

**CITY OF HANCOCK  
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
MINUTES OF MARCH 2, 2009**

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

Absent: Darin Leetun

Guests/Staff: Glenn Anderson

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

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried.

It was moved by Laitila and seconded by Johnson to approve the February, 2, 2009 minutes.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried.

Public Comments: None

Updates/Information

-Heard that there has been a discussion on establishing an E Magazine to serve the local area.

-Reviewed the February 10, 2009 HB & PA minutes.

-Reviewed the 2008 building permits in the city which had a value of \$1,492,400 including six new single family homes.

-Noted that the transit saw an increase in riders from 19,071 in 2007 to 20,323 in 2008.

-Learned that Northwood's Sporting Goods will hold a Gun & Knife show at their building at 120 Quincy St.

-Reviewed a proposal for a new web site by the HB & PA from Sandstone Digital for \$2,500 start up costs.

-Heard that the Superior School of Dance, 101 Front St., has been very busy and has experienced short term parking problems.

-Reviewed MDOT's planned 2009 construction projects for the Superior Region, including the \$4 million Downtown Houghton Streetscape project and the \$1.5 million MTU Median Extension project.

-Looked at MDOT's 2010 to 2013 planned construction projects including:

2010 M-26 repaving near Calumet  
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2011 M-26 reconstruct from Tamarack to Hubbell  
2012 M-26 resurface through Dollar Bay  
2013 M-26 Laurium reconstructs

- Heard that over \$65,000,000 of construction projects, including MDOT, MTU and local school districts will be bid out and work will start this year on the projects. The list does not include MTU's Great Lakes Research Building budgeted at \$25 million.
- Noted that the KNHP will hold a public meeting on the Quincy Unit Cultural Landscape report on March 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.
- Heard the city has applied for \$200,000 MSHDA rental rehab funds for the North Downtown hillside area.
- Reviewed letters from Senator Levin and Representative Bart Stupak on the U.S. Post Service proposal to downsize the Hancock Post Office and relocate most of the staff to the Houghton Post Office.
- Reviewed a letter from Charter Communications discussing their plan to come out of bankruptcy.
- Learned the UPPCO has hired Asplund Tree Service to trim trees around power plies in the city. Trees will be trimmed to provide a 20' x 30' rectangle around an electric line. UPPCO has not done any significant trimming for over 20 years. They are supposed to trim every six years.
- Heard that St. Peter and Paul Church on Hancock St. is for sale and there has been some interest in purchase.
- Heard the city is working on getting additional funds for the new transit facility project.
- Heard that the Monte Carlo Bar has received its Health Dept. permit for the kitchen.
- Heard that there are possible new tenants for the PIC Theatre and J.B. Sports Buildings, and that the Coffee Cabin business has returned to Hancock.

Noted the schedule for 2009 parades:  
St. Patrick's Day, Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup> @ 11:30 a.m.  
Armed Forces, Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00 a.m.  
Bridgefest, Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 p.m.  
Parade of Nations, Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup>

The DDA reviewed Finlandia University's plan to redevelop Condon Field into a college/high school sports facility. The \$3.5 million project would be completed over three phases, with phase I occurring this summer, which would include new seating, parking, new soccer/football field with artificial turf, and new lighting.

The proposal includes realigning the current football field to a North/South direction, installing artificial turf for the soccer/football field, adding lights, relocating the Little League Baseball field and adding lights, increasing from one to two football practice fields, along with 1500 spectator seating, new parking areas, a nature trail, rebuild the tennis courts, and a storm water retention pond.

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Finlandia University is planning to have Division III football team by 2012, which would bring another 70 to 80 students to Finlandia University.

Currently, Finlandia University would use the facility for men's and women's soccer games, and women's softball games.

The high school football team would continue to play at the new FU field for the foreseeable future, and would schedule Friday night games if the lights are installed.

The current new Middle School addition project will now include a new track and practice football field where the current soccer field is now on the Hancock High School Complex.

The St. Patrick's Day committee asked the DDA to contribute \$250 toward the cost of the March 21<sup>st</sup> parade and event. The city also donated \$500.

It was moved by Taucher and seconded by Bogan to donate \$250 for the 2009 St. Patrick's Day Parade.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried.

It was moved by Bogan and seconded by Zutter to cancel the April 6<sup>th</sup> DDA Meeting.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried.

It was moved by Laitila and seconded by Zutter to adjourn at 6:25 p.m.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Anderson  
Secretary Pro-Tem