**DOWNTOWN LUDINGTON BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – January 8, 2007**

John Henderson called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. in the City Municipal Building Community Room.

Members present: Gail Lyons, Chris Pontz, Les Johnson, Kathy Maclean, Julie Payment, Wayne Brown, Darla Keillor, David Miller and Mayor John Henderson. Also present were City Manager John Shay, Planning Commission Representative Kaye Holman, and Vickie Whittle. Absent were: Ray Janish, Arlen McCloskey, Magee Johnson, Terry Murphy, and Jim Lindsay.

App**roval of Agenda**

Moved by Maclean, seconded by Payment to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried

**Minutes**

Moved by Lyons, seconded by Keillor to approve the December 2, 2006 minutes as presented. Motion carried.

**Public Comments**

None.

**Financial Report**

Not available at this time.

**Elect Officers for 2007**

Maclean made motion for John Henderson for Chairman. Payment seconded. John accepted

Payment made motion for Wayne Brown for Vice Chairman. Johnson seconded. Wayne accepted.

Pontz made motion for Les Johnson for Secretary. Payment seconded. Les accepted.

Henderson made motion for Kathy Maclean for Treasurer. Brown seconded. Kathy accepted.

The 2007 Downtown Ludington Board Officers are:

Chairman – John Henderson
Vice Chairman – Wayne Brown
Secretary – Les Johnson
Treasurer – Kathy Maclean

**Set Committees**

Building and Grounds
Chris Pontz – Chairman
Les Johnson
Jim Lindsay

Special Events/Promotions/Activities:
Gail Lyons – Chairman
Julie Payment
Darla Keillor
Terry Murphy
Jim Lindsay
Les Johnson

Friday Night Live/Bike Night
Julie Payment – Chairman
Kathy Maclean
John Henderson
Kaye Holman

Business Recruiting/Retention/Marketing
Kathy Maclean – Chairman
Darla Keillor
Wayne Brown
David Miller

**Set Meeting Times and Dates**

Meetings are schedule for 2nd Monday on alternating months at 11:00 a.m. in the City Municipal Community Room. Dates as follows: March 12th, May 14th, July 9th, September 10th, and November 12th.

**Committee Reports**

A. Business Recruiting/Retention/Marketing
   - Discussion regarding Welcome to Ludington Sign – Location is on burm close to trees at the end of the hospital property. The goal is to have sign installed in spring. Lyons asked if artwork was final and if not could we check into using Todd Reed picture on the web. Henderson said that if anyone had any ideas contact Maclean before March.

B. Special Events/Promotions/Activities
   - Movies in the Park – Scheduled for every Thursday in August. Movies scheduled at this time are Charlotte's Web, Cars, and Barn Yard. Last two Thursdays will be announced later.
   - Oktoberfest 2006 – The event went well even though the weather was cold. Discussion regarding the fact that we lost $200 this year. Everyone loved the

poker run and would really like to do it again this year.

C. Building and Grounds

- Maclean asked for clarification on what the committee was in charge of. Holman stated that the committee never met. Henderson stated that the Committee was to take top 10 issues in City, i.e. parking lots, garbage, signs, appearance of businesses, etc and make recommendations to the City on what needs improvement. Discussion regarding looking at long term goals for improvements or changes. Henderson suggested that committee bring very detailed request to the Planning Commission and then the Planning Commission would determine if the requests meet zoning ordinances. Also, the Committee really needs to educate the public on what it wants to do. The biggest issue for this committee and the others is to set goals and then follow thru with completion.

D. Friday Night Live/Christmas Parade

- Discussion regarding LMTA partnering with local businesses for Friday Night Live. LMTA did a program for New Years Eve with local businesses and it was a huge success. Might be option to get more people downtown for Friday Night Live. Maclean said that the summer is already busy for downtown; maybe do something like dinner and shopping downtown with the family during off-season. Maclean will discuss further with Committee. Friday Night Live dates as follows: July 20th, July 27th, August 3rd, and August 10th. Grant available for music group performing on 10th. Payment will meet with Whittle to get it out.
- Discussion regarding Christmas decorations this past year. The tree was nice, but the Christmas bulbs hanging from poles did not go as well as planned. Henderson had idea to approach Strait Steel and Wire to get cost for bending heavy-duty wire for Christmas pole decorations similar to the ones in Scottville. We need about 44 and it too expensive to rent them yearly. This way we could keep them and reuse them every year. Also talked about tree lights. Also discussed not waiting to the last minute to start Christmas decorations. We need to start sooner. Maclean said that she had heard of another city that had their Senior Center help with Christmas decorating. Henderson felt that this was a great idea and he would present it to the Ludington Senior Center.
- Bike Night – Is schedule for September 2nd. Maclean said that Tom Buchanan would be a good contact for this event.

**Ex-Officio Reports**

<u>City Manager Report</u>

John Shay talked about a grant application for rental rehab for the Wm Stram building that was going to be presented in front of City Council tonight. The developer could get up to $25,000 per apartment unit to remodel / repair. A percentage of the apartments must be used for low income housing for five years. Maclean voiced concerns regarding tenant problems with last rental rehab program for Ye All Come Back Café apartments. John stated that there would be no cost to the city for this grant.

Chamber of Commerce Report

None

Planning Commission

Kay stated that they were meeting tomorrow to propose new condo project on Laura and George Street. The bowling alley project has been put on hold at this time.

**New Business**

Discussion about wireless Internet for the city. Henderson said that it was definitely being discussed for the downtown area. He wants to investigate all options like how does it work, how much does it cost, and how is it managed?

Discussion ensued regarding by-laws for Downtown Ludington Board Committee and what the policy is for membership attendance. May need to approach some members regarding this topic.

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Brown and seconded by Payment. Meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Vickie Whittle