

**CITY OF HANCOCK
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF MARCH 5, 2012**

Vice Chairperson Bonnie Holland called the regular monthly meeting to order at 5:30 p.m., Monday, March 5, 2012 with the following members present: Frank Taucher, Jim Bogan, Carol Fisher, Jordan Johnson and Bonnie Holland.

Absent: Steve Zutter, Peter Wickley, Bill Laitila and Kathy Johnson.

Guests: Jennifer Burkehouse and Rick Freeman

It was moved by J. Johnson and seconded by Bogan to approve the agenda with one addition, a request for a business development grant from Rick Freeman.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried.

It was moved by Bogan and seconded by Taucher to approve the February 6, 2012 minutes.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried

Public Comments: None

Updates/Information

-Heard that the annual St. Patrick's Day parade will be held at Noon on Saturday, March 17th.

-Heard that the 29th Annual Old Timers Hockey Tournament will be held at the county arena from March 15th to the 18th, and up to 30 teams will participate.

-Noted that the Hancock Public School will hold a special 18 mill non-homestead renewal election on May 8th for 3 years, 2012, 2013 & 2014. The millage raises about \$925,000 per year.

-The Hancock School district has had a deficit 6 out of 7 years, and has a current deficit projection of \$738,013 for FY ending June 30, 2012.

-Heard that Century 21 had a few parties interested in the JB Sports building, 119 Quincy St.

-Heard that the city and OHM are working with Mark Johnson on different options and financing/grant programs for a reuse of the Gartner's Clothing Building, 102 Quincy St. The DDA has obtained the services of OHM to present different reuse options.

-Heard the city has contacted Soren Dresch regarding the poor condition of the old Masonic Temple, 228 Hancock St., and is reviewing enforcement options

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- Heard the City Council has honored Phi Kappa Tau for winning the MTU/Winter Carnival Snow Statue competition five years in a row, and noted this year is the 55th Anniversary of the fraternity in Hancock.
- The DDA reviewed the upcoming \$1.2 million 2012 water distribution improvements in the city.
- Heard that Main St. Hancock had increased its loan offer from \$25,000 to \$30,000, for 5 years at 3% interest, to help Harbenero's Grill in its financing.
- Habenero's Grill is expected to be open for business in late May.

The DDA was glad to hear that MSHDA had approved a grant for \$245,000 plus administration for rental conversion of the burned out 116 Quincy Building. Mike Lahti has proposed a reuse project to construct 7 new apartments and one commercial space.

The DDA reviewed the results of the Reshape Downtown Task Force, and noted that there will be 5 subcommittees working:

- Streetscape/Façade
- Business Mix, Attraction & Marketing
- Arts & Events
- Downtown Residential Development/Parking
- Waterfront Development

The DDA was presented with a draft 5 year Strategic plan developed by the Planning Commission to review for any changes related to the downtown or special events.

The DDA reviewed a COE Public Notice where Indiana Michigan Power Company will be dredging 27,500 cubic yards of sediment from Portage Lake in Franklin Twp., in an area that historically had a manufactured gas plant making gas out of coal.

The DDA was briefed on the proposal to make the area around the Houghton County Airport a Green Forces Aviation technology business cluster, and that the group held its first steering committee meeting on February 28th, with participation from Boeing Military, General Dynamics, and Lockheed Martin.

Rick Freeman, Owner of Northwood's Sporting Goods, 120 Quincy St., was present to ask for a business development grant to offset the purchase of a used live bait system that would allow him to expand both the supply and quality of live bait at his business. He presented a quote for a used LS-900 living stream tank that is 4 years old for \$3,000. The DDA discussed its goals and policies, and noted the DDA has done loan guarantees, installment contracts, start up grants, and façade grants.

It was moved by Bogan and seconded by Fisher to grant Rick Freeman, Northwood's Sporting Goods, a business development grant of \$1,500 toward the cost of a use live bait system.

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AYES: All
NAYES: None
Motion Carried.

Jim Bogan & Peter Wickley agreed to attend the March 13, 2012 HB & PA Board meeting to discuss an annual operation grant from the DDA.

It was moved by Bogan and seconded by Fisher to adjourn at 6:30 p.m.

AYES: All
NAYES: None
Motion Carried.

Respectfully,

Glenn Anderson
Secretary Pro-Tem