

**CITY OF HANCOCK  
PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES  
OF FEBRUARY 27, 2017**

The regular Planning Commission meeting was called to order by Chairperson Dave Lucchesi at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, February 27, 2017 with the following members present: Deb Mann, Ron Blau, Clark Korpela, Dave Lucchesi, Bob Wenc, Lisa McKenzie and Glenn Anderson

Absent: Tony Wilmers

Guests: Kristen Schmitt, Ray Sharp, Keren Tischler and Allyson Jabusch

It was moved by Blau and seconded by Clark to add to new business ice sculpture update and approve the agenda.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried

It was moved by Wenc and seconded by Clark to approve the December 5, 2016 minutes.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried

Public Comments: None

It was mentioned that the City Council is looking for a new Planning Commission member to replace Dan Seguin, who is now on the City Council.

Updates/Information

-Heard the COE is dredging the Upper North entry to 27 feet and will put dredging material on land disposal near the Lily Pond.

-Reviewed the January 12, 2017 US41/M26 Corridor minutes.

-Reviewed the February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 bid results for sewer televising and cleaning. Three bids were received.

-Heard Houghton County issued 44 new home building permits in 2016 and 287 total building permits.

-Heard Neil's Taxi property may be headed for tax foreclosure.

-Reviewed the January 12, 2017 Bike and Pedestrian Committee meeting minutes.

-Noted that 930 Summit Street is scheduled for 2017 tax foreclosure. The City has a MSHDA funded mortgage.

-Heard Huntington Bank will be taking over First Merit Bank on February 18, 2017.

-Heard the Bike and Pedestrian Committee will meet with MDOT TSC officials on April 13<sup>th</sup>.

-Heard that Great Northern Hancock LLC has purchased the Jim's Pizza building in January. Jonathan Millie and Megan Thayer are the new owners.

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- Noted January recycling total tons were 34.67% of total tonnage.
- Reviewed the 2017 Juhannus event schedule, and noted June 24<sup>th</sup> is the celebration in Hancock.
- Heard Mark Elmer has a purchase agreement to buy the warehouse and parking lot located at 114 Franklin St.
- Heard that the final master plan meeting is scheduled for March 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Heard Well Fargo had a contractor secure the house at 730 Elm St.
- Heard OHM Advisors has started design work on the new beach dock project
- Heard that OHM Advisors is drawing up plans and specifications to replace the fire hall roof, which construction is estimated at \$45 to \$50 thousand.
- Heard the city assessor has finished the city wide reappraisal.
- Heard that the HCMCF will hold a ground breaking ceremony on March 13<sup>th</sup> on their \$8 million rehab project.
- Discussed the MSU training session on Michigan's new medical marihuana legislation. Members were encouraged to take advantage of this training and the City would reimburse the \$35 cost of the session.

It was moved by Wenc and seconded by McKenzie to recommend to the City Council the sale of the tax foreclosed, 805 Warren Street lot, Lot 23, that the City demolished the house last fall.

AYES: All  
NAYES: None  
Motion Carried

It was moved by Korpela and seconded by Mann to sponsor the MSU Planning & Zoning Essentials Training for Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at the Hancock Fire Hall, and to pay for any Planning Commission member for the training.

AYES: All  
NAYES: None  
Motion Carried

Allyson Jabusch was present to discuss her concerns and goals for the labyrinth near the lift bridge located on Navy Street. The labyrinth was constructed in 2000 with artists with the Midwest Rural Arts Forum hosted by the Copper County Community Arts Center. Allyson has been working on weeding, cleaning and brushing the site for the past few years. She is hoping the City could secure the land on which the labyrinth is located and add it to the City park system.

It was moved by Mann and seconded by McKenzie to recommend to the City Council to pursue the labyrinth land acquisition.

AYES: All  
NAYES: None  
Motion Carried

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Bob Wenc discussed his concept for a winter lighted foundation along the Hancock shoreline built into Portage Lake for a unique winter tourism experience. He said the COE and DEQ would permit such a project.

Kristen Schmitt along with Ray Sharp and Keren Tischler from the City's Ad Hoc Bike and Pedestrian Committee presented the Commission with a proposed 33 page, 2017-2021 non-motorized plan following over 2 years of effort. The vision statement for the plan is for Hancock to become a more walkable and bikeable community where non-motorized transportation is a safe, convenient and pleasurable option for residents and visitors of all ages and abilities in all seasons to all destinations. The plan also has an appendix of various information and survey reports.

Dave Lucchesi said the plan should help the City with state and federal grants. Lisa McKenzie complimented the Committee on its work and suggested the Bike and Pedestrian Committee be made a permanent Committee of the City.

It was moved by McKenzie and seconded by Korpela to adopt the 2017 to 2021 non-motorized plan and to recommend approval of the plan to the City Council.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried

It was moved by McKenzie and seconded by Mann to adjourn at 7:35 p.m.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Anderson  
Secretary