

CITY OF HANCOCK
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF MAY 4, 2009

Chairperson Peter Wickley called the regular monthly DDA meeting to order at 5:30 on Monday, May 4, 2009 with the following members present: Kathy Johnson, Peter Wickley, Carol Fisher, Jim Bogan, Steve Zutter, Bill Laitila, Bonnie Holland, Frank Taucher, and Darin Leetun arrived at 5:45 p.m.

Absent: None

Guests/Staff: Glenn Anderson

It was moved by Fisher, seconded by Johnson to approve the agenda.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Motion Carried

It was moved by Zutter, seconded by Bogan to approve the March 2, 2009 minutes.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Motion Carried

There were no public comments.

Updates/Information

- Reviewed the site plan for the new track and practice football field as part of the new middle school addition to the high school.
- Heard the city submitted a grant application to MSHDA for \$210,000 for a new Neighborhood Stabilization Program(NSP) which if received would be used to demolish 10 to 11 dwellings, including up to 5 owned by Finlandia University.
- Reviewed additional MDOT paving projects in the Ishpeming TSC which is made possible with federal stimulus funds
- Noted a recent attorney general opinion that DDA boards are Not allowed to vote by proxy.
- Reviewed an article on DDA retail business incubator development in the April 2009 Planning and Zoning News.
- Reviewed the March/April MML article on Hancock and Houghton.
- Heard the city was applying for federal infrastructure stimulus funds for water and sewer improvements for a total of \$8.2 million. The sewer project, if funded, would include adding new storm sewers to parts of the downtown to eliminate roof drains connecting to the city sanitary sewer system. The city is eligible for up to a 75% federal grant for both projects.
- Heard that Charter Communications bankruptcy restructuring was still under way.

- Heard that Finlandia University will be taking bids on May 5th for the renovations of the upper floors of the Jutila Center.
- Learned that the June 26 and 27 Relay for Life event will be held at the County Arena area this year.
- Heard that Finlandia University is exploring undertaking a steam plant district for its 13 buildings and possibly surrounding buildings.
- Noted the school millage and board election scheduled for May 5th.
- Received an update on the Copper Country Community Arts Center Capital Campaign Fund raising effort to raise up to \$1,000,000 to renovate the Quincy Street Arts Center Building into a LEED energy efficient building.
- Noted the initial success of the FU/school/city campus and community effort which has about 28 Hancock High School seniors planning to attend FU in the fall.
- Heard the Tori will start up on Wednesday, June 3 and will be held every Wednesday and Saturday from 9 am to 2 pm.
- Heard that the city council has scheduled a trash pickup day for Saturday, May 9th beginning with breakfast at Jim's Pizza at 8 am.
- Heard that the Spice of Life was for sale at 300 Dunstan St.
- Heard that canal crossings had completed finishing the 7 units on the 1st floor and was starting on the 2nd floor units.
- Heard that Derrik Bradway was interested in purchasing St. Peter and Paul's old church complex to convert into 11 apartments.
- Heard that Everts Motor Sports had new owners.
- Heard that Andy Lahti was moving his Gateway Auto from Houghton to Ohio St. and will expand the business to sell tires and offer auto detailing service.

Reviewed the final MDOT bill for the DDA's local share for the 2007 east downtown streetscape project funded in part with an MDOT Enhancement Grant. The amount due and paid was \$128,231.87. The DDA received a \$200,873 Federal Enhancement Grant as part of the project funding.

Heard a report on the Navy St. landscaping project. DDA member, Darin Leetun, reported that Halonen should be installing the in ground sprinkler at Porvoo Park within the next 2 weeks, and Halonen will be installing a bigger pump for future expansion at a cost of \$500. The fabric has been placed down and the mine rock has been ordered. Camp Kitwen workers will be used for installing the mine rock.

The DDA received facade applications for up to \$10,000 from Kahn Enterprises, 110 Hancock St, for a new electronic sign for Gartners Furniture and Michael Shupe for façade work at 426 Quincy St, the old Pic Theatre.

It was moved by Bogan, seconded by Zutter to approve a \$10,000 matching façade grant for Kahn Enterprises, 110 Hancock St, for a new electronic sign to be placed on the existing Gartners Furniture sign.

Ayes: Wickley, Fisher, Johnson, Zutter, Bogan, Taucher, Laitila

Nays: Holland, Leetun
Motion Carried

DDA members asked that a sketch of the new Gartners sign be presented at the next meeting.

Chairperson Wickley appointed Bonnie Holland to a review committee representing the DDA to select a new city entrance sign for recent submission for the HB & PA sign contest.

It was moved by Laitila, seconded by Fisher to extend the \$10,000 façade grant for one year for the CC Arts Center per their request to allow additional fund raising efforts.

Ayes: All
Nays: None
Motion Carried

It was moved by Holland, seconded by Leetun to grant an extension to Tom Wence on his façade grant for 325 Quincy St. until the end of 2009.

Ayes: All
Nays: None
Motion Carried

It was moved by Holland, seconded by Zutter to approve Michael Shupe's façade matching grant of \$10,000 for façade work at 426 Quincy St, the old Pic Theatre Building.

Ayes: All
Nays: None
Motion Carried

The DDA reviewed a letter from Sandra Coponen asking for utility assistance on her May 1st move of the Sew Sisters from Houghton to the JB Sports building. The DDA has a program of up to \$500 for 6 months for new or relocated businesses. The DDA tabled action pending further information.

The DDA discussed the delinquent payment from Millers Jewelry for the jewelry cases per the installment loan contract.

It was moved by Johnson, seconded by Bogan to adjourn at 6:30 pm.

Ayes: All
Nays: None
Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glenn Anderson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Glenn Anderson, Secretary
Pro Tem