

CITY OF GRAND MARAIS
MINUTES
August 8, 2007

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

Members present: Evelyn Larsen, Kay Costello, William Lenz, Edward Bolstad and Tim Kennedy

Members absent: None

Staff present: Mike Roth, Don Davison and Kim Dunsmoor

Mayor Larsen 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.

Sue Hakes supports three applicants for the Park Board – Todd Miller, John Gorski, and Robin DuChien. There was some confusion about the application deadline and the two applications received after the deadline should not be considered.

Harley Toftey supported Sue Hake's sentiment about the Park Board application deadline. In addition, Harbor Friends wetland complaint is becoming more complicated and seems frivolous for the increasing cost. The city should track the cost of this complaint.

Bob Glirbas applied for the Park Board position and is very interested in parks and campgrounds.

John Haluska, Harbor Friends, stated that the wetland complaint is an important area and includes a series of violations. The city is taking steps to mitigate the issue and it will be a benefit to future generations.

Motion by Bolstad, seconded by Costello to approve the Agenda with addition of Sawtooth Preliminary Plat and Library Budget; July 25, 2007, Downtown Streetscape Assessment Hearing Minutes; July 25, 2007, Minutes; and Payment of Bills. Approved unanimously.

Matt Geretschlaeger, Economic Development Authority Director, presented the Sawtooth Preliminary Plat. They are in the process of including the storm water retention design. There are 37 lots, 10 of which Northern Communities Land Trust will name a contractor this week to build affordable housing. There is also a request for proposals for a group of 3 sites to build affordable housing. All the lots meet the minimum standards for city lots. There is a 9% elevation to be considered on each lot. There was one wetland that has been delineated. The easements for trails are included in the plat and will be a part of the as built design and actual location will be confirmed by the final plat.

Motion by Bolstad, seconded by Kennedy to approve the Sawtooth Preliminary Plat as presented by the Economic Development Authority. Approved unanimously.

Linda Chappell, Library Director, presented the 2008 Library Budget of \$238,896. The 7.4% increase is due to personnel costs and Arrowhead Library System fees.

Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Costello to approve the 2008 Library Budget as presented. Approved unanimously.

There are five applicants for the two Park Board positions: Robert Glirbas, Robin DuChien, Todd Miller, John Gorski and Ron Lund.

Motion by Bolstad, seconded by Larsen to appoint Robin DuChien to the Park Board. Approved unanimously.

Motion by Kennedy to appoint John Gorski to the Park Board. The motion died for lack of a second.

Motion by Costello, seconded by Kennedy to appoint Todd Miller to the Park Board. Ayes: Costello, Kennedy, Larsen, Lenz Nay: Bolstad

Mayor Larsen thanked all who applied for the Park Board positions.

Diane Booth - Community Center Coordinator, Bill Hennessy and Lilean Nicoliasen – Sawtooth Mountain Riders Saddle Club, requested that the City give, lease or permit the horse arena to use a portion of city land. The land is located in the Community Center design and was a part of the original plan. Currently, with the County Road 7 job, there is fill available to construct this portion of the Community Center Plan. Cook County has already given their approval. The horse arena will also be used for County Fair activities and as a rescue operation in times of emergencies such as the Ham Lake Fire. There will be a horse logging demonstration on August 24, 2007, at 10:00 a.m.

Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Costello to approve the use of the city land included in the Community Center Design for a horse area to be used as planned and coordinated by the Community Center and to permit such clearing and filling as needed with appropriate gravel and fill permits. Approved unanimously.

Motion by Bolstad, seconded by Costello to approve the Wellness Recreation Application for Use of Street and Sidewalks for the Sawtooth Challenge Bike Festival on August 25, 2007. Approved unanimously.

Mayor Larsen excused herself from the meeting because she has an interest in the Birch Terrace Vacation Request.

Vice-Mayor Costello recessed the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Vice-Mayor Costello resumed the meeting at 5:03 p.m.

Dehlia Siem, representative of Doug and Becky Gilchrist, explained that the Birch Terrace Lounge encroaches into the city right of way as it has for over 20 years. The contractor at the time measured from the center of the street and thought he was building on the property line as is allowed in that zone. However, the street was not built in the center of the right of way. Earlier this year, the council approved an easement: however, it has been difficult to get financing due to this encroachment. The property owner is now requesting the city to vacate the 1.25 feet by 25.25 feet section that the building is constructed on.

The city council found that the vacation request is in the best interest of the public because the vacation is a very small piece of land that will allow a long standing restaurant and lounge to continue to operate.

Motion by Bolstad, seconded by Kennedy to approve Resolution 2007-18 Vacating a Portion of 6th Avenue West Upon Petition of A Majority of Abutting Landowners. Ayes: Bolstad, Kennedy, Costello, Lenz Abstain: Larsen

Mayor Larsen rejoined the meeting.

Motion by Bolstad, seconded by Costello to approve Resolution 2007-19 Adopting the Downtown Streetscape Assessment. Approved unanimously.

City Administrator Roth had not received a response to clarify the downtown transparency calculation standard so the issue was tabled to the next meeting.

City Administrator Roth updated the council about Planning and Zoning issues:

- 1) WTIP is looking for a new location to operate: however, our zoning does not specifically list a radio station as a use. A radio station could be considered a professional office. The public hearing is scheduled for August 29, 2007.
- 2) George Wilkes, Angry Trout Café, would like to put an awning over his deck seating area: however, his building is in the protected resources zone. The area by the Angry Trout Café and North House Folk School is different than the main downtown area. This area should be recognized by a different zoning than the C-1 area.

The Park has requested that the council declare Andrew Brasmer's pickup camper, sailboat and trailer as abandoned property and sell the property by sealed bid. The property has been stored on park property before May 2007 and there are storage fees due of \$1035. The Park has contacted Mr. Brasmer to pay his fees and remove the property.

Motion by Bolstad, seconded by Kennedy to declare property abandoned by Andrew Brasmer including a pickup camper, sailboat and trailer and to sell such property by sealed bid unless claimed by the owner and storage fees paid prior to such sale. Approved unanimously.

Mayor Larsen's Report:

- 1) Received traffic complaints during Fisherman's Picnic: the elderly had a hard time getting to and from businesses and one lady was run over by a bicycle.
- 2) Received two invitations from Timber Producers to attend meetings.
- 3) Received an invitation for the Dedication of the Grand Portage Community Building.

Councilor Lenz' Report:

- 1) Observed that one camper/vendor took up the entire center aisle of the city parking lot by the public restrooms during Fisherman's Picnic.
- 2) Met with State Representatives, Army Corp of Engineers, and the County on August 1 regarding the wetland issue. As a result, we will remove twice as much soil as previously agreed to, seed, and put a barrier. The repair is not considered very costly. They will also send a technical team to teach city employees how to handle these wetland issues.

Councilor Kennedy's Report:

- 1) Fisherman's Picnic Observations and comments:
 - a. We need to make sure that vendors have a place to stay that is not camping on the city streets and parking lots.
 - b. Some vendors left large piles of trash behind. They should be providing for their own trash disposal.
 - c. The city incurs significant expenses for festivals such as trash and satellite toilets. We need to make sure our fees are covering the costs.

Robert Glirbas commented that it was difficult for his wife to maneuver her wheelchair during Fisherman's Picnic with some vendors in the street and some on the sidewalk.

Councilor Costello's Report:

- 1) Would like to get feedback from the community and get organizers to report to the council after a festival to help us manage the public interest of these events.
- 2) The Library Board is consumed with the expansion project. After expressing interest in private property for the library, there have been many offers for trade or sale of land. The Library Board is also having conversations with Higher Education as they look for a new location and a possible co-location.

Councilor Bolstad's Report:

- 1) The wetland issue is not something that happened during this generation. The filling of wetlands has gone on for many generations.
- 2) The Public Utilities Old Power Plant is finally down. As expected, there is some oil under the old plant. We have received two bids to mitigate the oil and we will start the process of removing transformers and selling scrap metal.

- 3) The North Shore Management Board focused on Pollution Control and the sampling of the North Shore Beaches. Pollution found is usually from geese and runoff. The Board will focus on pollution and monitoring site lines along the shore.

City Attorney Davison's Report:

- 1) The signage that was taken down during the Downtown Construction should be put back up to help alleviate parking and traffic issues.

City Administrator Roth's Report:

- 1) Follow-up on the PUC Old Power Plant Demolition: as expected, we found petroleum under the old power plant. We immediately notified the MPCA Duty Officer who declared an emergency so we can proceed with the removing of soil. Lamb's Excavation has a negotiated price with MPCA to remove and treat the soil. All steps are being taken to treat the site quickly and be eligible for Petrofund resources.

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

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:38 p.m.