

CITY OF HANCOCK
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
MINUTES
OF FEBRUARY 2, 2009

Chairperson Peter Wickley called the DDA meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, February 2, 2009 with the following members present: Kathy Johnson, Peter Wickley, Carol Fisher, Bill Laitila, Bonnie Holland, Steve Zutter and Frank Taucher.

Absent: Darin Leetun and Jim Bogan

Staff/Guest: Glenn Anderson

It was moved by Johnson and seconded by Fisher to approve the agenda.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

It was moved by Johnson and seconded by Holland to approve the December 1, 2008 minutes.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Motion Carried

There was no public comment.

The DDA learned that the new officers for the HB & PA are Mary Sears, President, Stephan Olsson, VP, Dale Burkhouse remains Treasurer, and the new Secretary is Cynthia Hanifin.

Updates/Information

-Reviewed the December 9, 2008 HB & PA minutes.

-The HB & PA has set April 1st as the deadline for submittals of the new entrance sign proposals. The HB & PA is offering a \$300 payment to the selected sign.

-Heard that the city has obligated 99% of the \$200,000 MSHDA rental rehab grant on 8 properties in the West Downtown target area and includes work on 10 dwelling units.

-Reviewed the new target area of the North Downtown area for a new \$200,000 MSHDA rental rehab grant application for 2009.

-Heard that since 1996 the city has received \$2,528,000 in MSHDA housing grants which have been matched by property owners in the amount of \$758,000. 198 dwelling units have been upgraded to HUD Sec. 8 housing standards, or about 10% of the city's housing stock.

-Reviewed a letter from Congressman Stupak's office on the U.S. Postal Service proposal to redeploy 12 mail carriers from the Hancock Post Office to the Houghton Post Office.

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- Discussed the proposed federal stimulus bill and how it may help Hancock.
- Looked at the 2008 Fire Dept. report and noted the dept had 62 calls, of which five were structure fires which included three structures fully destroyed by the fire.
- Heard that the City Council, after accepting bids and holding a public hearing, has approved selling to Dale Kero city property just East of his house on Navy St. for \$41,110.
- Learned that the EPA is planning to spend about \$500,000 on covering 8 acres of stamp sand on the East side of the Quincy Smelter property with a stipulation that no development occur.
- Heard that the Quincy Mine Hoist Association has been awarded a MDOT Enhancement Grant for \$336,489 to renovate the train roundhouse located off of Kowsit Flats. The QMHA still needs to raise \$84,000 as a local match for the project.
- Heard that Jon Chynoweth, Lady Bug Digital, had requested permission to erect a banner on the historic light pole by his office in the Scott Building. The Council decided not to allow banners from individual businesses on the poles.
- Heard that the city received an extension from the MEDC to September 30, 2009 for meeting the job requirements of the Scott Hotel project.
- Reviewed the Portage Health 2008 annual report and noted the 770 employees, up from 470 in 2000.
- Reviewed the details of the Finalandia University proposal offering \$4.2 million in tuition grants over 12 years to Hancock High School graduates as payment for the 10acre Condon Field Complex and old Middle School Building.
- Learned that Mike Lahti Rental's has offered to purchase the Hancock Housing Commission 10-unit (5 duplexes) James Addition located on Ingot St. The units had been listed for sale last year.
- Heard that the Frisbee Tournament is again being held in Hancock for the 3rd year in a row.
- Heard that there is a proposal to house an International Frisbee Hall of Fame at the Houghton County Arena.

The DDA reviewed the cost of the 2007 Downtown Streetscape Project in which the city received a \$224,337 MDOT Enhancement Grant. In addition to the \$65,600 engineering cost paid by the DDA. The local match included \$96,144 for the project match and \$31,040 for non-participating work. MDOT has not billed the City/DDA for this \$127,184 amount.

The DDA reviewed the payment of \$1,837.65 to the Book Concern Printers and \$10,000 to Harrington Ridge & Coal for one-half of the documented façade expense under the DDA's façade grant program.

The DDA reviewed audit results for the FY 07/08 which showed revenue of \$110,064 and expenses of \$57,631, a fund balance of \$322,953, and cash at \$198,457.

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The Elevation St. TIFA has revenue of \$26,290, no expenses, a fund balance of \$116,124 and cash of \$116, 079.

Bill Laitila expressed his hope that the old Middle School lawn could be kept as a green space.

It was moved by Johnson and seconded by Fisher to adjourn at 6:20 p.m.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Anderson
Secretary Pro-Tem