

**CITY OF HANCOCK
PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES
OF
JULY 28, 2014**

The regular Planning Commission meeting was called to order by Chairperson Dan Lorenzetti on Monday, July 28, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Ron Blau, Bob Wenc, Lisa McKenzie, Dan Lorenzetti, Bill Baxandall, Dave Lucchesi, Deb Mann and Glenn Anderson.

Absent: Tony Wilmers

Guests: None

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

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried.

It was moved by McKenzie and seconded by Lucchsi to approve the July 28, 2014 minutes.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried.

Public Comments: None

Updates/Information

- Reviewed Prop. 1 which if approved at the August 5th election would direct State General Funds to reimburse municipalities for the personal property reforms.
- Reviewed Michigan's EB-5 Initiative to promote immigrants with \$500,000 and can create 10 jobs coming to the State.
- Heard SB 872 sponsored by Senator Tom Casperson was signed into law by the Governor which removed stamp sand from being considered a hazardous substance.
- Heard that Investor Capital had applied for a DEQ dredging permit to remove stamp sand in Gay.
- Heard that Green Sands is also interested in the stamp sands located in Gay, Michigan.
- Stamp sands are projected to be removed at a rate of 2,450,000 tons per year. The Investor Capital project would use barges while the Green Sands project would use trucks. It is estimated that 200 to 250 trucks a day would be needed to haul stamp sand to the rail head in L'anse.
- Reviewed the August 5th & 6th Thunder Bay Yacht Race that Hancock is hosting.
- Reviewed the schedule for the first annual Festa Italiana to be held in Hancock on August 9th.
- Reviewed the May 8th and July 10th US41/M26 Corridor Advisory Committee.

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- Heard the July 18th Key Ingredient Event was a huge success.
- Heard that the National Guard will have a small pontoon bridge rafting exercise on Portage Lake in September and a full deployment in 2015.
- Noted there are two firms, White Construction of Beaver Dam, WI and Baraga Telephone installing fiber optic cable in the City.
- Heard that the Portage Health Foundation has \$35.8 million and are working on health scholarships, recreation and parks, health, and research sectors.
- Heard FU plans to install a new fitness center at Paavo Nurmi where the pool was located.
- UPPCO is being sold, with closing scheduled for late August.
- Reviewed design sketches for the proposed 2016 streetscape project.

The Planning Commission received an update on the \$250,000 MEDC Blight Elimination Grant for the building located at 119 Quincy St. The City is working with MEDC to submit the full application to the MEDC by mid-September.

The Planning Commission received a draft report on increased sewer flows which started in October of 2012. The report, conducted by OHM Advisors, identified one sewer district, the Ravine St. corridor, as the most likely source of increased flow.

The Commission reviewed the Kick-off meeting notes from the MDOT/City/OHM meeting held on June 18th to begin reviewing and discussing the 2016 \$6 million Quincy St. reconstruct project. A preliminary design is scheduled for January 2015 with the project goal to have the bid on December 5, 2015

In July, the City Council voted to authorize an application to MSHDA for \$480,000 to undertake homeowner rehab and Homebuyer purchase rehabilitation (HPR) programs. The City has selected the area between Hancock Street to N. Lincoln Dr. and Reservation St. to Ethel Ave. for targeted consideration if the grant is funded.

Dave Lucchesi commented that ease of snow removal should be incorporated into the proposed 2016 streetscape project.

Bob Wenc suggested the City consider undertaking a stronger property maintenance code enforcement initiative

Dave Lucchesi expressed his concern on the high level of Lake Superior and the possible impact on the City's shoreline and docks, Lake Superior is up about 18 inches from last years levels.

It was moved by Blau and seconded by Baxandall to adjourn at 7:30 p.m.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried

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Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Anderson
Secretary