

ISHPEMING DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Meeting of October 28, 2013

A meeting of the Ishpeming Downtown Development Authority was held on Monday, October 28, 2013, at 4:00 p.m. in the City Hall Conference Room. Chairman David Aeh called the meeting to order.

Present: David Aeh, Dave Aro, Diane Gauthier, Jason Gauthier, Judy Hodges, Jon Kangas, Elaine Racine, Stuart Skaug, Rosemarie Strom, and Stacey Willey. Absent: Charlie Anderson.

Also present were City Council Members Claudia Demarest and Joe Juidici, DDA Treasurer Jim Lampman, Planning Commission Chairman Ray Roberts, Pat Coleman of UPEA, Mike Koski of Congress Pizzas, Chamber Director Kori Tossava, and Zach Jay of the Mining Journal.

Public Comment

Ray Roberts stated the Planning Commission supports the sale of the former Penney lot to Congress Pizzas and is opposed to revoking the offer to sell.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mrs. Gauthier and seconded by Mrs. Strom to approve the minutes of September 23, 2013, as presented. Motion carried.

Financial Report

Mr. Lampman reported that \$16,362 was spent since last month's report, and the majority of expenditures were for the streetscape project and beautification.

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

Chamber of Commerce Report

Ms. Tossava stated there will be a Business After Hours at Pioneer Square tonight, she is mainly working on renewals, the annual dinner was well attended, the community guide is done and the proof is being reviewed, the City Manager open house will be held on November 7, and they are preparing for the holiday season.

Lake Bancroft-Cliffs Shaft Project

A letter was received from Cliffs-Rio Tinto declining funding for the project at this time. An updated application can be submitted in the spring. County Treasurer Anne Giroux said the County Brownfield Consultant will be in town on November 13-15 and possibly he could provide guidance on how to proceed. The committee will schedule a meeting while the consultant is available.

Revoke Offer to Sell Property to Congress Pizzas

It was questioned why this item was on the agenda as the agreement should expire at the end of the year if no action is taken.

Mr. Koski stated his attorney has some concerns with the purchase agreement. He is getting estimates and plans on moving forward with his expansion. Mr. Koski was advised that he and his attorney should address their concerns as soon as possible before any deadline is reached. If necessary, he should request an extension.

Construction Damage Report – Beautification

Mrs. Leaf submitted a 2013 construction damage report in the amount of \$673.50. Discussion followed on how the Old Ish Park boundaries were expanded, a lot of planting should not have been done in a construction area, not replacing Planter No. 1 as it will be on top of a sanitary sewer, and the desire to get proposals for beautification for 2014. Any areas that need repair will be addressed in the spring.

Buck's Restaurant Façade Grant

The façade improvements for Buck's have been inspected and approved. The DDA portion of \$32,490.38 will be paid to Stonehouse Window and Door.

Trevor Morrison, Stonehouse Window and Door, stated there was an additional charge for work done on the back wall and roof extension. It was requested that 50% of the overage in the amount of \$4,105.50 be included in the façade grant payment.

A motion was made by Mr. Skauge and seconded by Mrs. Racine to approve one-half payment of the \$4,105.50 overrun for the back of the building and to amend the budget to reflect the extra cost. Motion carried.

Signage for Businesses North of U. S. 41.

A copy of a proposed sign was reviewed. The sign would be placed on an existing billboard. It is unknown what the size of the sign or size of the lettering will be. More detail must be available before payment for the sign would be authorized.

Request of Grace Episcopal Church for a Water Line

Grace Episcopal Church is requesting that the DDA consider installing a water line to their community garden at the northeast corner of First and Euclid Streets. As the garden area is not within the TIF District, the request could not be considered.

DIG Grant Update (Streetscape Project)

Payne & Dolan will be putting on a surface course on Hematite Drive on Wednesday, curbing would remain as it exists, and parking would be eliminated on the north side. Work will only go to Cleveland Avenue this year. Curb will be poured later this week on Bank Street. The balance of Main Street will be completed in the spring, and an extension request will be submitted to the MEDC.

Bond Project Update

In regards to the issue of miscalculations on the bid documents for Malton Road, it was recommended that a committee be formed to meet with UPEA to try to resolve the issue. David Aeh, Diane Gauthier, and Jon Kangas will represent the DDA at the meeting.

It was noted that the DDA should accept Malton Road and transfer ownership to the City.

A motion was made by Mrs. Willey and seconded by Mr. Aro to approve Malton Road Change Order #4 in the amount of \$4,081.50. Motion carried.

Ishpeming Business Association

Ladies Night Out will be on November 19 and the Christmas parade on November 29.

New Business

Mrs. Racine questioned \$300 per month for advertising. Mr. Aeh indicated there is a contract through the Promotions Committee (IBA) for advertising that is geared towards events such as the Festival of Treasures, Fourth of July, Renaissance Faire, Ladies Night Out, and Christmas.

It was questioned whether bills for the DDA should be approved by the DDA.

Mrs. Gauthier stated that the IshpeTurkey Trot for Hunger will be held on Thanksgiving Day. There is a minimum donation of \$5.00 per person, runners are encouraged to bring non-perishable foods, and all proceeds will be matched 100% by St. Onge Insurance.

Adjournment

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

Carol Holmgren
Recording Secretary