

ISHPEMING DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Meeting of December 17, 2012

A meeting of the Ishpeming Downtown Development Authority was held on Monday, December 17, 2012, at 4:00 p.m. in the City Hall Conference Room. Chairman David Aeh called the meeting to order.

Present: David Aeh, Charlie Anderson, Dave Aro, Diane Gauthier, Jason Gauthier, Judy Hodges, Jered Ottenwess, Elaine Racine, and Rosemarie Strom

Also present were Chamber Director Elizabeth Peterson, Brian Savolainen and Pat Coleman of UPEA, and Adele Whitefoot of the Mining Journal

Minutes of Previous Meeting

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

Financial Report

A motion was made by Mr. Gauthier and seconded by Mr. Anderson to accept the financial report as presented. Motion carried.

Chamber of Commerce Report

Mrs. Peterson stated plans are going well for the Arctic Blast Color Dash on January 5, 2013, with 145 people signed up so far. Without more snow, it may just be a race. A portion of the proceeds will go to the U. S. Ski Hall of Fame, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Bell Hospital Strength From Within Program, YMCA, and Love, Inc. The punch card promotion ends next week, and the drawing for \$500 in Chamber Bucks will be on December 20. Over 100 Chamber bucks of \$25.00 each have been sold this month. They are working with 906 Technologies to have the control to make changes to their website. There are 45 families included in the Adopt-a-Family program. The Chamber has 220 members. There will probably be a Business After Hours in January. At the request of Councilwoman Racine, Mrs. Peterson will promote January 9, 2013, as "Ishpeming Hematite Day".

2013 Meeting Schedule

A motion was made by Mr. Aro and seconded by Mrs. Racine to reschedule the December meeting to December 16, 2013. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mrs. Gauthier and seconded by Mr. Anderson to accept the 2013 DDA meeting schedule as amended. Motion carried.

200 East Division Street Façade Improvement Grant Follow-up

Mr. Ottenwess requested this item be deferred to the next meeting so he can prepare a summary of the project.

Promotional Activities

Mr. Ottenwess stated that \$900 was budgeted for the Festival of Treasures. He stated costs to date for DPW labor and equipment, advertising, and publishing totaled \$1,837. He stated the IBA paid \$1,100 for music and a canopy and are requesting reimbursement. He feels all vendors for the Festival of Treasures should bill the DDA directly and not the IBA. Mr. Aro questioned why the DDA would be responsible for IBA expenditures.

A motion was made by Mrs. Gauthier and seconded by Mrs. Racine to approve payment of \$1,100 to the Ishpeming Business Association. Motion carried.

Bond Project Update

Mr. Coleman stated the City did not get the grant for the Hematite Heights recreation improvements. It was agreed the project funding would have to be reviewed again.

The Entryway project is almost ready to go out for bids. Getting power to the site could be difficult, and it might be beneficial to have a solar panel on the back of the signs.

Conceptual plans for the streetscape project were reviewed. The drawing showed different projects; red is the proposed sidewalk, blue is the Negaunee sewer line, and yellow is work that was done by Partridge Creek. Actual drawings for construction will be presented in January.

On the south side of Hematite Drive, there is no division between the road and parking. Landscaping will do a lot. The roadway may have to be narrowed for sidewalk and planting, but must be Public Works friendly. There would be no changes near Bethel Lutheran Church. The Post Office box is a problem as people are going across traffic to drop off mail. Possibly a work shop to get feedback from the City Council and Planning Commission would be beneficial.

It was noted that First Street was put included on the map because the sidewalks are in terrible condition, but could be eliminated if necessary.

More work was planned, but much of it was completed by Partridge Creek. Some drainage might be needed.

Mr. Aeh questioned where the funds will come from to fill the promise of paving Malton Road and noted a memo was received from Ray Roberts regarding options for paving Malton Road.

Discussion followed on the benefits of hot mix asphalt versus seal coat. The average life of seal coat is a five to ten year cycle, possibly 15 years, and is best used for dust control. On a main roadway with more traffic and high speeds, the lower end should be expected. Mr. Savolainen's recommendation is to get as much road paving as possible rather than use seal coat that will go away in a shorter period of time. The street could be paved in segments as funding becomes available. A full 3" surface would provide the ideal surface, but a 2" surface is often used in newer subdivisions. Hot mix asphalt would be best. Mr. Savolainen advised against using seal coat first and then asphalt. Mr. Crimmins would like to talk to Payne and Dolan about mix designs for paving.

Ishpeming Business Association Report

Ladies Night Out and the Christmas parade were both successful. The Ishpeming Hematite football team was at the parade following their State championship win.

Old Business

Mr. Aro inquired on the status of the Congress interest in purchasing the former J C Penney lot.

New Business

A motion was made by Mrs. Racine and seconded by Mr. Aeh to record future DDA meetings. Motion carried.

Mr. Ottenwess stated the City's website has been revised.

A request for funding was received from the Rock and Mineral Club for 2013, and the item was deferred to the January meeting.

Mr. Aro said there will be a free community dinner at the Elks on Christmas Day from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Mr. Aeh reported that his car was totaled recently at the U. S. 41/Lakeshore Drive intersection by a driver who went through the red light. He questioned why MDOT has not done something to make the intersection safer.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mrs. Gauthier to adjourn the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

Carol Holmgren
Recording Secretary