

CITY OF GRAND MARAIS
MINUTES
January 25, 2006

Mayor Sandbo called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Members present: Mark Sandbo, Edward Bolstad, Kay Costello and Bob Spry

Members absent: Tim Kennedy

Staff present: Mike Roth, Don Davison, and Kim Dunsmoor

Mayor Sandbo invited the public to speak during a period of open forum. Open Forum is limited to one half-hour. No person may speak more than 5 minutes or more than once.

Molly Hoffman, Harbor Friends, presented the council with information regarding a Blandin Foundation Grant awarded to Harbor Friends for technical assistance to study marinas around Lake Superior. The purpose of the study is to provide real world information about how marinas in this area operate, describe their history, location, size, features, services, and create a picture of their financial activity. The consultant will be Douglas McEneaney of Duluth. Harbor Friends also request that the City of Grand Marais support the project and nominate a liaison to their oversight committee, provide a formal process to present information to the council on a smaller non-DNR marina consisting of 50-60 slips or no changes at all to the current marina, and that a discussion on the harbor be on a future council agenda.

Motion by Bolstad, seconded by Spry to approve the Consent Agenda with the addition of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture Survey Findings of the Gypsy Moth; the Junnila Variance Request; the Lindquist Variance Request; approval of the January 11, 2006, Minutes; and payment of bills. Approved unanimously.

The council discussed ATV use in Grand Marais. At the January 11, 2006, meeting John McClure, Cook County ATV Club, suggested that the council consider an ordinance allowing and regulating ATV use in Grand Marais. The council asked the Cook County ATV Club to provide them with the number of Grand Marais residents involved in their organization. ATV use discussion will be part of an upcoming worksession to decide whether an ordinance or public hearing should be considered.

The council discussed the Downtown Visioning Request For Proposals (RFP) and whether a citizen committee should be formed prior to awarding the project to utilize the free services of the Center for Rural Planning to train the committee in community problem solving. The RFP was sent to 8 firms and 5 additional firms have requested the RFP. ARDC provided \$18,500 - \$22,500 for similar processes they facilitated in Two Harbors, Silver Creek, and Rice Lake.

Motion by Bolstad, seconded by Costello to take no action until a consultant is hired for the Downtown Visioning Project. Approved unanimously.

Motion by Spry, seconded by Sandbo, to table the second reading of Ordinance 2006-01 until the first meeting in February. Motion Failed.

Ayes: Spry, Sandbo

Nays: Costello, Bolstad

No further action was taken.

Kathy Kromroy, MN Dept of Agriculture, and Erica Hahn, USDA Forest Service, presented the survey findings of the Gypsy Moth on the Minnesota North Shore Area. The gypsy moth is an invasive species from Asia introduced to the U.S. in 1869 by a French scientist in Massachusetts. Birch and Aspen are among the favored tree species that gypsy moth larvae (caterpillars) feed upon. A record number of gypsy moths were trapped in Cook County in the summer of 2005. Based upon the numbers and patterns of moths that were trapped in both 2004 and 2005 and consultation with STS scientists, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and the USDA Forest Service are developing a proposal to slow the spread of the gypsy moth. The treatment proposed is mating disruption, which would be done by a one-time application of pheromone flakes that would be applied over the area by aircraft at a rate of about one flake per square foot. The synthetic pheromone is emitted at a controlled rate over several months and confuses the male gypsy moths so they cannot find the female moths. The females die without mating, thus reducing or eliminating the subsequent years' population. Much of the Northeast United States is under federal quarantine restricting movement of items out of the quarantine area affecting economic activity such as nursery, timber trade, and tourism. The Superior National Forest expects to provide a proposal in February 2006 for public comment.

Bill and Mary Junnila are requesting a variance from the side yard setback to allow the sale of a portion of their property Lots 1-6, block 13, Central Addition, to the adjacent property owner in the R-1 zone. They are moving, and their neighbors to the South would like to purchase their detached garage. Splitting the south 48' of their lot would create a side yard setbacks of 5' for the Junnila house and the detached garage, less than the 10' required setback. The Planning Commission held a public hearing and found that a detached garage is a reasonable use, compliance would require moving the garage, no new structures are being built, the situation exists to improve the neighbor's lot, and there is no alteration to the appearance of the neighborhood. The Planning Commission recommends approval of the variance by a 5-0 vote.

Motion by Spry, seconded by Costello to approve the Junnila Variance Request. Approved unanimously.

Rolf and Layne Lindquist are requesting a variance from the commercial setback to residential zones to add an addition to the south side of the dental office on their lot in the C-1 zone located at 303 W 3rd Street. The addition would begin 43' from the north lot line, 7' within the required 50' setback. The Planning Commission held a public hearing and found that it is reasonable to operate a dental office on the property, the setback would make commercial use impossible, this is one of the few blocks with commercial

and residential property in close proximity on the same block, the problem was created by drawing the zoning lines in mid-block, and the dental office already exists. The Planning Commission recommends approval of the variance by a 5-0 vote.

Motion by Spry, seconded by Costello to approve the Lindquist Variance Request. Approved unanimously.

Motion by Spry, seconded by Bolstad to donate \$100 to Cook County Emergency Management for the 17th Annual Emergency Services Conference held on April 28-29, 2006. Approved unanimously.

Motion by Spry, seconded by Bolstad to accept David Miller's resignation. Approved unanimously.

Councilor Bolstad's Report:

- 1) Matt Bronikowski completed the Apprentice Lineman Program and is now a journeyman lineman.
- 2) A consulting engineer was hired to revamp the water tower.
- 3) Public Utilities Commission will begin a staffing discussion as employees are retiring and transferring to other positions.
- 4) Requested that the City Attorney research pawn broker ordinances and see if the City of Grand Marais should create an ordinance regulating pawn brokers.

Councilor Costello's Report:

- 1) The Old Ski Hill Committee meets on Thursday.
- 2) Will contact Molly Hoffman regarding city representation for the Harbor Friends oversight committee.

City Administrator Roth's Report:

- 1) Attended a Parks and Trails Council conference and networking meeting in Lutsen last weekend. The attendees were representatives of parks and trails stakeholder groups in the region and the state.
- 2) We should be involved in the county's sign ordinance discussion.

City Attorney Davison's Report:

- 1) The last attachment from the Harbor Friends handout is a letter to the City Attorney stating that the Harbor Friends do not agree with the opinions of the City Attorney and County Attorney based upon the opinion of their unnamed counsel. Davison will ignore the letter until their counsel is identified.

Motion by Spry, seconded by Costello to adjourn the meeting. Approved unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m.