DOWNTOWN LUDINGTON BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – January 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, Darla Keillor, Chris Pontz, Aleksy Urich, Andy Thomas and Les Johnson. Also present were City Manager John Shay, Planning Commission Representative Kaye Holman, and Community Development Director Heather L.V. Loney. Absent were: Jim Lindsey and Nick Tykoski

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Payment, seconded by Johnson to approve the agenda. Motion carried

Minutes

Moved by Johnson, seconded by Lyons to approve the December, 2008 minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Public Comments

None

Financial Report

Maclean stated that the only expense for 2008 thus far is the contribution toward the Neal study update.

Committee Reports

A. Business Recruiting/Retention/Marketing
    - Maclean handed out a summary of the committees work.
    - The committee is currently working on proposed changes to the electric sign guidelines.
    - The committee will also be address a gap and need of how and where to direct potential new business owners concerning locating in downtown Ludington
    - The committee will be creating a welcome packet for new downtown business owners introducing them to the committee, block captain, and other pertinent information.
B. Special Events/Promotions/Activities
    - Lyons stated that the committee has not met for this year yet.
    - Movies in the park will be every Thursday in August.
    - The committee will be building on last years Oktoberfest , moving the event to Ludington Avenue helped a great deal.
    - The committee will be looking at how to better incorporate sidewalk sales into Friday Night Live events.
C. Building and Grounds
    - Pontz inquired about the responsibilities of the business owners and the City where snow removal was concerned. Henderson and Shay explained the Cities

priorities with snow removal. Plow city first, Ludington Ave sidewalk, then James street sidewalk.

Lyons inquired about possible new machines to aid in snow removal from the sidewalks. Shay explained that the equipment was not the issue.

Brown stated that he believed the only way to eliminate the issue would be to put in heated sidewalks. Johnson stated that the City has done a good job with snow removal and that we have been lucky with the amount of snow that we have had this year.

D. Friday Night Live/Christmas Parade
   - Payment stated that the Christmas parade went well. The collaboration between the DLB and the chamber was good. The new decorations from Straight steel really added to the season. The merchant windows also helped make the festivities.
   - Friday Night Live dates fro 2008 will be July 18 & 25 and August 1 & 8 from 6:30-9:30pm. The time has been moved back a half an hour to better accommodate the event and those who attend. This will allow for later street closures.
   - The FNL committee has received a $5000.00 donation from DOW this will help to make the event bigger and better.
   - The Mayor stated that board members will be asked to help out with a night or two.
   - Payment stated that the Mayor has promised to build a ride on boat like the Scottville train to be used at local events. Holman stated that Marv Kelsey was interested in helping to build the boats.
   - Payment stated that FNL would still be holding 2 pig roasts but would be adding a fish boil during the gander mountain tournament weekend.
   - The mayor stated that there would be 3 stages and the same set up as last year.
   - Lyons offered the suggestion of adding stupid human tricks to the entertainment.

E. Communications
   - No report at this time

Ex-Officio Reports

<u>City Manager Report</u>

- Shay stated that he was beginning to put together TIF information. It will then be brought to the board and ultimately City Council. Shay explained the TIF process for new members. He also explained that we had been waiting to see what would come from the old bowling alley block.

<u>Chamber of Commerce Report</u>

- No report

<u>Planning Commission</u>

- No report

Convention and Visitors Bureau

- No report

Old Business:

- Loney provided the committee with emails in support of leaving up the Christmas lights. Shay explained that we would leave up the lights in the trees on Ludington and James. Other lights and decorations would be removed. Maclean inquired about the cost. Shay explained that the largest cost was in purchasing the new lights. Holman reported back on her sponsor a tree efforts. It did not have a favorable response.
- Loney explained that the City is looking into how to best utilize a form to aid in code enforcement. Further discussion is needed.

New Business:

- New members have been appointed to the following committees:

Aleksy Urich: Building & Grounds, and Special Events
Andy Thomas: Business recruiting, retention, and marketing.
Nick Tykoski: Building & Grounds
Terry Murphy would like to be removed from all committees except Communications.

- New officers for 2008 are as follows:

Chair: Mayor
Vice Chair: Wayne Brown
Secretary: Les Johnson
Treasurer: Kathy Maclean
Motion by Payment, second by Pontz. Motion Carried.

- The meeting schedule for 2008 is the second Monday of every month from 11am-12pm at The City Municipal Building Community Room. Motion by Henderson, second by Brown to approve the meeting schedule. Motion carried.
- Shay explained a proposal that was brought to the City's attention for a horse drawn carriage business.
- Mayor Henderson informed the committee of he issues that were raised at the Merchant Meeting on Friday January 11th at 8:00am at City Hall. Enforcement of parking and parking designations were discussed. Urich explained that this needed to be looked at further because of the needs of some business owners. Shay stated that the committees could re-look at the parking situation and make recommendations.

Henderson also explained the boulevard extension plans for 2008. One boulevard will be added in front of the Wesco station. MDOT will help with the costs.

North James block closing was discussed. Henderson stated that we need to do something different with that block. If a closure is done this year it will be something simple to see how it works. Pontz stated that the building and grounds committee would talk to the surrounding businesses and get their input about closing the area.

Motion by Pontz second by Urich to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned by Henderson at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Heather L. V. Loney