

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

Chairperson Peter Wickley called the regular DDA meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, July 1, 2013 with the following members present: Kathy Johnson, Bonnie Holland, Peter Wickley, Jonathan Luse, Jr. and Carol Fisher.

Absent: Jim Bogan, Bill Laitila, Steve Zutter and Jordan Johnson.

Guest/Staff: Melissa Weiberg and Glenn Anderson

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

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried.

It was moved by K. Johnson and seconded by Luse to approve the May 6, 2013 minutes.

AYES; All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried

Public Comments: None

Updates/Information

-Heard the HB & PA will be holding its Summer Canal Rock series on Friday nights starting June 28th and reviewed the tentative list of performers.

-Learned that Finlandia University has proposed a concept for a major expansion of the Finnish-American Heritage Center, and will explore fundraising support for the project.

-Heard that FinnFest 2013 USA had great crowds and many participants said it was one of the best organized FinnFest's in recent years. Over 8,000 people attended the many FinnFest events during the 5-day event.

-Heard that the Houghton County Airport had to cancel 8 flights during FinnFest, including both Saturday and Sunday due to a weather machine malfunction. Over 600 United/SkyWest customers had to seek alternative transportation out of the area.

-Heard that the Federal Dept. of Transportation was accepting request for proposals to continue the Essential Air Service program for another 2 year term starting January 1, 2014. United/Skywest has had the EAS Contract for four years ending December 31, 2013.

-Heard Senator Casperson was still trying to get SB50 allowing ORV's to use State Highways under certain conditions approved by the State Senate.

-Reviewed the May 14, 2013 HB & PA minutes.

-Noted that Early Spring Productions LLC and LeClaire Surveying Services LLC opened up at the Jutila Center SmartZone, and LaSalle Technology has expanded into the West Wing of the 4th floor.

- Noted that the City has secured a \$10,490 grant from the Americana Foundation for the E. Hancock Stairway Rehab project.
- Darrin Beiring has purchased the UDP building and business.
- Bridgefest 2014 still does not have a committee or Chairperson.
- Finlandia University is still exploring adding a football program in the next few years.
- Banners are now banned from the Front St. Wall, and the City is evaluating alternatives.
- The DDA reviewed the summers Reshape Downtown volunteer events, and thanked Bonnie Holland for coordinating all the various groups and projects who participated to spruce up the City for FinnFest.
- Heard that Micah Stipech has opened Cross Fit Fitness Center at 611 Emma St., and that Jan Bruin-Slot is purchasing the old Toutant Warehouse Building, also located on Emma St.
- Heard the State of Michigan has selected a new location at the Copper Country Mall for moving the existing DHS Office from 200 Quincy St. The move is expected late in 2013. Houghton County owns the current DHA Office Building.
- Heard that Aspiris was planning to construct a new 22,000 sq. ft. clinic in Houghton.
- Heard that the City of Houghton has floated the concept of a \$6,000,000 bond issue to finance the relocation of the Isle Royale National Park Headquarters to the Quincy Smelter site in Franklin Township.
- Heard that Mark Johnson has decided to remodel the first floor of the Gartner's Clothing building into two commercial units, with new bathrooms, new heat, and extensive interior renovations.

The DDA Board was notified the \$70,000 collateral pledge to help Mark Johnson purchase the Gartner's Furniture business through a Superior National Bank loan has been fulfilled which allowed Johnson to get a lower interest rate on his loan. The DDA was also informed that the Johnson's had recently purchased the building from Richard Kahn.

The DDA Board reviewed the two bids opened on June 20th for the Navy St. Park Boardwalk project.

DP Construction	\$356,708.00
McMullen & Pitz	\$405,165.87

It was moved by Holland and seconded by Fisher to accept DP Construction's low bid for \$356,708.00

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried

After the steel piling and installed, the DDA will review the contract to determine if a cost reduction in the contract will be needed.

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It was moved by Luse and seconded by K. Johnson to approve a \$10,000 façade matching grant to Al McClellan for his building located at 308 Quincy St.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried.

Melissa Weiberg new owner of The Flower Shop building located at 320 Quincy St. was present to discuss her remodeling plan, and said at this time she was only going to proceed with a new business sign, and asked for a façade grant to help her fund the \$2,325 new business sign.

It was moved by Holland and seconded by Fisher to approve a façade grant for Melissa Weiberg for a new sign at her building, 320 Quincy St., in the amount of \$1,162.50.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried

Jack Eberhard owner of the Book Concern Printers, has asked the DDA for a small second façade grant to help fund a \$4,436 project to replace a garage door, replace a company sign on E. Franklin St., and install a new exterior light.

It was moved by Holland and seconded by Luse to approve a façade grant in the amount of \$2,218 to Jack Eberhard for his building at 129 E. Franklin St.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried.

It was moved by K. Johnson and seconded by Fisher to cancel the August 5th DDA meeting.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried.

The DDA discussed the proposed sale of city owned land just East of World of Wood on Hancock St. for an appraised price of \$16,800.

The DDA heard that 4 jewelry display cases, 3-5' long and 1-6' long were sold to Dan LaBeske, Northern Light Garden Center for a total of \$800.00

It was moved by K. Johnson and seconded by Luse to adjourn at 6:25 p.m.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried.

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Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Anderson
Secretary Pro-Tem