CITY OF HANCOCK
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2012

Chairperson Pete Wickley called the regular monthly DDA meeting to order at 5:30 p.m., Monday, September 10, 2012 at City Hall with the following members present: Carol Fisher, Bill Laitila, Peter Wickley, Steve Zutter, Kathy Johnson and Bonnie Holland.

Absent: Jim Bogan, Frank Taucher and Jordan Johnson.

Guests: Jennifer Burkhouse and John Haeussler

It was moved by Fisher and seconded by Laitila to approve the agenda.
AYES: All
NAYES: None
Motion Carried.

It was moved by Zutter and seconded by K. Johnson to approve the June 4, 2012 minutes with one correction, the amount indicated on the motion to approve a façade grant for Charles Wicker's building at 109 Quincy Street is $8,380, not $4,280.
AYES: All
NAYES: None
Motion Carried.

There were no public comments.

Updates/Information

-distributed Shop Downtown Hancock cards
-Noted the annual Highland Games will be held at the Driving Park on September 15th
-Heard the 23rd annual Parade of Nations will be held on Saturday, September 22nd, with the parade starting at 11:00 a.m.
-received an update on the full occupancy of the Citizen Bank Building with the August 1st move in of both Talon Research and Xeratec to the Garden Level
-Noted Talon Research received a $44,000 business accelerator grant with help from the SmartZone and the MEDC for business expansion.
-heard that Pat & Jan Campioni had purchased 4 additional lots from Zion Lutheran Church for a total of 15 residential lots being developed this year in Valley View Estates. The Campioni's have purchased all the sewer and water pipe and the city DPW is installing them. Completion is expected in June 2013.
-Looked over the August 14th HB & PA minutes, and the August 8th PLLB meeting notes.
-reviewed the draft white paper on the Portage Lake Lift Bridge prepared by Houghton County Emergency Management Director Jack Dueweke

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-heard the city council has put the Headlee Override millage question on the November 6, 2012 election and if approved, would address capital outlay upgrades for parks, trails and streets
-discussed the Navy St/M&M Powersports storm sewer upgrade project, and noted the material will be ordered, but the construction may not occur until early 2013.
-received the draft FinnFest 2013 schedule and proposed business forum to be held on Wednesday, June 19, 2013 as part of the FinnFest activities.
-heard the city council supported the EPA's proposal to delist 3 sites from the Torch Lake Superfund site. They are the Michigan Smelter Tailings, Isle Royale Tailings, and the Mason Tailings.
-reviewed HB 524 expanding SmartZone designations in the state and offering tax capture extensions beyond the original 15 years under some circumstances.
-reviewed a MSHDA/SHPO letter finding that the redevelopment project at 116 Quincy St.will have no adverse impact.
-heard the Kukkakauppa Flower Shop, 320 Quincy St., had added a new business, Knot Just Uniforms.
-heard that Catherine Hiltunen has purchased 312 Quincy St and plans to open a paint your pottery studio.
-heard that Eagle Radio moved out of the Quincy Centre on Market St. effective July 1, 2012.
-noted that Finlandia University has secured a mini grant for a downtown design charrett.
-noted Habenero's was close to opening.

The DDA Board reviewed the DNR MNRTF grant award #TF-11-021 for the Navy St. park boardwalk project. The grant award was for $262,500 and the DDA has agreed to fund $87,500 as the local project match. Design will occur the Fall and Winter, and the project is expected to bid out in 2013 for summer construction.

The DDA Board reviewed proposed new downtown parking and way finding signs.

DDA member and Mayor Bill Laitila asked for help in making the city ready for FinnFest, and suggested more investment in sidewalks and beautification, such as flowers.

It was moved by Holland and seconded by Laitila to adjourn at 6:15 p.m.
AYES: All
NAYES: None
Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Anderson, Secretary Pro-Tem