

**CITY OF HANCOCK
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 1, 2010**

Chairperson Peter Wickley called the regular monthly DDA meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, February 1, 2010 with the following members present: Bonnie Holland, Kathy Johnson, Bill Laitila, Steve Zutter, Peter Wickely, Frank Taucher, Carol Fisher, Darin Leetun.

Absent: Jim Bogan

Guest/Staff: Glenn Anderson, Jack Eberhard and Stephen Olsson

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

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried.

It was moved by Johnson and seconded by Holland to approve the December 7, 2009 minutes.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried.

There was no public comment.

Newly installed HB & PA President Stehpen Olsson and DDA Liaison member Jack Eberhard were present to discuss HB & PA initiatives. The DDA welcomed Mr. Olsson as the new President and said they would continue to work with HB & PA board members to further promote downtown businesses.

The DDA reviewed the December 28, 2009 and January 12, 1010 HB & PA minutes.

Updates/Information

-Heard that the Heikinpaiva events were well attended.

-Heard that General Glass had replaced the damaged plate glass at 116 Quincy St. at the direction of building owner Derek Bradway.

- Learned that Mike Lahti continues to look for an anchor tenant which would allow him to exercise his option to purchase the building located at 424 Hancock St. from Citizen Bank.
- Received a Thank You from Carol Freeman Secretary, HB & PA for the \$500 Christmas Walk donation which was used to purchase decorative light pole garland.
- Reviewed the list of proposed demolition building projects in the city funded by a MSHDA NSP grant.
- Was notified that the city received a \$47,450 grant from the DELEG Energy Efficiency Program to fund a district heating study. The grant funds came from a portion of the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA).
- Heard that transit ridership was up 4% over 2008, and the transit has had increased ridership every year since the transit was started in 2003.
- Heard the VA Clinic is expected to expand to a 3rd suite at the Quincy Centre.
- Reviewed recent City of Houghton Downtown branding and marketing efforts, and looked at their proposed logos.
- Heard that M & M Powersports may be expanding on Navy St.
- Heard that the Quincy Smelter Executives Steering Committee was supporting relocating the Isle Royale National Park Headquarters to the Quincy Smelter site.
- Heard that FU & the Hancock Public Schools plan on closing the old High School Building transfer in March.
- Discussed the temporary closing of Sew Sisters at 117 Quincy St. because of a water leak. Joe Burcar is the buildings owner.
- Heard that the Condon Field Project will start soil boring drilling this month.

The DDA reviewed seven alternate parking concepts prepared by OHM Engineering outlining possible parking configurations for Quincy Street if US41 was relocated to Hancock Street.

The DDA discussed ways to make the Gartner's Building purchase and reuse more likely, including having the DDA purchase the building allowing the current owners to receive a tax deduction on a portion of the sale price, and offering the building to a developer at a discounted purchase price. An example would be a purchase price of \$180,000, the current owners take a tax deduction of \$60,000, and the DDA pays \$120,000 cash, and sells the building to a developer for \$60,000. The developer would have to provide evidence of financing and have a sound reuse plan for the building.

The DDA discussed an abstract written by Rodney Runyan, from the University of Tennessee, titled "Strengthening Patronage Intentions to Shop Downtown in Small Rural Communities: Is Community Brand Identity a Resource?"

The downtown promotion sub committee of Bonnie Holland, Stephen Olsson, Jack Eberhard & Glenn Anderson are planning on having a recommendation to the DDA for its March 1st meeting.

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It was moved by Johnson and seconded by Fisher to adjourn at 6:40 p.m.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Anderson
Secretary