

**CITY OF HANCOCK  
PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES OF  
SEPTEMBER 22, 2014**

The regular monthly Planning Commission meeting was called to order by Chairperson Dan Lorenzetti on Monday, September 22, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Bill Baxandall, Dan Lorenzetti, Lisa McKenzie, Deborah Mann, Bob Wenc, Ron Blau and Glenn Anderson

Absent: Dave Lucchesi and Tony Wilmers

Guests: Roland Burgan and Jerald Wuorenmaa

It was moved by Blau and seconded by Mann to approve the agenda.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried

It was moved by Baxandall and seconded by Blau to approve the July 28, 2014 minutes.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried

Public Comments: Jerry Wuorenmaa introduces himself to the Commission. Jerry is the planner at WUPPDR, and lives in the City. He mentioned that Kim Stoker plans to retire as Executive Director of WUPPDR in August of 2015.

Updates/Information

- Reviewed the August 21<sup>st</sup> Safe Routes to School memo written by Deb Mann.
- Reviewed the July 2<sup>nd</sup> and August 6<sup>th</sup> Portage Lake Lift Bridge Communication working group minutes.
- Reviewed the MDOT Bridge Project Brochure
- Reviewed the July 10, 2014 and the Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> US 41/ M 26 Corridor Committee meeting notes
- Noted the local photo history book written by John Haeussler was released into local book stores Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Noted the site plan for Walgreen's new store to be constructed in 2015 just South of Pizza Hut in Houghton along M-26.
- Reviewed the August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014 PLLB Emergency Management Long-Term Outage Group.
- Heard the MSU Citizen Planner Course had been cancelled for Houghton County due to lack of registrations.
- Heard the DDA is planning to extend the life of the DDA to 2044.
- Noted the November issue of Lake Superior Magazine contained a one page story on the City's new Navy St. Park Boardwalk.

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-Heard that the City will host an Ocktoberfest on Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> at Porvoo Park, Deb Mann is volunteering to run the event.

-Heard that Finlandia University has started a \$1 million renovation of the Paavo Nurmi Athletic Center to convert the old pool area into a state of the art 5,000 sq. ft. strength and fitness center. Work is expected to be done by the end of December.

The Commission reviewed the 1<sup>st</sup> year tax payments made by Portage Health, LLC for 2014 now that they are owned by a for profit corporation. The summer tax bill was \$1, 115, 038.34, which was paid, and the winter tax bill will be for \$79, 820.74 for a total first year property tax payment of \$1,194,859.08. The property is valued at \$40, 246,494, with a taxable value at \$20,123,247.

The Commission reviewed a summary of Upper Peninsula electric rates compared to various statewide averages prepared by the Upper Peninsula Economic Development Alliance indicating the Western U. P. has the second highest electric rates in the country next to Hawaii. In addition, the commission reviewed several FERC filings from various groups, including the July 29, 2014 order.

Heard that the City was exploring a MEDC Blight elimination grant for the Masonic Building located at 228 Hancock St. The City has already secured a MSHDA Grant for \$140,000 for the project.

The Commission reviewed a September 10<sup>th</sup> stakeholder input workshop as part of the general management planning process for McLain State Park. The DNR has hired the firm ClearZoning to conduct the 10-year plan update, including high risk erosion issues, acquiring additional land for a back country zone, and considering acquiring the old Coast Guard property.

The Commission heard the City has secured an \$187,500 MDOT Small Urban Grant for FY 2017 to repave White Street and portions of the downtown side streets.

The Commission was notified that the City did receive a \$250,000 MEDC blight elimination grant to rehab the building located at 119 Quincy St.

It was moved by McKenzie and seconded by Blau to adjourn at 6:50 p.m.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Anderson

Secretary