DOWNTOWN LUDINGTON BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – March 10, 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, Aleksy Urich, Andy Thomas, Les Johnson, and Nick Tykoski. Also present were City Manager John Shay, Planning Commission Representative Kaye Holman, MCGA Director Julie VanDyke.
Excused: Chris Pontz, Community Development Director Heather L.V. Loney, Chamber Director Becca Martin
Absent: Jim Lindsey, CVB Representative Sara Kroenlien,

Approval of Agenda
Moved by Terry Murphy, seconded by Wayne Brown to approve the agenda. Motion carried

Minutes
Moved by Wayne Brown, seconded by Gail Lyons to approve the February, 2008 minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Public Comments

Curt Vanderwall of Turf Care wants to bring a Microbrew beer festival to downtown Ludington with Michigan microbreweries, similar to GR Festival. MI Brewers Guild is interested in Ludington in Late August and would like to hold the festival at City Park or the End of Ludington Avenue. Even moving its conference from Ypsilanti to here is possible. Andy is a member and stated that it brings a lot of people. Wayne asked about September and Curt said its possible but Oktoberfest may be too cold. Sat August 16 or Sat Sept. 27.

Financial Report
No Report

Committee Reports

A. Business Recruiting/Retention/Marketing

No meeting was held last month. Committee will be meeting this month

B. Special Events/Promotions/Activities

Gail stated that no meeting was held this month, but she met with Julie about Oktoberfest. A date of Saturday October 4 was discussed. They discussed a craft show, poker run, entertainment, food, badger train, if it is available. By June 1st Sidewalk Sales, & FNL and promotion will be discussed.

C. Building and Grounds

Les tried to meet with Chris but couldn't, they will meet next week concerning signage and trees.

D. Friday Night Live/Christmas Parade

Payment stated a meeting is planned to do agenda and put on website. Fair board met with the committee concerned about losing people. They have a booth at FNL to promote the fair on

Saturday. FNL is free and the fair is expensive. Committee will start working on Bike Night soon. One of the FNL nights will have a military theme per mayor with displays of military equipment. Blessing of the badges will partner with FNL. Clown Band will be playing at one FNL.

E. Communications

Terry distributed a handout & update, invitation to join Google group. Had quarterly merchant meeting on February 22nd (see handout for details). Terry & Heather will be visiting new businesses later this year.

Ex-Officio Reports

City Manager Report

Shay reported out on Ludington Avenue Boulevards and MDOT's position.

Chamber of Commerce Report

No Report

Planning Commission

Holman stated that committee meeting on 3/408. They plan to do more community projects (planting dune grass, painting signs). Would work on N James, trees, benches, plants. They would like to add bike racks to downtown and use police bikes in evidence room and paint them orange to rent. Discussed all season lights on trees, decorative trash cans, improving the Post Office with Landscaping, signage directing people to downtown restroom, and PM Memorial.

Convention and Visitors Bureau

No Report

Mason County Growth Alliance

33 participants signed up and 26 showed at the Business startup class. 20 will attend the full course. There are a wide range of businesses attending.

Old Business:

- Mayor will contact each committee chair with their assignments.

New Business:

Terry asked about status of skate park. There will be substantial completion by the end of May. Mayor thanked DLB for its efforts, despite recent column in LDN, we've made progress with events, sign, facades, etc.

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

Meeting adjourned by Mayor Henderson at 11:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by John Shay.