

**CITY OF HANCOCK  
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
MINUTES OF APRIL 1, 2013**

Acting Chairperson Jim Bogan called the regular monthly DDA meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, April 1, 2013 with the following members present: Kathy Johnson, Steve Zutter, Jim Bogan, Jonathan Luse, Jr., Carol Fisher and Jordan Johnson.

Absent: Pete Wickley, Bonnie Holland and Bill Laitila

Guests/Staff: Glenn Anderson

It was moved by Zutter and seconded by K. Johnson to approve the agenda.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried

It was moved by K. Johnson and seconded by Fisher to approve the March 4, 2013 minutes.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried.

The DDA Board welcomed Jonathan Luse, Jr. for a term ending January 31, 2017.

Updates/Information

-Heard that the State of Michigan Dept. of Management and Budget had agreed to republish the RFP for new DHS Office space which now includes all of the City of Hancock. RFP's and due April 10<sup>th</sup> and still include 12,600 sq. ft of office space on one floor with 60 parking spaces. Currently, DHS offices are located at 200 Quincy St.

-Reviewed the draft schedule of events for FinnFest and noted motel occupancy was filling up fast in the Hancock/Houghton area. Hancock will host a reception on Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. followed by dancing until 11:00 p.m.

-Noted that FinnFest will hold both an educational forum and a business and technology forum on June 19<sup>th</sup>.

-Reviewed several optional FinnFest Tours highlighting local historic sites.

-Reviewed the 3 KM Nordic Walking route from Gloria Dei Lutheran Church to Chutes & Ladders as part of FinnFest efforts to set a new world record for Nordic Walking. A fee of \$5.00 will be charged.

-Reviewed the March 13 HB & PA minutes

-Heard that the HB & PA were in the process of selecting new officers.

-Heard that Wayne Goudge is the new manager of UP Hill 41.

-Heard the MTU Credit Union was closing the Quincy Center branch in June

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- Reviewed MDOT's Ishpeming TSC 2013 construction projects, including the reconstruction of M-26 in Laurium and a curve correction on M-26 near South Range. MJO Contracting was selected as the low bidder for both projects.
- Reviewed MDOT's 2014 to 2017 construction plans, including reconstructing M-26 thru Ripley in 2014 and reconstructing Front St., Reservation, and Quincy Streets in the City in 2016.
- Reviewed MDOT charts on the history of Portage Lake Lift Bridge openings.
- Reviewed a summary of the 2013 Houghton & Hancock Bike & Pedestrian Survey results which had 695 respondents, and showed the lift bridge had 20,000 bike crossings annually, and Hancock Street had over 10,000 bike trips annually.
- Reviewed the DEQ Navy St. Park boardwalk project public notice dated March 25, 2013. The DEQ has given the public 20 days to comment on the proposed project.

The DDA Board reviewed a draft project schedule for the Navy St. Park Boardwalk Project, with bidding in June, construction start in the fall, and completion by June 30, 2014. Once a contractor is selected, then they will order the steel piling necessary for the project, which could take several weeks to acquire. The city needs to obtain both the COE & DEQ permits for the project.

The DDA Board discussed the condition of the old JB Sports Building located at 119 Quincy St. Miner s State Bank foreclosed on the property and has it listed for sale with Century 21. The MEDC has a blight grant program that this building may fit the criteria for, and MSHDA could also provide a housing grant. Anderson suggested the DDA consider providing two façade grants due to the poor condition the building if a new owner were to acquire the building.

The DDA Board discussed a concept proposed by the City of Houghton to cost share a Houghton/Hancock visitor center to be located at the current Chamber of Commerce office in Houghton. Estimated cost per year is \$3,000.

It was moved by K. Johnson and seconded by Luse to adjourn at 6:15 p.m.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Anderson  
Secretary Pro-Tem