

ESCANABA PLANNING COMMISSION
“EXCERPTS”
October 9, 2008

NEW BUSINESS

1. North Shore Redevelopment Master Plan Update

Jim O'Toole reported that the City did receive ten proposals last week from various agencies to assist in putting the Master Plan together. The proposals were received from Beckett & Raeder, Ann Arbor, MI; Hamilton-Anderson, Detroit, MI; JJR Landscape Architect, Ann Arbor, MI; McKenna & Associates, Northville, MI; Pascoe Construction, Escanaba, MI; Poggemeyer Design Group, Monroe, MI; Rowe, Inc., Flint, MI; R.A. Smith National, Shaumburg, IL; Trepanier & Associates, Key West, FL, and U.P. Engineers & Architects, Marquette, MI. The North Shore Steering Committee, comprised of City Council Members, Planning Commissioners, DDA Members, and City Administration, met the week of October 6. The committee was given the proposals and scoring sheets, and they are in the process of scoring the proposals. Mr. O'Toole said the North Shore Steering Committee will be meeting next week to get all of the review sheets back, and combine all the scores and comments. Through that process, the top three proposals will be advanced from that steering committee to the Planning Commission in November with a recommendation to extend an invitation to interview the top three firms. Those interviews will take place in December at a Planning Commission Meeting. The Planning Commission will then make a recommendation to the City Council in December to be able to retain the firm by Christmas so the process could start in January 2009.

Because the next Planning Commission Meeting is scheduled on November 13 and very close to the beginning of the Firearm Deer Season, Mr. O'Toole suggested changing the date to November 11. The top three proposals in their entirety along with the scoring sheets from the North Shore Steering Committee would be forwarded to the Planning Commissioners for that meeting. All of the proposals are available to the public at this time, per Mr. O'Toole. The proposals would be made available on the City's website.

Planning Commissioner Bridgette Jaakola, a Member of the North Shore Steering Committee, stated she was very excited about the proposals, and said there are a lot of really great ideas for the City. Commissioner Jaakola said she was very excited to be a part of this process, and said there are some very impressive resumes from the firms interested in working with the City of Escanaba. Planning Commissioner Jaakola said this will involve a lot of citizen participation, and said the City has a lot to look forward to regarding the North Shore Redevelopment Plan.

Planning Commissioner Stephen Buckbee said he concurs with Planning Commissioner Jaakola. Commissioner Buckbee said the proposals are very well written, extremely professional, and have answered all of the questions that were set forth. Commissioner Buckbee said he was very impressed with how this will involve the whole community to the fullest extent.

Planning Commissioner Bridgette Jaakola said this is such a far-reaching process, and this issue will affect the City of Escanaba for a very long time. Commissioner Bridgette Jaakola encouraged everyone to get involved.