DOWNTOWN LUDINGTON BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING –September 8, 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, Terry Murphy, Kathy Maclean , Chris Pontz, Darla Keillor, Aleksy Urick, Andy Thomas, and Jim Lindsey. Also present were City Manager John Shay, Community Development Director Heather L.V. Loney, Jaime Healy & Judy Stoddard representing the Mason County Growth Alliance New initiatives.

Not Present: Julie Payment, Wayne Brown, Les Johnson, and Nick Tykoski.

Approval of Agenda
Moved by Thomas, seconded by Murphy, to approve the agenda. Motion carried

Minutes
Moved by Lyons, seconded by Thomas to approve the August, 2008 minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Public Comments
None

Financial Report
Maclean stated that there was no report at this time.

Committee Reports

A. Business Recruiting/Retention/Marketing
Maclean stated that the information guide will be part of the 2009 budget & will be given to all downtown businesses.
Maclean also stated that the committee met with Bob Budreau & Ben Koerndyke to gather information on downtown real estate. A lot of insight was gathered at the meeting.

B. Special Events/Promotions/Activities
Lyons stated that work is progressing on Oktoberfest. Movies in the park went well.

C. Building and Grounds
Pontz stated that the committee would like the board to consider allocating funding for a part time position for keeping downtown clean. A job description is needed.

Holman discussed the dumpster situation. The businesses need to go through Allied Waste due to their individual contracts before any changed could be made. She also stated that the committee is still working on gathering information about the trees downtown.

D. Friday Night Live/Christmas Parade
Henderson stated that Bike Night is this weekend.
The holiday initiative has begun. Details and correspondence will begin rolling out soon to merchants and retailers.

E. Communications

Murphy gave the committee a handout summary of the communications report. She reminded the Board about the google group. She also suggested providing articles from the downtown digest to the committee.

Murphy stated that the flower wars went well and that some great expert judges were recruited for the initiative.

Murphy updated the committee on the arts Council building purchase. A closing date was set for September 16.

Ex-Officio Reports

City Manager Report

Update was given on the bowling alley block. Shay stated that he City is still working with Western Land Services.

Henderson updated the committee on the status of the overhead utility lines. Burying the lines is too expensive at this time.

Chamber of Commerce Report/ Convention and Visitors Bureau

Maclean reported that the annual golf outing is September 9. A seminar is being held at 7:30am on Thursday dealing with cost cutting.

Maclean stated that the chamber is still taking comments on Macker. The event has been moved to the third weekend in June.

The Chamber Board tabled the study for the convention center.

Keillor asked for clarification as to what exactly was voted on form the boar din regards to the study.

Henderson gave an overview of the potential hotel/convention center project.

A discussion was held on the hotel/convention center feasibility study.

Lindsey agreed to runt he numbers for the next regular downtown board meeting.

Keillor asked if the board could receive a synopsis in writing.

Planning Commission

Holman stated that the commission approved the rezoning for Western Land from government services to CBD.

Mason County Growth Alliance

Jamie Healy introduced herself to the committee as the contact for the new Small Business and Technology Center that was recently formed under the growth Alliance. She updated the committee on what they will be offering. Judy Stoddard also introduced herself to the committee as a representative from the SBA.

Old Business:

New Business:

- A special budget meeting has been set for Monday September 29 at 7:30 am at City Hall.
- Discussion was raised concerning approval of minutes.
- Creating entrepreneurial Communities was mentioned.

Motion by Thomas second by Murphy to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned by Mayor Henderson at 12:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Heather L. Venzke Loney