

CITY OF HANCOCK
DOWNTONW DEVELOPMEN AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF OCTOBER 3, 2011

Chairperson Peter Wickley called the regular DDA meeting to order at 5:30 p.m., Monday, October 3, 2011 with the following members present: Frank Taucher, Jordan Johnson, William Laitila, Peter Wickley, Bonnie Holland and Steve Zutter.

Absent: Kathy Johnson, Carol Fisher and Jim Bogan

Guests/Staff; Glenn Anderson

It was moved by Laitila and seconded by Holland to approve the agenda.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried

It was moved by Holland and seconded by Laitila to approve the September 12, 2011 meeting minutes.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried.

Updates/Information

-Reviewed the September 13, 2011 HB&PA minutes.

-Reviewed the city's position on US DOT Essential Air Service bids for 2012 and 2013. The city supports the continuation of United/SkyWest airlines as the carrier, with a reduced bid from \$1,404,717 to \$591,615 annually.

-Noted the details of a \$50,000 FORD Grant to the MTU Enterprise Student group to study transit operations and options in both cities of Houghton & Hancock and the MTU Campus. The study will be over a 2 year period.

-Heard that the Planning Commission approved a site plan for Mike Lahti to construct an 8 bay garage for the 8 rental units located on the upper 2 floors of 424 Hancock Street.

-Heard the HB & PA will again install cornstalks in October and garland in December on city downtown light poles.

-Reviewed the city's 2011 Blight Reduction Grant Program which included several houses along S. Lincoln Dr. and Hancock Street.

-Heard the county and city are working closely to try to find a developer for the 116 Quincy Street Building, which the county recently tax foreclosed on. The city would consider applying for a MSHDA conversion grant for the project.

-Looked at the 1st brochure for the upcoming June 19-23, 2013 Finn Fest.

-Heard that the sewer project will be completed by the end of October or early November.

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- Heard that the water project will end by the end of October, but about 8 weeks of water main replacement work will carry over into 2012
- Heard that Matt Eliason has opened up a new law office on the 4th floor of the Citizen Bank Building.
- Looked at the new MTEC SmartZone brochure
- Noted that Tom Ruonavaara, owner of the WMPL Building @ 324 Quincy St. has been remodeling the front façade.
- Received an update on the 3-plex townhouse Mike Lahti is constructing next to 424 Hancock Street. East unit has a one car garage in the basement, a deck off the 1st floor, and a 2nd floor.
- Heard that Main Street Hancock, Inc. had authorized a \$25,000 loan for Habanero's new restaurant on August 23rd.
- Heard that the Friday Night Canal Rock waterfront concert series was a success. The DDA contributed \$600.00 as an official sponsor.

The DDA reviewed a cash flow projection dated September 12th indicating \$147,890.34 available in cash, and current obligations of \$108,698, plus possible new obligations of \$30,000.

The DDA reviewed an updated DDA Façade Grant list which totals \$155, 101 in 1 to 1 grant match offers.

The DDA reviewed preliminary DNR staff scoring for the MNRTF Navy Street Park boardwalk grant application. The DDA sponsored and funded project received a score of 280 out of a possible 520 points. The DDA reviewed and endorsed 5 items that will be submitted to the DNR in an effort to raise the city's score, including increasing the DDA local match by \$3,500 to \$91,000, to get a higher local match score.

The DDA was briefed on a MSHDA rental rehab grant application for the \$300,000 which targets the first 4 blocks of Quincy Street. The application was due by Sept. 30th.

Heard that the DDA & HB & PA will hold a joint event called "Reshape Downtown Strategy Event" on Saturday, October 22nd, from 8 am. To 11 am. At the Jutila Building.

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

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Anderson, Secretary Pro-Tem