includes traffic flow, parking restrictions, street cuts, and sidewalk planning. Five members serve three-year terms.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Meets: First Tuesday of Jan/Apr/July/Oct at 6pm, City Hall, Room 101

The ZBA functions as a quasi-judicial body that hears and makes decisions on cases for zoning appeals, interpretations, and variance requests. Six members, plus two alternate members, serve three-year terms.