

ISHPEMING DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Meeting of January 12, 2012

A special meeting of the Ishpeming Downtown Development Authority was held on Thursday, January 12, 2012, at 4:00 p.m. in the City Hall Conference Room. Vice Chair David Aeh called the meeting to order.

Present: Jered Ottenwess, Cheryl Kellow, Stacey Willey, Jason Gauthier, Elaine Racine, Charlie Anderson, David Aeh, Rosemarie Strom, and Sandy Sundquist

Also present were Pat Coleman of U. P. Engineers & Architects, Councilwoman Claudia Demarest, and Tim Hares

Public Comment

Tim Hares inquired if Malton Road would be discussed at the meeting, and Mr. Coleman informed him it would not.

Workshop Followup and Design Review

Mr. Ottenwess stated the DDA must indicate their support for DNR Natural Resources Trust grant applications for recreational improvements. The plans for the water tower and Howard Oil sites must be finalized to make amendments to the City five year recreation plan. April 1 is the grant application deadline. The design for the gateway improvements must be selected in order to be completed during the construction season.

Mr. Coleman indicated there is a severe vision problem at Second and Third Streets. The best location for a sign would be where the existing Ski Hall of Fame sign is located. There will be new sidewalk at Second and Third Streets, with identified crosswalks. Smaller signs will be hung on the railroad bridges.

Workshops and presentations were held in December on the recreation and gateway improvements. Visitors reviewed the two sign options, and most preferred the obelisk look. The obelisk sign would be 24 feet tall and located at Lakeshore Drive. MDOT has approved placement of a sign as long as the sign is out of the clear vision access.

Long-term, MDOT would like Second Street to become the primary entrance, with Second Street curving over south of the railroad grade to Third Street. This will not be a part of the current projects.

In response to a question on crosswalks, Mr. Ottenwess said location of a crosswalk at Lakeshore Drive is included in MDOT's plans for 2013.

It is felt an underground irrigation system should be included with landscaping plans for both locations, Lakeshore Drive and Second/Third Streets. It was noted that the cost of an irrigation system is not included in the cost estimate.

Mr. Ottenwess noted that a permit has been received from the railroad. The cost for the permit is \$4,800 to cross their right of way for water and sewer line extensions.

Mr. Coleman noted a number of people attended the workshops because they thought Malton Road was going to be discussed. In the future, a workshop will be held on Malton Road.

Mr. Ottenwess stated Tom West was at the workshops, and he has no problem with removing their existing sign and replacing it with two new Ski Hall signs near the driveway entrances. This would be an additional cost to the project.

It was noted that the drawings do not show all the landscaping that will be included.

Concern was expressed over the size of the 24 foot obelisk sign. It was explained that the larger sign would be at Lakeshore Drive and a scaled down version would be at the Ski Hall of Fame location. The obelisk sign would include a mining and skiing theme.

A motion was made by Mr. Ottenwess and seconded by Mr. Aeh to finalize the obelisk design for Lake Shore Drive, with a smaller sign at the Ski Hall of Fame, and to negotiate with the Ski Hall of Fame to replace their existing sign with two new signs. Motion carried.

Mr. Coleman said concepts for development of the water tower and Howard Oil sites were prepared following meetings that including the Planning Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, and DDA. The proposed plan includes parking, picnic areas, trails, possible Malton Road extension, and the Heritage Trail. There are some environmental issues, but it is not planned to disturb those areas.

To assist with the cost of the water tower and Howard Oil sites, a DNR Natural Resources Grant should be submitted by April 1. 25% is the normal local match, but there would be a better chance for the grant with more local match.

A motion was made by Mr. Ottenwess and seconded by Mrs. Willey to approve the designs for the water tower and Howard Oil sites as presented and to authorize UPEA to move forward with the DNR grant applications. Motion carried.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Carol Holmgren
Recording Secretary