

Week of December 9th – Friday Memo.

Happy Friday Afternoon all. Here is the City Manager's week in review.

DPW Team Building – Monday morning started off with a team building exercise with the DPW staff. We talked openly about expectations they have for each other as individuals on a team, and what expectations they have for their supervisors. Everyone had the opportunity to speak and share their input while I facilitated the discussion and documented the responses. All the responses were typed and shared with each person on the DPW team. We plan to revisit the expectations in six months or less to check on progress and keep adding to the discussion. Thank you DPW team for being open to the process.

Blue Star Trail – Immediately after the DPW meeting, I met with the two council members who showed an interested in working on revising the joint resolution in support of the trail. We spent some time focusing on the importance of trails to Douglas, and the importance of being a part of a larger connected network. This discussion was in preparation for a meeting with the neighboring communities and representatives of the Friends of the Blue Star Trail later in the day.

Adult Use Marijuana – Adult use marijuana was a hot topic at City Hall this week. The City is currently opted out of AUM. Since AUM sales became legal on December 1, we've received a lot of comments about creating the ordinance to permit sales. Expect to see some discussion in the new year on this topic.

Michigan Equality Index – Did you see the latest Michigan Equality Index report? Douglas didn't even make the list. I asked our Planning Intern to look into the scoring criteria so that we could make sure Douglas earned a place on the list and we are working on a plan to improve our score. Here is a link to the article. <https://www.michiganadvance.com/2019/11/19/4-michigan-cities-earn-perfect-scores-for-lgbtq-rights-2-macomb-county-cities-rank-near-bottom/>

Trail Meeting – The City of Douglas representatives joined Saugatuck Township, Saugatuck City, and Friends of the Blue Star Trail representatives to begin discussion about rewriting the joint resolution in support of the trail. The group focused on a rewritten resolution and suggested changes. I anticipate the revised joint resolution will be sent to City Council in January.

Brownfield Authority Membership – Per Council's direction, I've been talking to interested individuals who would like to be considered for a position on the Brownfield Authority. There are some great candidates out there who can provide some expertise to the Authority. I'll be making my recommendations to Council in January.

Director's Meeting – The Director's meeting was pretty short and to-the-point this week. It's our opportunity to review the previous council meeting, talk about the upcoming council meeting and agenda items, and then a round table discussion on any topic.

Building Committee – The Building Committee met this week to talk about the City's facility needs. We reviewed some information other communities have put together to analyze their facilities. We plan to use those documents as a resource and reference material. We agreed to have the next meeting to talk about the pros and cons of each of our facilities so we can develop talking points.

Brownfield Authority – The Brownfield Authority met for about 20 minutes this week for an organizational meeting. The Authority approved next year’s meeting calendar. I reported on a brief conversation with the developer, adding two members, the plan for an organizational meeting in January to elect officers, and I also shared an article about brownfields and affordable housing.

Harbor – Immediately after the Brownfield meeting, I had a conversation with a former council person who has a passion for boating. He shared with me the importance of the harbor to the community. I certainly appreciated his time, and learned a great deal from our conversation. I’m looking forward to working with the community to meet their expectations about the harbor.

Christmas Party – Thursday evening I attended the first Community Leadership Christmas Party hosted by Councilwoman Lion. It was a good opportunity to enjoy the company of individuals who serve on boards and commissions and get to know each other better.

Staff Christmas Party – I’m looking forward to this evening’s staff Christmas party. The employees of the City of Douglas have a wonderful gift exchange tradition where they draw names from a hat and purchase a toy that draws on some characteristic of that person. The gifted toys are unwrapped and enjoyed before they are donated to Toys for Tots. It’s a wonderful concept, and I’m sure it will be a great time!

That’s all I have for this week. Have a great weekend.

Rich LaBombard

City Manager