

**CITY OF HANCOCK
PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES OF
JUNE 24, 2013**

The regular monthly Planning Commission meeting was called to order by Chairperson Dan Lorenzetti on Monday, June 24, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Bill Laitila, Dave Lucchesi, Bill Baxandall, Deb Mann, Dan Lorenzetti, Bob Wenc and Glenn Anderson

Absent: Lisa McKenzie and Tony Wilmers

Guests: None

It was moved by Mann and seconded by Baxandall to approve the agenda with one addition adding community projects to the agenda.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried

It was moved by Baxandall and seconded by Lucchesi to approve the May 20, 2013 minutes.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried

Public Comments: None

Updates/Information

- Reviewed the May 23, 2013 Hancock Bike & Pedestrian Committee minutes.
- Reviewed the May 9, 2013 US41/M26 Corridor Advisory Team meeting notes.
- Noted that MTU will be hosting the Upper Peninsula History conference June 28th, 29th, and 30th.
- Heard that Sen. Casperson's SB-50 passed the Senate but has not yet been approved by the State House.
- Heard that Phase I of the front wall rehab project at a cost of \$19,840 was completed. Phase II involves work on the wall between Center St. and Dunstan St. which will start later this summer.
- Heard that over \$5,500 persons attended FinnFest in June, 700 people volunteered to help. 7,000 people were bussed, including 845 by the City of Hancock Transit, and over 1,500 people attended the SDC TORI each day, The City thanked all who helped put on the FinnFest event.
- Heard that the Reshape Downtown events, included many small cleanup projects were completed in time for FinnFest, and over 100 people volunteered on the cleanup projects.
- Noted Portage Township was working on updating its Township Master Plan.

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-Heard that Micah Stepich has opened Cross Fit Fitness Center at 611 Emma St, formerly known as the Manderfield Building, and that Jan Bruin-Slot has plans to purchase and tear down the old Toutant Machine Shop also located on Emma St.

-Heard that the Federal Dept. of Transportation is currently receiving Essential Air Service proposals, for CMX airline service for January 1, 2014. This is the fourth year of Federal EAS service.

-Heard that the Americana Foundation of Novi, MI has awarded a \$10,490 grant to help fund the restoration of the E. Hancock Historic Stairway project.

-Reviewed the Copper Country Firemen's schedule of events of June 29, 2013.

-Heard the Mark Johnson is renovating the first floor of the Gartner's Clothing Store building site into 2 commercial rental units.

-Heard that two new businesses opened up at the Jutila Building SmartZone floor, and one business has expanded into the West Wing of the floor.

-Heard that the State has selected a new landlord for the DHS Office Building relocation and is working on a new lease for the new location. The DHS is expected to move out of 200 Quincy St. in December.

-Heard Aspirus is planning to construct a new 22,000 sq. ft. Houghton Clinic Building just east of the Wal-Mart Store.

-Heard that Bell Memorial Hospital of Ishpeming signed its definitive letter of agreement with Life Point hospitals.

The commission was briefed on MDOT's decision to incorporate some but not all of the Hancock Bike & Pedestrian Committee recommendations for improving the M26 section from the bridge East to the underpass as part of MDOT's reconstruction of M26 scheduled for 2014. MDOT agreed to move the existing crosswalk further to the West, improve the 4' South blacktop shoulder, add 8' of paved shoulder on the South side of M26 from the underpass to Navy Street, and improve signage. MDOT declined to change the yield sign to a stop sign for M26 westerly traffic, and not to add a crosswalk on the East end of the underpass because of clear sight vision regulations.

The Commission reviewed the June 20th bid results for the Navy St. Park Boardwalk Project which has two bids submitted, one from DP Construction of \$356,708.00 and McMullen & Pitz Contracting for \$405,165.87.

The Commission reviewed one tax foreclosed house property in the city for 2013 located at 1042 Second Street. The Houghton County land bank will hold a public auction on August 3rd.

The Commission reviewed Finlandia University's recent FinnFest announcement that they are providing a conceptual drawing of a new 4 story archieve addition onto the West side of the Finnish/American Heritage Building located at 435 Quincy St. The project would cost up to \$9 million, and be funded by gifts. The concept drawings were developed by Duluth Architect David Salmela. The existing North Wind Bookstore Building would be removed to make room for the new area.

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Planning Commission member Deb Mann discussed developing a city wide 5 year beautification and community improvement plan which could be used to generate donations and gifts to the city. She noted the need for a community center, adult day care, children pocket parks, more vocational education, and block by block cleanup initiatives. She would have the city focus on vacant and derelict properties during the 5 year period.

It was moved by Lucchesi and seconded by Laitila to adjourn at 6:58 p.m.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Anderson
Recording Secretary