

ISHPEMING DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Meeting of March 26, 2012

A meeting of the Ishpeming Downtown Development Authority was held on Monday, March 26, 2012, in the City Hall Conference Room. Vice Chair Charlie Anderson called the meeting to order at 4:21 p.m.

Present: Cheryl Kellow, Jered Ottenwess, Charlie Anderson, Elaine Racine, Sandy Sundquist, and Rosemarie Strom

Also present were Dave Williams, Councilwoman Claudia Demarest, Tim Hares, Virginia Tippet and Sarah Pietro of the Renaissance Festival and Art Faire, Dennis Stanaway and Steve Pellinen of the Superior A's Model A Club, Carr Baldwin and Dave Lampinen of UPEA, and Chamber of Commerce Director Elizabeth Peterson.

Public Comment

Tim Hares inquired about the status of adjustments to the Malton Road alignment. He was informed that the Planning Commission will consider Malton Road at the April 16 meeting. If adjustments are made by the Planning Commission, it will be forwarded to the DDA and City Council for action. Mr. Hares said the planned route has red ore underneath, and if the ore is disturbed, there will be a problem caused by traffic and wind.

Carr Baldwin briefly explained that the Lake Bancroft Committee is trying to raise funds to purchase a submersible pump to settle the solids that are interfering with the operation of the lake. They have a permit from the DEQ to install the pump. Mr. Baldwin stated it will cost about \$5,000 to purchase the pump, and it will take about three months to get the pump once it is ordered. Mr. Baldwin asked if the DDA would contribute to the purchase of the pump, and he was asked to submit a formal request.

Virginia Tippet asked for consideration of the Renaissance Faire request for financial assistance for their event in August.

Minutes of February 27, 2012

A motion was made by Mrs. Sundquist and seconded by Mrs. Racine to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Financial Report.

Mr. Ottenwess reported that major expenses have been for bond projects.

A motion was made by Mrs. Sundquist and seconded by Mrs. Strom to accept the financial report as presented. Motion carried.

Chamber of Commerce Report

Mrs. Peterson distributed a written report on Chamber activities for the prior month and gave a brief status report on items they have been working on.

Renaissance Festival and Art Faire

Mrs. Tippett stated they are requesting financial assistance, and the funds will be used for promotion and advertising. They also work in conjunction with the Rock and Mineral Club and Cliffs Shaft on some advertising.

A motion was made by Ms. Kellow and seconded by Mrs. Racine to authorize the expenditure of \$500.00 towards the Renaissance Festival and Art Faire to be held on August 4, 2012. Motion carried.

West End Community Arts Network

Mr. Williams said their inaugural art stroll is scheduled for mid-May. The event will be for one week, and art will be displayed in participating businesses. At the end of the week, there will be a closing reception. They had hoped to be self-supporting by this time, but they are not. The long-term plan for generating revenue will be additional memberships. Mrs. Tippett said funds will be raised from ticket sales for musical events they will be holding.

A motion was made by Ms. Kellow and seconded by Mrs. Strom to approve a contribution of \$500.00 towards advertising costs for the WeCan Art Stroll and closing reception. Motion carried.

Superior A's Model A Car Club Request

Steve Pellinen said the 2012 Model A Ford Club of America National Convention will be held on June 18-22. Previously they requested and were granted a contribution of \$500, and they are requesting that this amount be increased to \$1,000.

Mrs. Sundquist inquired whether they had approached individual businesses for donations or for advertising in their booklet.

After discussion on how many of the activities will be held in Ishpeming, a motion was made by Mrs. Sundquist and seconded by Mrs. Racine to pay the rental fee of \$500 for use of the Al Quaal Recreation Area for the pig roast and Blue Notes concert. Motion carried.

Façade Improvement Grant Program

Mr. Anderson prepared a letter expressing his thoughts on a façade grant program.

Discussion was held on what should be included in the façade improvement policy. Some items noted are:

- Use the program from Alpena, but have it less formal.
- Not have a design committee.
- The owner must get all the necessary permits for any work done.
- Do not give money to someone who has not been paying their taxes.
- Not require maintaining historical integrity as none of the buildings are on the historical registry.
- Suggested maximum dollar amount, but not limit the amount for a significant project.

Ms. Kellow inquired how it would be known if someone has a lien against the property or it is in foreclosure. She suggested having a credit check and title opinion, and the applicant would be responsible for this expense.

Mr. Ottenwess stated he would draft a proposal for review at the next meeting.

DDA Project Maintenance Policy

The Parks and Recreation Commission expressed its concern that the DDA would assume responsibility for maintenance expenses of projects that the DDA creates.

A motion was made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mrs. Racine to approve sending a letter to Norm Andrew, Parks and Recreation Commission Chairman, assuring that the DDA policy is to pay for the maintenance of projects that it creates and TIF funds are available to pay the expenses. Motion carried.

Letter of Support for DNR Trust Fund Grant Application

It is requested that the DDA submit a letter of support for the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant application for the Hematite Heights Trailhead and Water Tower Hill Overlook Projects.

A motion was made by Mrs. Sundquist and seconded by Ms. Kellow to approve a letter of support for the grant application for the two recreation projects. Motion carried.

Penney Building Parcel

Consideration of this item is tabled until the next meeting. Mike Koski, owner of Congress Pizza, will be invited to the next meeting to discuss whether he desires to acquire the property.

Legal Counsel

There will be a number of legal issues concerning the bond projects, and legal counsel will be necessary.

Mr. Ottenwess made a motion to hire David Savu on an hourly rate of \$160 on an as-needed basis, at least through 2012, in lieu of advertising for an outside attorney.

Following discussion, Mr. Ottenwess withdrew his motion. The item was tabled to the next meeting.

Downtown Landscaping

Mr. Ottenwess would like clarification on who will take care of the downtown landscaping. Alice Nelson is unable to do the work and has been training someone else. City employee Pete Farley has also been doing a good portion of the landscaping. For the coming year, will landscaping continue to be done by Mrs. Nelson's replacement and Pete Farley or is there a desire to contract with a professional landscaping firm.

A motion was made by Ms. Kellow and seconded by Mrs. Racine to continue utilizing Mrs. Nelson's replacement and Pete Farley for downtown landscaping, as in the past. Motion carried.

Ishpeming Business Association

Mr. Anderson stated the IBA is making progress on a new website.

Mrs. Racine inquired whether the IBA would consider having evening meetings. It is difficult for some business owners to come to the meetings in the morning. Mr. Anderson will discuss this option at the next IBA meeting.

Old Business

Mrs. Sundquist stated she would like to get bids from independent contractors for the torch trek and inquired who she should talk to about putting specifications together. Mrs. Sundquist was referred to DPW Director Jon Kangas.

Mrs. Sundquist said there are women who live near Lake Bancroft who want to volunteer to weed and clean the park.

Mr. Ottenwess stated that the Ski Hall of Fame does not appear willing to replace their existing sign with another sign or to put the obelisk where the existing sign is located.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Carol Holmgren
Recording Secretary