

ISHPEMING DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Meeting of May 20, 2013

A meeting of the Ishpeming Downtown Development Authority was held on Monday, May 20, 2013, in the City Hall Conference Room. Chairman David Aeh called the meeting to order.

Present: David Aeh, Charlie Anderson, Dave Aro, Diane Gauthier, Judy Hodges, Jered Ottenwess, Stuart Skauge, and Stacey Willey (8). Absent: Jason Gauthier, Elaine Racine, and Rosemarie Strom (3).

Also present were Treasurer Jim Lampman, Councilwoman Claudia Demarest, Virginia Tippet and Sarah Pietro of the Renaissance Festival and Art Faire, Ron Johnson of Buck's Restaurant, Trevor Morrison of Stonehouse Window and Door, Sue Boback of the Ishpeming Historical Society, and Pat Coleman and Brian Savolainen of UPEA.

Public Comment

Sue Boback, President of the Ishpeming Historical Society, said the annual home tour will be held on June 30 and requested \$200 to be used toward advertising and brochures.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Skauge and seconded by Mrs. Hodges to approve the minutes of April 22 and May 6, 2013, as amended. Motion carried.

Financial Report

A bond payment was made. Budget amendments will be prepared at a later date when project costs are better known.

A motion was made by Mr. Aeh and seconded by Mrs. Willey to accept the financial report as presented. Motion carried.

Chamber of Commerce Report

Work is progressing with the Mud Plunge, and the business guide is being updated.

Façade Grant Request – Buck's Restaurant

Buck's Restaurant is requesting a façade grant through the DDA program for siding, windows and doors. The low bid was from Stonehouse Windows and Doors for \$64,981. The grant has a 50/50 match, or \$32,491 each. It was questioned whether the back of the building should be included in the grant. It was noted there would only be siding on the top of the building in the back, and it would amount to about 15% of the entire cost.

A motion was made by Mr. Aro and seconded by Mr. Skauge to approve the grant request from Buck's Restaurant on a 50-50 basis as presented.

Mr. Ottenwess offered a friendly amendment to include that the bid be awarded to the low bidder, Stonehouse Window and Doors, at the bid amount of \$64,981.

The motion and amendment were adopted unanimously.

Request from the Renaissance Festival and Art Faire

A request for financial assistance was received from the Renaissance Festival and Art Faire for \$500 for advertising.

A motion was made by Mr. Aro and seconded by Mrs. Willey to approve a contribution of \$500 for Renaissance Festival and Art Faire advertising and promotion. Motion carried.

It was suggested an application to request funds for events be prepared. Mrs. Willey and Mr. Aro will draft an application for approval by the DDA.

Bond Projects Update

Malton Road. Lindberg is hoping to start grading work on June 10. Payne & Dolan is the subcontractor for paving, and it will probably be late June or early July before they will pave.

U. S. 41 Utilities. They are still working on obtaining easements, and the easement from the Water Authority has been drafted.

Streetscape. The Planning Commission recommended eliminating sidewalk along the south side of Hematite Drive from Main Street to Second Street from the plans and to use the funds to replace existing sidewalk on Bank Street from Main Street to the alley and on First Street from Cleveland Avenue to Hematite Drive.

A motion was made by Mr. Skauge and seconded by Mrs. Gauthier to concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission to eliminate sidewalk along the south side of Hematite Drive and to replace sidewalk on First and Bank Streets. Ayes: Seven (7). Nays: One (1 – Charlie Anderson). Motion carried.

Entry Features Update

The committee met to discuss amending the entryway project to come within \$100,000. Priorities are to clean and paint the three railroad abutments, two entry signs on U. S. 41, and two railroad bridge signs. UPEA is getting some costs together.

Ishpeming Business Association Report

The Festival of Treasures will be on July 3. The summer concert series has only one open slot remaining. There will not be a Country Showdown like the past two years. On July 3 there will be hot air balloon rides at the old hospital site.

Old Business

A motion was made by Mr. Skauge and seconded by Mr. Anderson to approve the request from the Historical Society for a contribution of \$200 for advertising and promotion for the 2013 home tours. Ayes: Seven (7). Nays: None (0). Abstained: One (1 – David Aeh). Motion carried.

New Business

Mr. Skauge stated that Cliffs Natural Resources and Rio Tinto have established a four million dollar Marquette County Community Fund. The fund will provide grants to long-term major projects or programs that focus on education, youth, environment, health, and community development. An informal work session of five DDA members or less will be held on

Thursday, June 13, at 6:00 p.m. at the MEA office to consider projects that could be submitted for funding.

Mr. Aeh stated the summer employee will start after Memorial Day. New smaller baskets will be purchased this year. Mr. Aeh said \$5,000 was budgeted for beautification improvements at the Congress lot and asked if a proposal should be put together now.

Mr. Anderson said the IBA wants an additional \$600 for tents for the Festival of Treasures. He was instructed to check with OK Rentals to see what they would charge for tents.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mrs. Willey to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 p.m. Motion carried.

Carol Holmgren
Recording Secretary