DOWNTOWN LUDINGTON BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING August 10, 2009

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

(Circle or highlight those present)
Members present: Gail Lyons, Terry Murphy, Kathy Maclean, Darla Keillor, Les Johnson, and Aleksy Urick. Also present were City Manager John Shay, Community Development Director Heather L.V. Loney, Carrie Kosla, and Amanda St.Hillaire.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Moved by Johnson, seconded by Lyons to approve the agenda and to approve the July, 2009 minutes as presented. Motion carried

Public Comments
No Comments

Financial Report
Motion by Lyons second by Johnson to accept the financial report as presented.

Committee Reports

A. Business Recruiting/Retention/Marketing/Communications

Maclean reported that the Blu Moon was expanding, The Art Center has sold, Deans 4 in 1 is going out of business and Molly's furniture is doing well. Aleksy Urick announced that 108 Threads will be launching a web store. Amanda St Hillaire announced that The Red Door has had their best month ever.

B. Special Events/Promotions/Activities

Lyons reported that the committee had met about Oktoberfest. The music has been planned and inflatables will be included as well as food vendors. Crafters will also be invited. Les will sell Oktoberfest pub crawl shirts again this year. The committee would like to expand the Oktoberfest to include the Harrison to James Street Block.

C. Building and Grounds

Venzke displayed the Sign template for the Wayfinding signage. Mayor Henderson stated that a letter had been received on parking issues. The building and grounds committee will begin to look into parking issues and times for Downtown.

D. Friday Night Live/Christmas Parade

Mayor Henderson reported that FNL fro 2009 is completed. Venzke reported that Bike Night planning is underway. Mayor Henderson also gave an update on New Years Eve and the scheduled Ball Drop. Krolczyk Cellars will be releasing special champagne for the evening.

Ex-Officio Reports

City Manager Report
Shay reported that the City will not be able to use information from the walkability Audit to repair S. William Street. The funding received from the stimulus package will not allow for these types of improvements. Shay also reported that the approval fro the marina and breakwater projects have been received and that these projects will be going out for bid at the end of August. Shay also reported that the City will begin to look at a 3 year line item budget.

Chamber of Commerce Report
Maclean reported that Business after hours will be at Wildwood Meadows on August 27. The business plan competition will be announced then as well. September 15 will be the Golf Outing at Lincoln Hills. The Harvest Festival for 2009 will be September 24, 25 & 26 and Business after hours will be held in the beer tent at Harvest Festival.

Planning Commission
Shay reported that Bike racks have been placed Downtown. The color will be redone. Mayor Henderson reported that we will need to adjust the ordinance to allow people to bike downtown.

Convention and Visitors Bureau
Maclean reported that things have picked up after a slow start. The carferry numbers are up for the month. Maclean also reported that the growth Alliance will be holding Small Business round tables in September.

Old Business:

- St Hillaire reported that the Downtown will be decorated in corn husks and gourds for fall.
- Pink Christmas proposal was reviewed.

A motion was made by Keillor and seconded by Murphy to allow the Pink Christmas task force to decorate the James Street Plaza with Pink Lights and to place a tree in the area to decorate. Motion carried.
The committee received 2 inquiries into having Santa for Christmas. The board will coordinate with the two groups.
A third request to place candy striping on the poles on the corners of Ludington Avenue was reviewed. A motion was made by Murphy and seconded by Johnson to deny that request. Motion carried.

New Business:

- Mayor Henderson announced that he would be co-chairing the United Way campaign.
- A Bikeability Audit will be held in the City on September 10, 2009. More details will be available soon.
- A budget meeting will be September 14th from 9:30-12:30, with a regular business meeting to follow.

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

Meeting adjourned by Mayor Henderson at __12:20_ p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Heather L. Venzke