

**CITY OF HANCOCK
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 6, 2012**

Chairperson Peter Wickley called the regular monthly meeting to order at 5:30 p.m., Monday, February 6, 2012 with the following members present: Kathy Johnson, Steve Zutter, Jim Bogan, Peter Wickley, Bonnie Holland, Bill Laitila, Jordan Johnson, Carol Fisher, and Frank Taucher.

Absent: None

Guests/Staff: Jennifer Burkhouse, John Haeussler, Carol Freeman and Glenn Anderson.

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

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried.

It was moved by Bogan and seconded by K. Johnson to approve the December 5, 2011 minutes.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried.

There were no public comments.

Chairperson Wickley welcomed the reappointment of Carol Fisher and Jordan Johnson to new 4 year terms expiring January 31, 2016.

The DDA received a thank you note form Barbara Rose, Executive Director of the Keweenaw Community Foundation for providing the façade grant for the building located at 236 Quincy Street.

Updates/Information

-Reviewed the HB & PA minutes of December 13, 2011 and January 10, 2012, and noted the new officers, Carol Freeman, President; Jennifer Burkhouse, Treasurer; VP Jennifer Towles; and Secretary Terry Monson.

-Noted the 2012 Bridal Expo scheduled for Sunday, March 4th at the Heritage Center.

-Reviewed the scheduled events for 2013, including the city's sesquicentennial, the Copper Country Firefighters Tournament, the 100 Anniversary of the death of Big Louie Moilanen, the 100th Anniversary of the Italian Hall disaster and the copper strike, the Hancock All School reunion, and the FinnFest.

-Noted that the Jutila Building had 32,692 sq. ft. of incubator space and currently had 37 businesses and 80 jobs, not including FU students or faculty members.

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- Heard that the DOT had awarded a second 2 year contract to SkyWest/United to service CMX under the Essential Air Service Program.
- Heard that Love Inc. and the Houghton County Democrats were planning on moving to the 2 rental units at 323 Quincy St.
- Noted that Finlandia University had named the Old Middle School lawn area “Quincy Green”, recognizing that it’s the biggest green space in the downtown area.
- Noted that the MTEC SmartZone had received a \$750,000 MEDC grant, to be used over a 3 year period, to further develop technology from MTU and the University of Michigan.
- Heard that the MERIT Network will be installing new fiber optic cable through the city this year. MERIT serves nonprofit, hospital education & government entities. Peninsula Fiber Network will be working with MERIT to connect new users.
- Noted that the Hancock Transit had a 4% increase in riders in 2011 over 2010. 18,005 riders used the bus in 2011.
- Learned that the Quincy Mine Hoist Assoc. is applying for a \$400,000 Federal National ByWay grant, to be matched with \$100,000 of QMHA funds, which if funded, would be used to repair the concrete walls of the 1918 Hoist House building.
- Heard that the occupancy of the 8 new Lahti apartments at 424 Hancock Street had 7 rented by the end of December, and that the Canal Crossings building by the bridge has 15 apartments rented out of a total of 21 units, with 2 new units being readied for rent.
- Noted that the November 2011 unemployment rate for Houghton County was 7.3%, down from a high of 12.8% 20 months ago. The December 2011 rate for Michigan was 9.3% and the US rate was 8.5%.
- Heard that water flow was down about 5% in the city with the 2011 distribution improvements.
- Heard that the new water transmission main had reduced water production by about 25% for Adams Twp. Wholesale water.
- Heard that the city fire department will be hosting the 2013 Copper Country Fireman’s Tournament as part of the sesquicentennial celebration.

The DDA board was briefed that the Main St. Hancock board had increased its loan offer by \$5,000 to \$30,000 toward the financing package for Harbernaeno’s restaurant and Julie Cortright. The restaurant in the Scott Hotel is expected to open in April, with construction to start next week.

The city is expecting MSHDA to approve a rental conversion grant for the burned out 116 Quincy St. building for up to \$320,000 for 7 new apartments, including 2 loft apartments.

The DDA reviewed a list of available commercial and warehouse buildings & rentals in the city.

The DDA reviewed a letter dated December 16, 2011 from the DNR indicating the city was recommended for a grant of \$262,500 from the MNRTF for the Navy St. Park

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Boardwalk project adjacent to the Coon Electric building. Legislature approval is still needed.

The DDA reviewed MDOT developed options for the placement of an Improvised Rim Bridge (IBR) and a Bailey bridge across the Portage Lake in the vicinity of the Quincy Smelter property in the event the lift bridge was out of service for an extended period of time. It is estimated that an IBR bridge could be installed with 3 to 5 days, and a Bailey bridge erected in 3 to 4 months.

The DDA agreed to be the co-host along with the HB & PA Reshape Downtown event scheduled for Thursday, February 23rd, 5:30 p.m., at the Heritage Center.

The DDA was advised that MDOT has added the \$7,000,000.000 reconstruction of Front, Reservation and Quincy Streets to their 2016 project list.

The DDA agreed to have Peter Wickley and Jim Bogan meet with the HB & PA board to discuss a more formal collaboration agreement and funding source, possibly at their March 13th meeting.

It was moved by Zutter and seconded by Fisher to approve a \$1,000 façade grant, at a 1 to 1 match, to Gregg Budweg, owner of Jims Pizza and the building at 108 Quincy St. Budweg plans to reopen the old main entrance, and is also restoring the old ceiling.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried.

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

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Anderson
Secretary Pro-tem