DOWNTOWN LUDINGTON BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING –July 14, 2008

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

Members present: Gail Lyons, Julie Payment, Wayne Brown, Terry Murphy, Kathy Maclean , Chris Pontz, Aleksy Urick, Andy Thomas, Les Johnson, Jim Lindsey and Nick Tykoski. Also present were City Manager John Shay, Community Development Director Heather L.V. Loney, Sara Kroenlein Director Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Approval of Agenda
Moved by Pontz, seconded by Tykoski, to approve the agenda. Motion carried

Minutes
Moved by Pontz, seconded by Payment to approve the June, 2008 minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Public Comments
None

Financial Report
Maclean stated that the board will begin incurring costs for summer events soon.

Committee Reports

A. Business Recruiting/Retention/Marketing

Maclean stated that there was nothing to report at this time. There has been positive discussion about the possibilities for the bowling alley block.
Murphy stated that Beachology and the new carriage company were having start-up issues. Murphy asked if there was a way the board could check-up on new businesses.

B. Special Events/Promotions/Activities

Lyons stated that Movies in the park activities are planned. Flower baskets have been changed and a few need to be replaced. The committee will be working on Oktoberfest soon.

C. Building and Grounds

Pontz asked if something could be done with the oddfellows sign. He also stated that the plaza near Anna Bach needs attention. Shay stated that he would refer it to DPW.

D. Friday Night Live/Christmas Parade

Payment stated that the first Friday Night Live will be on July 18. The committee has added Lowe's kids clinic to the 25th. Friday Night Live will also be the kick-off for the mini badger and a christening will take place from 5-6 on the 18th.

E. Communications

Murphy gave the committee a handout summary of the Google group and the communications made to business owners. Murphy also discussed a window/ marketing grant idea that came up at the artists meeting, that would be a low cost addition to the facade to encourage business owners to fix up their window displays.
Pontz stated he hates the new lighthouse by the City Sign.

Ex-Officio Reports

City Manager Report

Update was given on the bowling alley block.
TIF financing hearing will be held tonight, as well as the first presentation of the ordinance.

Chamber of Commerce Report

Maclean reported that the chamber survived macker and it was a success. This week is the gander mountain fishing tournament. It will begin Tuesday with a sponsor dinner.

Planning Commission

Henderson stated that Kaye is looking for ideas for tent signs/sandwich boards in regards to size and other issues.
Shay stated that the planning commission is looking for direction on how to proceed with ordinance changes.

Convention and Visitors Bureau
Kroenlein stated that they are attempting to expand the hours to 10am-9pm for the visitor center. They are still looking for volunteers. Anyone interested can contact the CVB. The CVB launched a new web site Ludington.org and a new e-newsletter.

Mason County Growth Alliance
No report

Old Business:

- Parking Lot Issue- building & grounds has not pursued.
- Beer Festival Update- Thomas will look into it

New Business:

Pink Christmas Presentation was made by Memorial Medical Center. A motion by Urick seconded by Thomas was made to adopt the Pink Christmas in Ludington Theme for the 2008 holiday season.

Motion by Tykoski second by Payment to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned by Mayor Henderson at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Heather L. Venzke Loney