

**CITY OF HANCOCK
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 2024**

Regular Meeting

Call to order by Chairperson Griffis at 6:00 pm.

Present: Burack, Blau, Harris, Walton, Griffis, Rickard, Lahti, Wenc, Knoop

Absent: None

Also Present: Mary Babcock, Tara Dulong, Melissa Davis, Alan Salmi, Al McClellan, Ian Norwood and other members of the public.

Motion by Member Walton and supported by Member Blau to approve the agenda.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried

Public Comment

Alan Salmi – 121 E. Water St. – Commented on the Finlandia buildings, he would like the dorm to be considered for a housing cooperative between all ages.

Al McClellan – 1106 Minnesota St. – Concerned about the water flow on the corner of Emma Street and Minnesota Street since the flood in 2018.

Melissa Davis – 422 Quincy St. – Invitation to the Orpheum Theatre on February 6th to meet Chris Miller.

Ian Norwood – Houghton resident – Voicing concerns for an elderly resident about the crosswalks and pedestrian lighting in the city.

Review and approval of meeting minutes

Motion by Member Knoop and supported by Member Griffis to approve the minutes from the September 25, 2023 and the December 5, 2023 meetings.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried

Updates – Manager Babcock gave the following updates:

Finlandia University Buildings

- Finlandia Hall, the Paavo Nurmi Center and Hermann? went back to the bank. The city received a \$50,000 grant for a feasibility study for their properties.

Capital Improvement Plan

- Manager Babcock will work with the DPW Director and Police Chief on this but needs at least three members from the planning commission to join as well.

Old Business

Master Plan Work Session

- Met last week
- Vision Statement needs to be revised. Member Burack will work on updating the wording of 1996 statement.
- Page 39 – Library and Remote Working Hub – the closest public library is located at the Hancock High School.
- Page 47 – Hancock Business & Technology Park – reword stating this is complete with an updated photo.
- Page 58 – Objective 1.2 – Strategy B: Work to enhance the City’s Finnish-American history. Under Potential Partners & Funding Sources put Finnish National Heritage.
- Page 58 – Objective 1.2. – Strategy C: it should be SHPO not SHIPO.
- Page 60 – Objective 1.5 – Add a Strategy F with Councilmember Lounibos suggestion about commercial spaces.
- Page 65 – Objective 3.1 – Member Walton is working on wording for an addition to this area.
- Page 66 – Objective 3.3 – Add a Strategy E for cooperative housing.

The commission will email Manager Babcock with any other changes or suggested updates.

New Business

1. Motion by Member Griffis and supported by Member Walton to approve the Wuebben Development site plan for property located on Tomasi Drive.

Roll Call

Yes: Burack, Blau, Harris, Lahti, Walton, Griffis, Rickard, Wenc, Knoop

No: None

Motion Carried

Public Comment

Alan Salmi – a couple more suggestions for the Finlandia buildings; a more accessible public library, new city hall that can house all departments.

Adjourn

Motion by Member Wenc and supported by Member Harris to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 pm.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried



Tara Dulong, Deputy Clerk