

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.



Holiday Notice in Observance of New Years

City of Escanaba Business Offices
Friday, December 29, 2023— Closed all Day
Monday, January 1, 2024— Closed all Day



Happy
New Year

Wishing you a safe, happy, and healthy 2024

Upcoming Public Meetings		
Date	Time	Type of Meeting
01/02/2024	6:00 pm	Zoning Board of Appeals
01/04/2024	7:00 pm	City Council
01/09/2024	4:30 pm	Housing Commission
01/10/2024	4:00 pm	Electrical Advisory Committee
01/11/2024	6:00 pm	Planning Commission
01/18/2024	6:00 pm	City Council
01/23/2024	8:00 am	Public Safety Retirement Board
01/25/2024	8:15 am	Downtown Development Authority

Upcoming Public Events		
DATE	TIME	EVENT / FESTIVAL
12/31/2023	9:00 pm—2:00 am	New Years Eve at the Terrace
01/06/2024	10:30 am	Ink Society Writing Group at Escanaba Public Library
01/06/2024	10:30 am	Happy Tails Story Time at Delta Animal Shelter
01/13/2024	1:00 pm	Lego Club at Escanaba Public Library
01/19/2024 01/22/2024	10:00 am	Artist Retreat at Bonifas Arts Center
01/23/2024	7:00 pm—9:00 pm	Daryl Rogers Magic Show at Bay College
01/25/2023	7:00 pm—9:00 pm	Bay Film Series at Bay College
1/26/2024 1/27/2024	9:00 am start time	18th Annual Rapid Rive Relic Ride
1/26/2024	6:30 pm—8:30 pm	Adult Paint Night at NLYMCA
1/27/2024	6:30 pm—8:30 pm	Youth Paint Day at NLYMCA



Escanaba Library

Library Hours

Monday

10:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Tuesday

10:00 a.m.—7:00 p.m.

Wednesday

10:00—7:00 p.m.

Thursday

10:00 a.m.—7:00 p.m.

Friday

10:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Saturday

10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Sunday

CLOSED



Escanaba Library

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The Escanaba Public Library will be closed:
Friday, December 29, 2023— Closed all Day
Saturday, December 30, 2023—Closed all Day
Monday, January 1, 2024— Closed all Day



Toddler Time
Ages 2-4
Registration Required:
906.789.7328
Wednesdays -
 January 10
 January 17
 January 24
 January 31
 February 7
 February 14
10:30 a.m.

Craft Fun
Ages 6-10
Saturday, January 20
1:30 p.m. in the
Children's Story Room
Materials Provided

Tech help—
from library staff—
every Tuesday!

TECH
TUESDAYS

11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

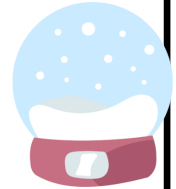
You have questions—We have answers!

Escanaba Library

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Lego Club



Saturday, January 13
1:00 p.m.

"Winter Wonderland - Snow Much Fun!"

Bring one container of Legos
per child in attendance.

Be entered into a prize drawing.



Ink Society Local Writers' Group

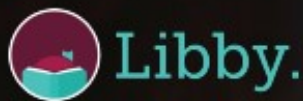
The Ink Society is an informal group of local writers that connect at the library monthly to discuss their current work, seek feedback, and share ideas. Bring your work and prepare to be inspired! The Ink Society meets the first Saturday of each month at 10:30 a.m.

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+*



Borrow magazines for free from our digital library.





MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 14, 2023

Contact: Recreation Director Kim Peterson

Work Phone: 786-4141

Email: kpeterson@escanaba.org

Delta County Trades & Labor Charity Fund Donates to the Catherine Bonifas Civic Center's After School Program

Delta County Trades & Labor Charity Fund donated \$500 to the Escanaba Recreation Department to provide food to the students of the After School Program to have between Holiday Break.

Recreation Director Kim Peterson stated, "Our community is very fortunate to have organizations such as Delta County Trades & Labor/Charity Fund who give back to various entities throughout the year. We are happy to provide food to the youth involved in our Program to have during the holiday break. The Catherine Bonifas Civic Center will be open during break on December 26th, 27th and 28th from 12:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m."



Co-Chair of Delta County Trades and Labor
Todd Flath and City of Escanaba Recreation
Director Kim Peterson



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 19, 2023

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

Youth Assistance Program, Inc. (YAP) Donates to the Catherine Bonifas Civic Center Monthly Birthday Parties Will Take Place

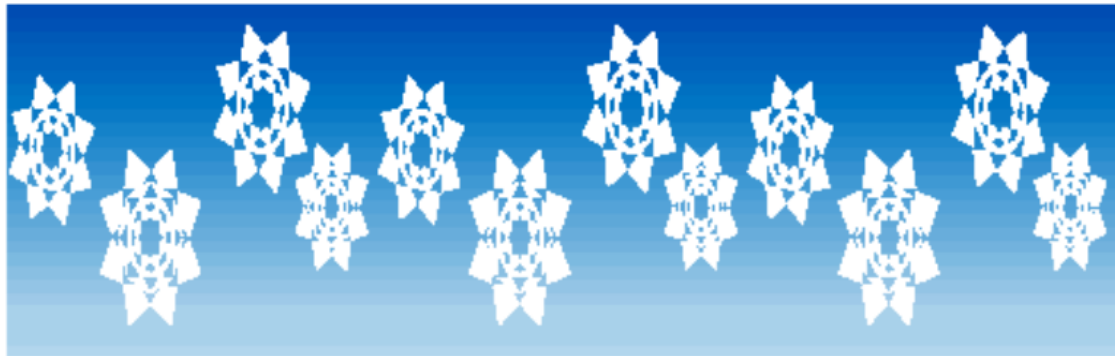
The Recreation Department is happy to announce a donation from the Youth Assistance Program, Inc. to the Catherine Bonifas Civic Center. Funds will be used to have a monthly birthday party for youth in 4th – 12th grades. Volunteers from YAP will be present and will help with serving cake, ice cream and treats. YAP volunteers will also help with providing a game and handing out birthday presents.

Recreation Director Kim Peterson stated, “We had our first birthday party on December 18th and the kids absolutely loved it. We played bingo and had prizes, presents, cake, ice cream and balloons. YAP volunteers were there to help out and everyone had a great time. We are excited that YAP would like to continue with sponsoring the monthly birthday parties in the future.” (for privacy, we took pictures of the kids and not their faces ☺)



WINTER AEROBICS

The City of Escanaba Recreation Department offers a safe and effective method to becoming physically fit. Dance aerobic class is offered at the Civic Center, 225 North 21st Street, Escanaba, Monday thru Thursday from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Programs are designed around Jacki Sorensen's Fitness Classes.



WINTER SESSION 2024 – 10 WEEKS
JANUARY 15th – MARCH 21st

CLASS FEE: \$120 for 10 weeks or \$5 per class drop in fee

The class fee entitles you to attend as many classes as you wish.

- All persons attending must register at each class with aerobics instructor
- Sessions may be cancelled due to weather at the discretion of the Recreation Director
- No make-up days for inclement weather or holidays
- Sessions are held in the gym
- Locker room with showers available
- Bring exercise mat or heavy bath towel for class, which does include some floor exercises

For more information call the Recreation Department at 786-4141.



VOLLEYBALL

CO ED

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

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





Mosaic Flower Pot Class— Tuesdays, January 16,23, & 30;

6:00 –8:00 pm

Students will learn the basics of designing, gluing and grouting, a mosaic flower pot or plate. After taking the class you will have the knowledge to do almost any mosaic project. All supplies will be provided, just bring an idea. When registering, please let us know if you want a Flower Pot or a Plate.



Needle Felting— Wednesday, January 24;

1:00–3:00 pm

You will have the opportunity to make a small sketchbook cover (4”x 4”), a bookmark, a needle holder, or a wall hanging (approximately 8”x 8”). Come with an idea of what you might like to create. Donna will have some embellishments and all other materials, but please bring buttons, beads, lace that you’ve been saving for additional embellishments.

Nature Photography— Saturday January 20;

1:00–4:00 pm & Sunday, January 21;

11:00–1:00pm

Calling all birding, nature, and photography enthusiasts. Join award winning photographer Michael Hall of Black Iris Studio for a lesson in nature photography. Bring your DSLR or Smartphone for tips and techniques for close ups, capturing items in motion, and working with outdoor lighting and shade.



**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 Department of Public Safety was happy to take part in the 2023 Shop With A Cop on Saturday December 9th.

Special Thanks to Walmart, Kiwanis, Michigan Works, all the volunteers and the community who make this possible!





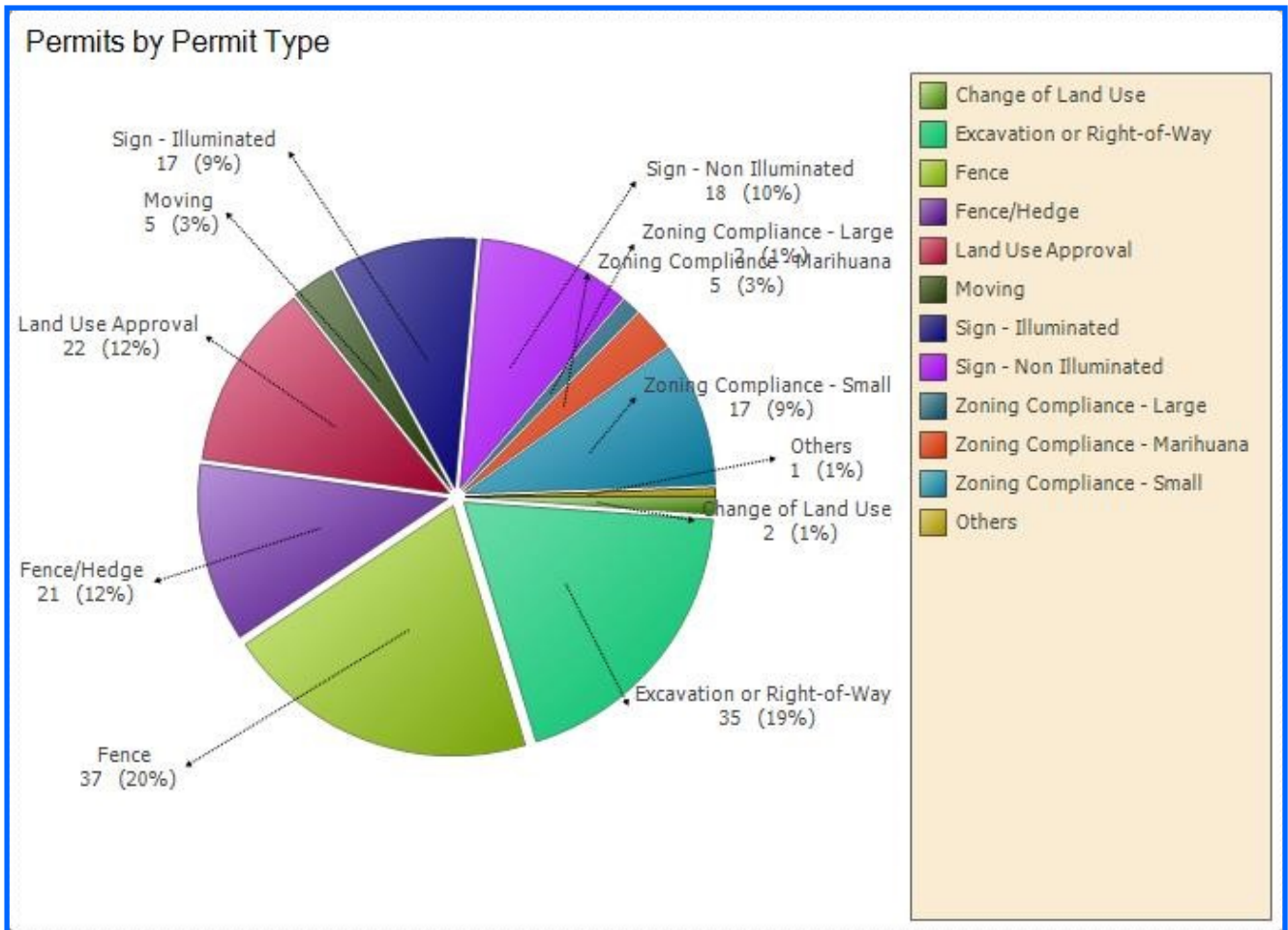
Escanaba Public Safety, with the help of Santa and the Grinch, delivered Shop with a Cop presents!

A big thank you to the community for making this event possible!



Zoning Permits Report

January 2023 through December 2023



CITY OF ESCANABA NEIGHBORHOOD ENFORCEMENT HOTLINE

Do you have rubbish, overgrown lawns, unshoveled 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>	<p>City Manager - James McNeil jmcneil@escanaba.org 789-7322</p> <p>City Controller - Melissa Becotte mbecotte@escanaba.org 786-0605</p> <p>Water/Wastewater Sup. - Jeff Lampi jlampi@escanaba.org 786-3291</p> <p>Superintendent of DPW - Kent Dubord kdubord@escanaba.org 786-1842</p> <p>Electric Superintendent - Gerald Pirkola gpirkola@escanaba.org 786-0061</p> <p>Public Safety Director - John Gudwer jgudwer@escanaba.org 786-5911</p> <p>Recreation Director - Kim Peterson kpeterson@escanaba.org 786-4141</p> <p>City Clerk - Phil DeMay clerk@escanaba.org 786-1194</p> <p>Library Director - Carolyn Stacey cstacey@escanabalibrary.org 789-7323</p> <p>HR Director/City Treasurer - Heather Calouette hcalouette@escanaba.org 786-0552</p> <p>City Assessor - James McNeil assessor@escanaba.org 789-7381</p> <p>Harbor Master - Shayne Sanville ssanville@escanaba.org 786-9614</p> <p>Planning & Zoning Admin.- Tyler Anthony tanthony@escanaba.org 786-9402</p>	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

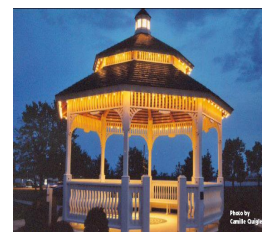
**CITY OF ESCANABA RECREATION DEPARTMENT
HAS FACILITIES AVAILABLE FOR RENT**
FOR RESERVATIONS CALL THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT
AT (906) 786-4141



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.