

ISHPEMING DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Meeting of November 28, 2011

A meeting of the Ishpeming Downtown Development Authority was held on Monday, November 28, 2011, at 4:00 p.m. in the City Hall Conference Room. Chairman Brad Argall called the meeting to order.

Present: Brad Argall, Jered Ottenwess, Cheryl Kellow, Diane Gauthier, Rosemarie Strom, Elaine Racine, Charlie Anderson, and David Aeh

Also present were Pat Bureau, Dave Lampinen and Pat Coleman of U. P. Engineers & Architects, Scott Patrick, and Johanna Boyle of the Mining Journal.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

A motion was made by Mrs. Gauthier and seconded by Mr. Anderson to approve the minutes of September 26, 2011, as presented. Motion carried.

Financial Report

Mr. Ottenwess noted there will be budget amendments prior to the end of the year, primarily for the former Penney building.

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

Model A Club Request for Financial Assistance

A motion was made by Mr. Argall and seconded by Mrs. Strom to allocate \$500.00 for the Model A Club national convention to be held in June 2012. Motion carried.

Park Development Behind the Venice – Cleveland and First

Interest has been shown in the development of a skateboard park. It is proposed that this be a year-round park in the downtown, with use as a skateboard park in the summer and ice skating in the winter. Other activities, such as flea markets, could be held on the site. Mrs. Bureau was told startup costs would be about \$10,000.

The City does not own property that would be sufficient for this activity, and the lot behind the Venice at Cleveland and First would be most suitable. Mrs. Bureau has talked to Frank Andriacchi about purchasing the lot. Mr. Andriacchi said he wanted \$65,000 and is now willing to take \$52,500.

Discussion centered on liability concerns, staffing issues, who would flood and shovel the ice rink in the winter, construction of an enclosure, expenditures involved in the startup and operation, how much funding the DDA should provide, and fees for use of the area.

Further research will be done to answer some of the questions raised, and the item will be considered at a future meeting.

Brownstone Property – EPA Grant

Mr. Ottenwess stated he had contact with a consulting firm who is working with Marquette County and the Marquette County Brownfield Authority on EPA grants to clean up contaminated properties. There are two types of grants, with a maximum of \$200,000. One grant would provide for assessment of the site to determine what contamination is there. The other grant would provide for cleanup of the site.

The Brownstone is an area that could be considered for a grant. It is a contaminated property, and the Heritage Trail goes through there. The City does not have the money to clean up the site, and this would be a good opportunity for funding. The City is not eligible to apply for the grant as the proper environmental assessment was not done prior to the purchase of the property. However, if the DDA or Brownfield Redevelopment Authority owns the property it could be funded. If there is interest, a grant application could be submitted for 2012.

CDBG – DIG Grant

Pat Coleman stated that a grant pre-application for sidewalk replacement along Hematite Drive was submitted timely. Each applicant has been told funds are not available for this grant program at the present time. They are going to wait until 2012 to make any decisions.

U. P. Engineers is moving forward on other projects. Dave Lampinen said he is working on the water and sewer extension and Malton Road projects. Easement applications have been submitted. They are working on plans and specifications for these projects and hope to go out for bids in late February or early March, with construction next summer.

Mr. Coleman presented proposals for the entryway improvements and Hematite Heights recreation, including a scenic overlook at the water tower and trails at the former Howard Oil site. Preliminary costs are higher than budgeted and are shown in two phases. The Natural Resources Trust Fund Recreation grant application deadline is April 1. For the entryways, what viaduct improvements and types of landscaping are key issues to be addressed. Meetings have been held with MDOT officials, and low shrubs are not a problem with them, but signs might create some issues. MDOT would prefer to not have two entryways on Second and Third Streets. Their preference is for Second Street to become the entrance, and Third Street would be the entrance for a few businesses. Traffic would curve from Second Street to Third Street.

Informal public meetings will be held on the proposals, with a presentation on each proposed project, possibly the week of December 12.

Ishpeming Business Association

Mr. Anderson stated Ladies Night Out was more successful than last year. There were more people at the parade this year. On December 1, 8, and 15, there will be sleigh rides and Santa from 5:30-7:00 p.m. On December 15, there will be a live nativity at 7:00 p.m. The garland for Old Ish has been delivered and will be put up.

Mrs. Racine suggested that Ladies Night Out be extended to 9:00 p.m. as many women working in Marquette cannot get there on time.

Old Business

Mrs. Gauthier inquired whether the Chamber of Commerce was going to get funds again this year. Mr. Ottenwess stated the same amount was budgeted for next year. The long-term goal is for the Chamber to be self-supporting.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Argall and seconded by Mr. Anderson to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 p.m. Motion carried.

Carol Holmgren
Recording Secretary