

CITY OF HANCOCK
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 7, 2011

Chairperson Peter Wickley called the regular DDA meeting to order at 5:30 p.m., Monday, November 7, 2011 with the following members present: Kathy Johnson, Peter Wickley, Frank Taucher, Bonnie Holland, Bill Laitila, Steve Zutter, Jordan Johnson, Carol Fisher and Jim Bogan

Guest/Staff: Jen Burkehouse, John Haeussler and Glenn Anderson.

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

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried.

It was moved by Holland and seconded by Laitila to approve the October 3, 2011 minutes with one spelling correction on the Title "Development."

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried

There were no public comments.

Updates/Information

- Reviewed the HB & PA minutes of September 13th and October 11th meetings.
- Reviewed the October 5, 2011 Portage Lake Lift Bridge Emergency Management Long Term Outage Group meeting minutes.
- Heard that MDOT has funded a \$25,000 study with WUPPDR to fund the final Portage Lift Bridge Long Term Outage Plan, due to be finished in September, 2012.
- Reviewed a proposed redevelopment plan from Mike Lahti for a \$600 to \$700 thousand project to construct 8 new apartments, with a fire sprinkler system for the fire damaged and vacant building located at 116 Quincy St. The first floor would remain commercial use. The city will apply for a \$320,000 MSHDA Conversion Rental Rehab Grant for the project and will hold a Public Hearing on the application at the November 16th Council meeting.
- Heard that the city, Mark & Gail Johnson, and MEDC Community Assistance Specialist Nick Sekmistrz toured the Gartner's Clothing Building, 102 Quincy St., and discussed possible reuse options, and reviewed the new MEDC grant programs, such as the Community Redevelopment program, and the Business Development Program. Each new grant program is expected to be funded at \$50 million.

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- Reviewed results of the October 22, 2011 Reshape Downtown Event. A second session will be scheduled for November 2nd to discuss waterfront development and parking/residential development.
- Noted that the MEDC in a letter dated October 21, 2011 agreed to close out the Scott Hotel Grant Project #MSC 204101-EDIG funded by the Michigan Strategic Fund. The close out report accepted 5 new jobs created and 3 of which went to low/mod income persons.
- Heard that Heikinpaiva 2012 is scheduled for the last week in January, and the parade will be held on Saturday, January 28th.
- Heard that Finlandia University plans to install banners on the UPPCO light poles from City Hall to the Jutila Building.
- Noted that the city campground had a very good year, just slightly behind last year's usage.
- Heard that the Quincy Mine experienced a 7.3% decline in visits this year over 2010.
- Noted that UPPCO reimbursed the DDA \$495 for a new electrical hookup for Sunset Dr.
- Heard that "Where Soldiers Come From" documentary will be aired on PBS on November 10th at 9:00 p.m.
- Noted that Citizen Bank posted a 3rd quarter profit, its second quarter in a row, since losing money for 3 years.
- Heard that Rep. Huuki inserted the MTEC SmartZone in a new grant program from the MEDC Business Incubator Program. The state allocated \$6 million to 7 smartzones located across the state. There are 15 smartzones state wide.
- Heard that the Harberaro's Restaurant owners are actively recruiting investors to complete the project in 2012.
- Heard that Greg Proper and David Hanshaw purchased 314 Quincy St. from Mary & Tim Sears.
- Heard that the Little Light Christian Book Store has opened at 118 Hancock Street.
- Heard that Matthew Eliason has opened a new law practice on the 4th floor of the Citizen Bank Building.
- Heard that the Nicholas Insurance Agency will be leaving their office at 323 Quincy St. They are purchasing and relocating to the Lode Theatre building in Houghton after the first of the year.
- Heard that Superior Video moved out of the Quincy Centre on Market St.

The DDA reviewed a request submitted on August 16th from Joel Divine for a \$10,000 façade grant for a building he owns located at 813/815 S. Lincoln Dr. The building is in the DDA district. At the September meeting, the DDA asked the owner for more information. In an email dated October 13th, Mr. Divine said he would use the grant funds to reface the bay windows on the 3-story building, tuck point some of the brick walls, and repaint the East side. The building is all apartments, with no commercial rental space. The DDA reviewed its grant program guidelines.

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It was moved by Bogan and seconded by Holland to deny the grant application by Joel Divine for the building located at 813/815 S. Lincoln Dr. because it does not contain commercial office or retail space.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried.

The DDA reviewed an application for a façade grant from Mike Lahti for a building he owns located at 116 Quincy St. This building has been fire damaged, tax foreclosed, and vacant.

It was moved by Zutter and seconded by Laitila to approve a \$10,000 façade grant for the building located at 116 Quincy St. owned by Mike Lahti.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried

Jen Burkehouse, representing the HB & PA, again asked the DDA for \$500 to help defray the cost of the Christmas garland and Christmas Walk event scheduled for November 25th.

It was moved by Jordan Johnson and seconded by Steve Zutter to approve a contribution of \$500 to the HB & PA for the Christmas garland and Christmas Walk.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried

Rick Freeman approached the DDA about his preliminary plan to open a new video store at 118 Quincy St., and requested a start up grant to help him with opening costs. The business would create 4 jobs.

The DDA asked Mr. Freeman to prepare a written request with business details for the next meeting.

It was moved by Kathy Johnson and seconded by Jordan Johnson to adjourn at 6:05 p.m.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Anderson, Secretary Pro-Tem