

CITY OF GRAND MARAIS  
MINUTES  
October 11, 2006

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

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

Members absent: None

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. No one spoke.

**Motion by Bolstad, seconded by Kennedy to adopt the Agenda. Approved unanimously.**

**Motion by Bolstad, seconded by Costello to adopt the Consent Agenda. Approved unanimously.**

Dick Grabko, S.E.H, and Steve Griesert, Community Partners Research, presented the Community Development Survey Results. The goal of the survey was to secure citizen input related to their perception of community development needs, provide summary documents that met potential funding agency reporting requirements, and to provide the results to local government officials. The survey was completed during July in a door-to-door survey that received 40% participation. The top five community development needs identified were: new single family housing development, home ownership assistance, recreational facilities, sidewalks, owner occupied housing rehabilitation and parking. The Creechville neighborhood was determined to be potentially eligible for assessment abatement assistance if the city moved forward to extend city services to the area. Based on the survey results, it is recommended that Grand Marais should pursue and have high expectations for successfully securing project financing assistance for housing rehabilitation and assessment abatement projects.

Diane Booth, Cook County Community Center, presented phase I of the Community Center Revitalization project which would include the building of a skateboard park and relocation of the hockey rink. The county has already removed trees from the site and is anticipating \$45,000 - \$65,000 in drainage issues. Diane will also be approaching the county for funding and the skateboard group is planning several fundraisers. Diane is requesting funding from the city to help this project move forward.

**Motion by Bolstad, seconded by Spry to approve up to \$ 20,000 toward the Skateboard Park with anticipation of looking for additional funding and understanding that this funding request may change as the project moves forward. Approved unanimously.**

Other discussion included seeking funding from the Lloyd K. Johnson Foundation, struggling with funding needs at the pool and Recreation Park, and the Joint Powers Agreement for recreation.

Paul Coe, League of Minnesota Cities Insurance, reviewed the city insurance policy.

**Motion by Bolstad, seconded by Kennedy to waive the per claimant statutory limit. Approved unanimously.**

**Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Bolstad to approve the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Renewals. Approved unanimously.**

The Planning and Zoning Commission held a public hearing on Tuesday, October 3, 2006, to consider an ordinance amending the Grand Marais Zoning Ordinance regarding deck regulations. There were no public comments made. The ordinance was considered after a number of variances were approved for decks. The Planning Commission unanimously recommends approval of the ordinance.

**Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Spry to approve the First Reading of Ordinance 2006-03 An Ordinance Amending Grand Marais Zoning Ordinance Regarding Deck Regulations. Approved unanimously.**

The council reviewed the *Draft* Joint Powers Agreement for Promotion and Management of Recreation Facilities. City Attorney Davison has been working with County Attorney Hennessy in revising the draft agreement. Other discussion involved the 1% sales tax that potentially sunsets in 2007 and bringing all the organizations that may be interested in utilizing a portion of that revenue together for a community discussion.

The *Draft* Request for Attorney General Opinion was discussed and approved with the revision that “for no consideration” be removed from the question.

Mayor Sandbo’s Report:

- 1) Will participate in a teleconference with Coast Guard Admiral Crawley regarding the live fire exercises on Lake Superior.

Councilor Kennedy’s Report:

- 1) The Economic Development Authority received the Sawtooth Cottages presentation and development agreement. A committee will review the agreement and report back to the board. The development agreement suggests TIF financing: however, no one has discussed this with the city yet and how this would impact the city.

Councilor Bolstad's Report:

- 1) The water tower refurbishing is essentially complete. A fence will be constructed next week.
- 2) The PUC will meet again on October 17<sup>th</sup> to reorganize staff.

City Administrator Roth's Report:

- 1) The city solicited bids for a 70's Jacobsen Turf Cat. Two bids were received. Please authorize the sale to the high bidder for \$529,500 Brad Thompson.

**Motion by Bolstad, seconded by Spry to authorize the sale of the Jacobsen Turf Cat in the amount of \$529,500 to Brad Thompson. Approved unanimously.**

- 2) The Community Growth Institute will try to finish up the public meetings October 19-21 with the results of the survey and previous public meetings. The next phase will be revising the planning and zoning ordinance and comprehensive plan.
- 3) Fitzgerald of the DNR will be here for the November 29, 2006, meeting.

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

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.