

ISHPEMING DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Meeting of April 23, 2012

A meeting of the Ishpeming Downtown Development Authority was held on Monday, April 23, 2012, at 4:00 p.m. in the City Hall Conference Room. The meeting was called to order by Chairman David Aeh.

Present were Jered Ottenwess, Elaine Racine, Diane Gauthier, David Aeh, Stacey Willey, Cheryl Kellow, David Aro, Rosemarie Strom, and Charlie Anderson.

Also present were Councilwoman Claudia Demarest, Dave Lampinen of U. P. Engineers & Architects, Kurt Gronvall, Chamber Director Elizabeth Peterson, and Tim Hares.

Public Comment

Kurt Gronvall said the Partridge Creek project on Cleveland Avenue may prevent some of the concerts to be held at Old Ish Park. Mr. Gronvall wants the concerts to be held in the downtown area, not Lake Bancroft. Jesse Bell has offered his loading dock and St. Onge Insurance offered their parking lot if Old Ish Park is not available, and the Butler has offered their building if it rains. Mr. Ottenwess stated the construction schedule has not been finalized. There is a pre-construction meeting next week. Possibly the construction will have little impact on holding the concerts at Old Ish Park.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mrs. Willey and seconded by Mr. Anderson to approve the minutes of March 26, 2012, as presented. Motion carried.

Chamber of Commerce Report

Chamber Director Elizabeth Peterson said the maps are done. She gave an update on her activities during the prior month. She is working with the Model A Club for their event. Mr. Aeh presented a cut-out of a Model A, which forms could be purchased and decorated.

Mrs. Peterson inquired if the DDA would be willing to provide funds for this year's Mud Plunge. It was noted it is easier to use the City for the work because they know the area better. Mrs. Peterson will present estimated costs at the next meeting.

Malton Road Alignment

Mr. Ottenwess said the Planning Commission has approved the revised Malton Road alignment. The location of the road was shifted 30 feet from the corner. Quotes for a surface treatment will be included in the bid documents. This should keep the dust down and make the road last longer with reduced maintenance costs. This surface would be between a gravel and paved road.

Dave Lampinen indicated the ballfield will not be impacted as seriously as originally thought.

Tim Hares disagreed with the City's interpretation of how much of the alley was vacated years ago. He has objections to Malton Road at the proposed location and suggested the road go through Malton Electric and under the guide wires.

Mr. Ottenwess reported that going under the guide wires was looked at, but it is not feasible.

It was questioned whether a privacy fence or landscaping could alleviate Mr. Hares' concerns. Another concern raised was the speed limit on the road.

A motion was made by Mr. Aeh and seconded by Mr. Anderson to approve the alignment for Malton Road as drawn. Ayes: Eight (8). Nays: Diane Gauthier (1). Motion carried.

Main Street Cruisin Car Show

A letter was received from Jon Simon clarifying how he would spend any funds. Due to the Partridge Creek project, the street closures had to be changed.

A motion was made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mrs. Racine to authorize up to \$500.00 to the Main Street Cruisin Car Show for promotional and DPW expenses. Motion carried.

Former Penney Building Parcel

Mike Koski of Congress Pizza was invited to attend the meeting to discuss what his plans for the lot would be, but he was unable to attend. Discussion followed on what the DDA's intentions are with the lot, use it for public purposes or sell it.

A motion was made by Ms. Kellow and seconded by Mr. Ottenwess to not sell the property and to have UPEA prepare a proposal for use of the property. Motion carried.

Facade Improvement Grant Program

Items of concern with the draft program guidelines included whether the time constraints were too restrictive, if someone wanted to do the work themselves, and if there should be a limit on how much could be designated for an individual project.

Mr. Ottenwess will revise the guidelines and bring it back for final approval at the next meeting.

Legal Counsel

A motion was made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mrs. Willey to solicit proposals from attorneys with offices in Ishpeming or who live in Ishpeming to see if they are interested in handling DDA issues, requesting quotes for hourly rates with a retainer and for hourly rates without a retainer. Motion carried.

Bond Project Update

Mr. Ottenwess feels the signage and landscaping at the Ski Hall of Fame is not going to happen, and that proposal should be eliminated. The Executive Board will not cooperate on the sign issue. Mrs. Willey inquired if an underpass could be constructed along the Carp River at U. S. 41 and Lakeshore Drive. Mr. Ottenwess feels that would be extremely expensive.

The permit for Malton Road has been approved. The permit requires improvement, which will create added expenses.

Ishpeming Business Association

Mr. Anderson said the Festival of Treasures will be held on July 3. For July 4, there will be a circus and flyover at Al Quaal. The Skerbeck Carnival and car show are scheduled. IBA meetings will be held weekly until the Festival of Treasures. On the first and third Thursday the

meetings will be at 8:30 a.m. at City Hall and on the second and fourth Thursday at Rollie's Furniture at 5:00 p.m.

New Business

Mr. Aro stated the hospital is sponsoring a half marathon in September or October. The marathon will be about 14 miles and will have different levels for participants.

Mr. Aeh feels money should be allocated to enhance the website. He stated funds should be allocated for sweeping and trash pickup. Selling and painting the cut-out Model A cars for the convention in June should be pursued. The Historical Society is holding a fund raising tea at his house on April 29 at 1:00 and 4:00 p.m. Tickets are \$20.00.

A motion was made by Mr. Aeh and seconded by Mrs. Gauthier to accept the resignation of Cheryl Kellow from the DDA with regret. Motion carried.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mrs. Gauthier and seconded by Mr. Aeh to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 p.m. Motion carried.

Carol Holmgren
Recording Secretary