

**CITY OF HANCOCK  
PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES  
OF AUGUST 27, 2012**

The regular monthly Planning Commission meeting held on Monday, August 27, 2012 was called to order by Chairperson Dan Lorenzetti at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall with the following members present: Dan Lorenzetti, Bill Baxandall, Lisa McKenzie, Bob Wenc, Terry Monson, David Lucchesi and Glenn Anderson

Absent: Tony Wilmers, Bill Laitila

Guests: John Haeussler

It was moved by Baxandall and seconded by Monson to approve the agenda.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried

It was moved by Monson and seconded by Lucchesi to approve the July 23, 2012 minutes.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried.

Public Comments: None

Updates/Information

-Reviewed the July 12<sup>th</sup> US41/M-26 Corridor Committee meeting notes.

-Noted the Annual Labor Day Bridge Walk sponsored by Portage Health, 9 am, Monday, Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

-Heard that the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Parade of Nations will be held on Saturday, September 22, 2012 @ 11:00 a.m., with over 700 parade participants, and a total of 4,000 visitors. The parade is the largest fall event in the Keweenaw.

-Noted that the City Council was accepting applications for a City Council opening until September 10<sup>th</sup> to fill Jim Hainault's council member position.

-Heard that Mayor Laitila has issued a Mayoral Proclamation honoring the 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity.

-Learned that the Big Louie Moilanen project had raised about \$2,500 toward the cost of a monument.

-Heard the city was still working on a \$21,000 budget for material acquisition for the Navy St. storm sewer reconstruct project near M&M Power Sports.

-Heard the city had met with officials from MDOT and Quincy Township to look at water drainage problems near the US41 MDOT overlook on Quincy Hill.

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- Reviewed the Nov. ballot wording asking city voters to raise millage back up to 15 mills, which if approved would generate almost \$138,000 for deferred maintenance projects such as parks, trails, and black topping city streets.
- Heard that the 2011/12 water improvement project was almost complete, with 15 new water valves to replace outdated valves, including 2 on US41 just North East of White St.
- Discussed the future of the Seaman Mineral Museum moving to Quincy Hill
- Received an update on the proposed KNHP acquisition of the Quincy Smelter property from Franklin Township.
- Noted that SHPO has approved the plans for the renovation of the fire gutted building at 116 Quincy St.
- Noted the City Council's support of the EPA/DEQ initiative to delist the Michigan Smelter Tailings, Isle Royale Tailings, and the Mason Tailings as a phase one request, with more sites coming forward to delist in 2013 and 2014.

The Commission reviewed the DNR MNRTF grant award of \$262,500 to construct a new 382 lineal foot boardwalk out into Portage Lake on Navy St. near Coon Electric. The DDA has agreed to fund the \$87,500 local match. Design of the project will take place this fall and winter, and construction to take place in 2013. The commission asked for the opportunity to review the draft design phase when they are ready.

It was moved by Baxandall and seconded by Wenc to re-elect Dan Lorenzetti as Chairperson, Terry Monson as Vice-President, and Glenn Anderson as Secretary.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried.

The Commission was briefed on House Bill #5246 which recently was enacted into law expanding the existing 15 SmartZone by 3, and offering the ability to extend the tax capture up to another 15 years, with criteria yet to be developed by the MEDC. The Houghton/Hancock SmartZone was established in 2002, and is scheduled to end the current tax capture in 2017. The Commission also reviewed the SmartZones objectives for 2012/13 and looked at the 10 year job growth projection.

The Commission received a report on the full occupancy of the Citizen Bank Building, less than one year after Mike Lahti acquired the property. On August 1<sup>st</sup>, Talon Research and Xeractec opened up new offices in the garden level of the building. Both companies are graduates of the SmartZone.

Dave Lucchesi discussed drainage concerns for the High School practice football field and it was noted Finlandia University was installing a new roof on Finlandia Hill (Dorm Building).

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It was moved by Lucchesi and seconded by McKenzie to adjourn at 7:05 p.m.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Anderson, Secretary