

**CITY OF HANCOCK  
PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES  
MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2009**

Chairperson Dan Lorenzetti called the January 26, 2009 regular planning commission meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present: Terry Monson, Dan Lorenzetti, Bill Baxandall, Bill Laitila, Tom Gemignani, Bob Wenc and Glenn Anderson.

Absent: Dave Lucchesi and Tony Wilmers

Guests: None

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

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried.

It was moved by Monson and seconded by Wenc to approve the December 15, 2008 minutes.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried.

There was no Public Comments.

**Updates/Information**

-The commission reviewed the Dec.16, 2008 US41/M-26 Corridor Comm. Meeting notes.

-Reviewed the 2008 Annual Fire Dept. report and noted 62 fire calls with 5 structure fires, including three that were total losses.

-Heard that Finlandia University has requested to be on the agenda for the next meeting to present plans for the redevelopment of Condon Field.

-Received an update on the 2007/08 MSHDA rental rehab program with 10 units under contract with eight property owners.

-Reviewed the proposed North Downtown Target area for the 2009 MSHDA grant application.

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- Heard that Merle Kindred has donated 4 ½ lots in Block 12 of Ulseth Addition on Anthony St. to Habitat for Humanity which plans to construct 2 homes.
- Heard that the HB & PA had a contest for a design of new entrance signs for the city and has offered a \$300 prize for the selected winner. The deadline is April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Heard an update on the Sohlden fire at 922 Summit St. that totaled the house, and neighbor concerns that the house be demolished.
- Heard that the MDOT Traffic Study of Hancock St. and the downtown area should be finished in a few months.
- Reviewed the 2008 summary of Portage Health operations and noted employment was at 770.
- Reviewed the results of a gravel survey on Gov't Lot 5 above the 730 foot contour. The area covered 2.47 acres and had 75,957 cubic yards of material, or between 106,000 and 118,000 tons of gravel material.
- Heard that Dale Kero had bid \$41,110 to purchase a .21 acre parcel located on Portage Lake adjacent to his house and the City Council has accepted his bid.
- Heard that the Quincy Mine Hoist Association had been awarded a \$336,489 MDOT Enhancement Grant for rehabbing the Quincy Mine Round House located off of Kowsit Flats and will need to match the grant with \$84,122.
- Reviewed an EPA plan to spend \$477,000 to cover about 8 acres of stamp sand on the Quincy Smelter property and restrict the 8 acres to public greenspace.
- Discussed the Federal Stimulus Bill and possible city projects.
- Heard that the Houghton County MCF was looking at purchasing land from FU West of the Jutila Center.
- Heard that FU was selling the 5 acre parcel to the East of the Million Gallon water tank on Ingot St. and the city plans to run a sewer main extension to serve the property with a cost sharing agreement.
- Discussed the proposed downsizing of the Hancock Post Office and redeployment of most of the staff to the Houghton Post Office.
- Heard that Mike Lahti may be purchasing the five James Addition duplexes from the Hancock Housing Commission. The duplexes have been listed for sale for several months.

The commission discussed the status of the proposed Quincy Haven Apt. Building project for special needs clients developed by the Hancock Housing Foundation to be located adjacent to Lakeview Manor. MSHDA has allocated a reservation for low income housing tax credits for this project.

Bob Wenc has asked for a report on the future of the Pic Theatre Building. Rogers Cinema does not plan on opening the theatre and is putting the building up for sale. The building could not be reused as a movie theatre as part of the current owners restriction placed on the building.

Bill Laitila discussed his concern that the front lawn of the Middle School be kept as a green space for the community.

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It was moved by Laitila and seconded by Wenc to adjourn at 8:10 p.m.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Anderson  
Secretary