

ISHPEMING DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Meeting of June 27, 2011

A meeting of the Ishpeming Downtown Development Authority was held on Monday, June 27, 2011, at 4:00 p.m. in the City Hall Conference Room. Chairman Brad Argall called the meeting to order.

Present: Elaine Racine, Charlie Anderson, Jered Ottenwess, Brad Argall, Diane Gauthier, Jason Gauthier, David Aeh, Sandy Sundquist, and Rosemarie Strom

Also present were Treasurer Anita Keto, Pat Bureau, Tom West, Mike Koski and Paul Bonetti, and Carr Baldwin, Dave Lampinen, and Pat Coleman of U. P. Engineers & Architects.

Public Comment

Pat Bureau requested financial assistance of \$1,000 to cover costs for the annual Renaissance Faire being held on August 6, 2011.

Tom West stated the Ski Hall of Fame Weekend is scheduled for September 23-25, 2011, and he is requesting a contribution of \$500 for the event.

It was noted that the above requests are not included in the budget and would require a budget amendment.

Mrs. Racine indicated next year the City Council will consider requests for financial assistance from groups at the same time and each approved event will get the same amount. Mr. Aeh suggested Mrs. Bureau ask the IBA to consider designating the Renaissance Faire as the organization to raise funds for next year. Mrs. Racine also noted that the City contributes a lot by way of Police Department and Public Works assistance to some events.

A motion was made by Mrs. Gauthier and seconded by Mr. Anderson to approve payment of \$500 to the U. S. National Ski Hall of Fame and to the Renaissance Faire. Motion carried.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

A motion was made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mrs. Sundquist to accept the minutes of May 23, 2011, as presented. Motion carried.

Financial Report

Mrs. Keto presented the financial report for the period ending May 31, 2011. She indicated the Penney's building demolition was the main expense.

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

Request of Mike Koski to Purchase the Former J. C. Penney Lot

Mr. Koski indicated he is interested in purchasing the lot for an outdoor patio in the short-time and additional dining and to expand the kitchen in the long term. Mr. Koski assured that the property would not be used for another parking lot.

Mr. Aeh inquired if the lot could be shared by the Congress and DDA. He feels part of the lot could be used for a farmer's market or skating rink.

It was questioned whether it is necessary to call for bids for the sale of the lot. It was also noted that a value must be established for the property.

Mr. Argall requested that Mr. Koski develop more solid plans for consideration by the DDA.

J. C. Penney Building Demolition Final Report

After approximately 80% of the debris from the former Penney Building was dumped at the Landfill, Marquette County Landfill Manager Rick Aho refused to allow anything additional into the Landfill. The forms he requested were filled out, and he was given the lead and asbestos report. He still refused to allow the remaining material to be dumped, and a special meeting of the Landfill Authority was called. The Authority directed Mr. Aho to let the remainder of the debris into the landfill. This transaction caused a 1½ week delay in the demolition.

Mr. Baldwin stated Mr. Aho has been instructed to set up procedures that will be uniformly followed outlining what materials will be accepted into the County Landfill.

Bond Projects Scope of Work

Mr. Ottenwess stated U. P. Engineers & Architects prepared a revised Scope of Work for the infrastructure on U. S. 41, Malton Road, and sidewalk projects. Design engineering and construction engineering costs will be separated. Construction engineering will be done on a time and materials fee instead of not to exceed basis. Costs could be reduced if some of the work were done by the City.

It was suggested that funds for the Penney building be put on hold until a decision is made on the lot.

Discussion was held on previous plans for the entrances to the City. Mr. Coleman advised that the entire corridor must be reviewed before a final plan is designed to make sure it will work well into future plans. It was noted there are easement issues with Canadian National Railroad, and Mr. Coleman stated UPEA would work with the railroad to resolve the easement issues for the entryways and for Malton Road.

A motion was made by Mr. Ottenwess and seconded by Mr. Argall to approve the proposal for the Scope of Work, with the exception of the Penney Building site, and to schedule a special meeting to review the Agreement for Services when it is prepared. Motion carried.

Planters on Cleveland Avenue

Mr. Aeh said the soil is bad, and new soil must be put in the planters to make it acceptable for new plants.

Landscape Coordinator

It was recommended that a member of the Board be designated to make decisions as concerns arise. It was suggested that the City be divided into sections and assigned to members, who will then make sure beautification is getting done in their area.

It was mentioned that volunteers pulled weeds at Lake Bancroft, and it took them 1½ hours.

Mr. Baldwin said there has been interest in improving Lake Bancroft for many years. He stated Jim Bertucci might head a committee to clean the lake, and a schematic design has been prepared. A small building with pump in it would be installed to keep the lake usable.

Mrs. Strom said the Lions Club is looking for a project to do in Ishpeming and suggested that beautification along Lakeshore Drive might be something they could oversee.

Following discussion on beautification issues, a motion was made by Mr. Ottenwess and seconded by Mrs. Sundquist to authorize Alice Nelson to replant and resoil planters on Cleveland Avenue and plant trees on Lakeshore Drive. Motion carried.

Parking Lot Budget

Mr. Ottenwess said there is a three-year plan for parking lot improvements. Possible beautification of the lot by E. D. Jones has been considered, but there are snow issues at the site. The funds could be reassigned to another project.

Mrs. Sundquist inquired about the lot at Lake and Division Streets, and Mr. Ottenwess said there are problems with tracking down the owner. The City cannot get the lots through tax foreclosure as the owner stays current with the payments.

Ishpeming Business Association Report

The Festival of Treasures will be held on Friday. There will be entertainment, crafters, pony rides and games for children, and a number of activities are planned.

The car show held on June 25 was a success.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

Carol Holmgren
Recording Secretary