

**CITY OF HANCOCK
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF JANUARY 4, 2016**

The regular monthly DDA meeting was called to order by Chairperson Pete Wickley on Monday, January 4, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. with the following members present: Jeff Lang, Pete Wickley, Jordon Johnson, Jon Luse, Jr., John Diebel, Lisa McKenzie, Kathy Johnson, and Peter Mackin.

Absent: Steve Zutter

Guest/Staff: Glenn Anderson

It was moved by Luse and seconded by McKenzie to approve the agenda.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried

It was moved by Lang and seconded by Diebel to approve the December 7, 2015 minutes.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried

Public Comments: None

Chairperson Wickley welcomed new DDA member Pete Mackin.

Updates/Information

-Reviewed the 2016 Heikinpaiva schedule of events

-Heard that Finlandia New York Consul General Pietikainen will be presenting the order of the lion to John Kiltinen and the White Rose to Pauline Kiltinen for their contribution to the Finnish American Heritage on Saturday, January 30th.

-Reviewed the MTU Student executive summary on waste and recycling report.

-reviewed the December 8, 2015 HB & PA minutes

-Heard that Evergreen Technology has received its permits from the Houghton County Building Dept. and is renovating the main floor into offices and the Lower floor will be research labs. UPEA is the architect for the project, Larson Construction is the general Contractor. They do plan on applying for a facade grant from the DDA.

-Heard that Vollwerth's has hired 6 new employees with 4 more to go as part of the MEDC grant, and the façade and expansion work is about 85% complete by contractor JDM Contracting

-Heard that OHM Advisors had completed the façade design and cost estimate for the Isaacson Building located at 200/222 and 224/226 Quincy Street.

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-Heard that the City has applied to MSHDA for a \$160,000 rental development grant to help fund the creation of 4 apartments on the 3rd floor of the Wisti-Lawton Building, 101 Quincy Street.

-Heard that the MDOT bid opening date for the \$7.2 million downtown reconstruction project is Friday, February 5th.

The DDA discussed the delinquent loan payment from Tom Gemignani, President of Gino's Inc. Payments were to start on August 1, 2015 at \$211.54 a month, and as of December 2015 no payments were received. City Attorney Kevin Mackey did send a deficiency letter asking for payments to bring the amount current and to continue to make regular monthly payments.

The DDA was informed by MDOT Engineer Robert Tervo that the new Welcome to Downtown Hancock sign to be installed at the US41/M203 intersection as part of the streetscape project cannot have "Home of Finlandia University" as part of the project because federal and state funds are paying for 80% of the sign cost, and cannot fund outdoor advertising for a non-profit corporation.

The DDA reviewed a report prepared by the State Dept. of Technology, Management and Budget on the State of the labor market in the 3 County Copper Country area. The study reported that 3,196 people in-commute and 3,208 out-commute. The top job sections were government at 31%, education and health services at 15%. Trade, Transportation and Utilities also at 15%. Leisure and Hospitality at 11%, Manufacturing at 8%, Professional services at 7%, Construction and Mining at 5%, financial service at 3% and other at 5%.

It was moved by Jordan Johnson and seconded by K. Johnson to adjourn 6:30 p.m.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Anderson, Secretary Pro-tem