

**DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2020**

Call to order by Chairperson Jonathan Luse at 6:03 PM (Zoom)

Present: Jonathan Luse, Paul LaBine, John Diebel, Steve Zutter, Jordan Johnson, Pete Mackin

Absent: Robert Frantti, Steve Patchin, Ryan Heinonen

Others Attending: Mary Babcock, Deb Mann, John Haeussler

Regular Meeting:

Motion by Member Zutter and seconded by Member Diebel to approve the agenda.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried

Motion by Member Diebel and seconded by Member Zutter to approve the October 5, 2020 meeting minutes.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried

Public Comments:

John Haeussler – Discussion regarding Member Pete Mackin’s resignation and appointment of Member Michele Blau to DDA.

Updates/Information: Reviewed by Mary Babcock

- Economic Development Administration Grant – Grant application for the City of Hancock Business and Technology Park has been reviewed and has moved onto the next stage with additional required information.
- MEDC has approved \$75,000 Michigan Site Readiness (MSRP) Grant for the Dolomite Site for the Hancock Business and Technology Park with the assistance of KEDA and WUPPDR.
- Greenbelt erosion – A 35- foot wide greenbelt owned by the City of Hancock at the waterfront surrounding the Ramada Inn has experienced significant erosion. A grant will be written to EGLE to assist with the placement of rip rap and possible extension of the boardwalk along the waterfront.
- Website- The City website is being upgraded by Opusweb, the present contractor, with funding from the CARES Act. Additionally, audio and video upgrades are being made to the Council Chambers so that hybrid meetings can be held.
- Rental Ordinance has been approved and will be enforced effective February 1, 2021.

- NEP Grant – Presently in the hands of MSHDA for approval of the scope of the properties. Awaiting the approval and Authority to Proceed documentation.
- Small Business Saturday is Saturday, November 28, 2020. The City Facebook page will promote small businesses, service, retail, and restaurants throughout the DDA.
- MTEC SmartZone has hired Scott MacInnes as interim CEO as they search for a new director.
- EV Charger Update – Assessing access at three sites with UPPCO - may be able to be included in the NEP Round 6 funding.
- Christmas Walk update – The Hancock Christmas Walk will be non-traditional with COVID-19 restrictions on social gathering. Santa will be riding around the City on the firetruck along with the Hancock PD and Transit vehicles. The tree lighting will be held virtually and broadcast on City FB page.
- The Planning Commission is in process of the Zoning Ordinance review phase.
- Multiple people are interested in the Keweenaw Chevrolet dealership property – The owner is willing to sell or lease.

Old Business

- Finlandia University will begin holding classes in the College of Health Sciences building in January 2021.

New Business

- DDA Amended Plan was reviewed and evaluated in response of the Planning Commission designation of items in the Master Plan. The budget for the DDA will be reviewed at the December meeting and the DDA will prioritize items to be addressed.
- The WUPPDR grant-funded rendering of the property at 200 Quincy Street was reviewed. The site drawing could yield interest for development as a mixed- use space. Funding for redevelopment would be available through MEDC to the qualified developer.
- Winter Strategies for Downtowns and Business Districts was forwarded for review by the DDA prior to the meeting. Discussion regarding cost, snow removal and snow load, maintenance and limitations with COVID do not allow for many of these ideas to be implemented in the City of Hancock at this time.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Member Zutter and seconded by Member Johnson at 6:40 pm

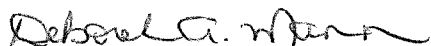
Yes: All

No: None

Motion Carried

Next Meeting scheduled Monday, December 7, 2020 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted



Deborah Mann, DDA Coordinator

Date: November 2, 2020