

**CITY OF HANCOCK
PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES
OF SEPTEMBER 24, 2012**

The regular monthly Planning Commission meeting held on Monday, September 24, 2012 was called to order by Chairperson Dan Lorenzetti at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall with the following members present: Dan Lorenzetti, Bill Baxandall, Bob Wenc, Bill Laitila, & Glenn Anderson.

Absent: Lisa McKenzie, Tony Wilmers, Terry Monson.

Guests: John Slivon, John Haeussler, Mary Wright

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

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried.

It was moved by Baxandall and seconded by Wenc to approve the August 27, 2012 minutes.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried.

Public Comments:

Local artist Mary Wright presented her sauna public art project undertaken as part of FinnFest 2013. She also encouraged members to enroll in the Copper Country Arts Center membership campaign.

Updates/Information

- Received an update on the water infrastructure upgrade project. The water project is now complete, with the Depot St. cut & cup of an old water main and filling in 3 old water valve vaults on the 1936 transmission main by the Copper Country Mall as the last 2 projects completed.
- Heard the sewer rehab project was also complete, the last project was a relining of a storm sewer main south of Lake Ave. and Mill St.
- Both water & sewer projects started in May 2011, cost \$7.2 million for the water, and \$4 million for the sewer project, funded by both a \$5.4 million federal grant and a \$5.8 million federal low interest loan. The project included refinancing water fund debt with a lower interest rate.
- Reviewed the PLLB meeting notes of Aug. 8, 2012.
- Noted that the Houghton County Master Plan has been completed.

Page 2.

-Heard the City Council has supported Gogebic Community College's proposal to have students operate and manage the Porcupine Mountain Wilderness Ski Hill this winter. The current private contract operator declined to continue his operation contract with the DNR.

-Noted that Finlandia University will be hosting a Seed Design show case on Wed., October 17 at 7:30 p.m. at the Jutila Center, 200 Michigan Ave.

-Heard that OHM, Finlandia University, DDA and city will host 3 reshape downtown meetings this fall the first one is scheduled for October 13th at 10:00 a.m.

-Reviewed the US41/M26 Corridor Committee notes of July 12, 2012.

-Heard the City Council has directed the reopening of the M203 sledding hill area this winter to serve as a trail head for snowshoe users of the Swedetown Creek Corridor.

-Heard that Jackson Life Insurance Company has become a new SmartZone tenant in the Lake Shore Center.

-Heard Talen Research, which moved into the garden level of the Citizen Bank Building, will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony on Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.

-Noted that MTU Senior Design students will be undertaking a study of alternative bridge crossings and emergency structures.

-Heard that electric & gas are expected to be installed this fall at Valley View Estates. Pat Campioni has sent in the funds to cover the installation costs.

-Heard that Deborah Frontiera will be publishing a book in 2013 on the history of Finlandia University/Suomi College.

The Commission received an update on the draft FinnFest Program schedule, June 19th thru June 23rd. About 150 lectures will be presented; on June 19th then will be a business forum on Green Energy and Mining. Seppo Latvala will present two exhibits on smoke saunas and Finnish churches, and Ilja Koivisto will present an exhibit on Finnish-American hunting & trapping traditions. The main social center of the event will be the TORI which will be held in the SDC indoor track area. The city will also hold its own TORI everyday during FinnFest.

SkyWest/United has agreed to add a 3rd daily flight during the week of FinnFest.

MTU has made available 450 rooms for FinnFest, with the possibility of more rooms, if needed.

The Commission reviewed the initial DNR scoring of the beach dock repair project, and the city received a score of 135 out of 200. The city will be submitting additional information to try to get a higher score.

The Commission reviewed PASER ratings of city street, done by WUPPDR in August. 20% of city streets were rated in poor condition, 64% were rated in fair condition, and 16% were rated in good condition.

Page 3.

Bob Wenc reported that this years Parade of Nations went very well, with a record number of food booths. He noted the good cooperation between MTU and FU students and staff.

The Commission discussed the Headlee Override proposal on the November 6th ballot, which if approve by voters would raise up to \$134,700 annually for deferred maintenance projects. The Commission recommended that the City Council clearly state the funds would only be used for capital outlay projects for city streets, trails and parks.

The Commission asked that they be part of the design of the new Navy St. boardwalk project.

It was moved by Lucchesi and seconded by Wenc to adjourn at 7:30 p.m.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Anderson, Secretary