

## ISHPEMING DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Meeting of August 26, 2013

A meeting of the Ishpeming Downtown Development Authority was held on Monday, August 26, 2013, 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, Judy Hodges, Jon Kangas, Elaine Racine, Stuart Skauge, Rosemarie Strom, and Stacey Willey. Absent: Diane Gauthier and Jason Gauthier.

Also present were Mayor Mike Tall, Council Members Claudia Demarest, Joseph Juidici, and Mike Tonkin, City Attorney David Savu, Alan Bakalarski, County Treasurer Anne Giroux, Chief of Police Dan Willey, Pat Coleman and Brian Savolainen of UPEA, Chamber Director Kori Tossava, and Yvonne Leaf.

### Public Comment

Karen Collins and Susan Dix requested funding for a billboard on U. S. 41 with an arrow directing to the businesses north of U. S. 41 and Second Street. Nine businesses would split the cost of the monthly fee, but they are looking for funding for the signs. The cost is approximately \$2,500 for a sign on both sides of U. S. 41. They also do not want to put the sign up and have to remove it because of the roundabout.

Councilwoman Demarest requested time to speak about beautification.

County Treasurer Anne Giroux requested time to speak on the Cliffs Shaft/Lake Bancroft Project.

### Minutes of Previous Meetings

A motion was made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mrs. Strom to approve the minutes of July 29 and August 13, 2013, as presented. Motion carried.

### Financial Report

A payment was made on Malton Road, the street lighting bond, and interest on the 2011 bond.

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

### Chamber of Commerce Report

Chamber Director Kori Tossava stated the mud plunge was successful, and they are working on the community guide/power book, membership renewals, and trying to become financially independent of DDA assistance.

### Lake Bancroft/Cliffs Shaft Site Development

Mrs. Giroux indicated her willingness to work toward finding a use for the former Cliffs office building. She feels the City or the DDA should take the lead in the matter. The first step is to find what current owner Lundin wants to do with the building. Following community meetings, there seems to be interest in doing something on the site.

Discussion followed on where funding would come from, will any project create something the City would be obligated to maintain, and whether it is better to have a tax revenue at the property.

A motion was made by Mr. Skauge and seconded by Mrs. Racine to appoint a steering committee for the Lake Bancroft/Cliffs Shaft project and for Interim City Manager Jon Kangas to contact Matt Johnson of Lundin to see what their plans are for building and if there is any interest in the project. Motion carried.

The City Council appointed Mayor Mike Tall and Councilman Joe Juidici as their representatives to the steering committee.

A motion was made by Mr. Skauge and seconded by Mr. Anderson that Stuart Skauge and Stacey Willey, the City Manager, and County Treasurer Anne Giroux be appointed to the Lake Bancroft/Cliffs Shaft steering committee. Motion carried.

#### 2014 Beautification Presentation

Mrs. Leaf reviewed her proposals for Lake Bancroft, the hanging planters, underground water systems, City Hall, parking lot across from City Hall, and lowering the height of the hanging baskets.

Discussion followed on purchasing flowers more economically and the need to reduce the amount being spent on beautification. Businesses could sponsor their own baskets, with watering done by a DDA employee. Civic organizations will be contacted about helping to maintain garden areas.

#### Water Authority Easement

Mr. Savu explained the history of getting an easement from the Negaunee-Ishpeming Water Authority to complete the U. S. 41 utility project. In exchange for the easement, the Water Authority wants the option to drill a test well off the shore of Al Quaal near the lodge. If sufficient water is found, a new water main would run through Al Quaal down Hickory Street to Poplar Street to the City-Township border. It would also necessitate moving the Teal Lake lodge. Language for the documents has been approved by Mr. Savu and the Water Authority. After approval, a Water Authority Board member wants it changed. Mr. Kangas stated the Water Authority also has concerns over quit claim deed language.

It was questioned whether DNR Trust Funds were used for the lodge. If so, approval may be required from the State to move the building.

A motion was made by Mr. Skauge and seconded by Mrs. Strom for the Interim City Manager and City Attorney to work out the terms of the agreement for the U. S. 41 utility project on behalf of the DDA. Motion carried.

#### Red Earth Classic

A motion was made by Mr. Skauge and seconded by Mr. Aro to pay the invoice from Signs Unlimited in the amount of \$470.50 for signs and decals for the Red Earth Classic race. Motion carried.

#### Request for Contribution Form for Events

A motion was made by Mrs. Willey and seconded by Mr. Anderson to approve the draft copy of the Request for Contribution Form. Motion carried.

#### Extension for the Completion of Buck's Façade Improvements

A motion was made by Mr. Skauge and seconded by Mr. Anderson to grant an extension to December 1, 2013, to complete the façade improvements to Buck's Restaurant. Motion carried.

#### MEDC DIG Grant Funding for 2014

It is not certain if the City would qualify for another DIG grant. If we are eligible, Mr. Kangas would like to complete the downtown infrastructure improvements west from Main to Lake and north of Division to Front. Applications are due on October 1.

A motion was made by Mr. Skauge and seconded by Mrs. Racine for the Interim City Manager to check if the City would be eligible to receive another DIG grant and, if eligible, to schedule a special meeting to

consider funding for downtown infrastructure on Pine and Pearl Streets between Main to Lake and Division to Front. Ayes: Eight (8). Nays: Charlie Anderson (1). Motion carried.

#### Ishpeming Business Association Report

Mr. Anderson stated the next scheduled event is Ladies Night Out in November.

#### Old Business

Mrs. Willey inquired about providing some compensation for the businesses that have been impacted by construction.

Mr. Skauge inquired on the status of the MEDC façade grants and was informed most of the businesses have been approved by MEDC.

Mr. Skauge gave a reminder of the Labor Day parade and celebration at Lake Bancroft, and Mr. Anderson stated the last concert would be held this Thursday.

Mr. Aeh inquired on the status of the gateway project, and Mr. Coleman stated they should have an alternate proposal from Moyle for the next meeting.

In regards to the Penney's Lot, it was stated Mr. Koski's attorney has concerns with the improvements deadline in the purchase agreement.

The Executive Board will be meeting on the proposed 2014 budget.

#### New Business

A motion was made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mrs. Racine to provide \$2,500 for directional signs for businesses north of U. S. Highway 41 and Second Street, with the DDA to have the final decision on the design of the sign. Ayes: Eight (8). Nays: None (0). Abstained: Stuart Skauge (1). Motion carried.

#### Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Skauge and seconded by Mr. Kangas to adjourn the meeting at 5:55 p.m. Motion carried.

Carol Holmgren  
Recording Secretary