

CITY OF GRAND MARAIS  
WORKSESSION MINUTES  
*March 26, 2007*

Mayor Larsen called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

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

Members absent: None

Staff present: Mike Roth, Bob Mattson and Kim Dunsmoor

The council met to discuss upcoming project design options. Tristen Beaster, Cook County Soil and Water, and Keith Anderson, Conservation Engineer, showed the council different applications of street widths and rain garden examples. The benefits of narrow streets are increased safety, decreased traffic speed, decreased storm water runoff, less costly to build and maintain. Narrower street widths are more practical for neighborhood areas where there is less traffic. Three street widths were discussed: 28 foot wide allowing parking on both sides, 24 foot wide allowing parking on one side, and 20 foot wide with no parking. 28-32 foot wide streets are the norm for new developments.

The observation of the newly paved 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, which is 30 feet wide, seems to work where the lots are bigger and most homes have off street parking. For 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave W people use on-street parking, there are storm sewers on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street that should not be compromised, and each of the avenues seem to have different traffic patterns. 1<sup>st</sup> Ave W is heaving used and moves quickly. 1<sup>st</sup> Ave W should have sidewalks on both sides.

Rain gardens provide an option to treat pollution closer to the source. The rain gardens have been used in different applications and have reduced pollution and storm water runoff and look good. Several examples were reviewed. The hillside presents challenges for rain garden applications: however, there were a few places that rain gardens would work if the landowners are willing to have the rain garden constructed on their property. The type of soils in this area would require the rain gardens to be connected to the storm sewer system. Cook County Soil and Water did receive a grant for the demonstration rain garden project. Adding rain gardens to the street project may be grant fundable.

We are also waiting for input from the County Engineer for this project.

The Creechville Road does not appear to be in the right of way, it would need to be re-centered and the roadbed would need to be rebuilt. The property owners may be able to be served by staying in 4<sup>th</sup> Ave West. We do not know which properties qualified for the grant yet. The current cost estimate is for 40-foot wide street with curb and gutter. This can be reduced to reconstruct at 24 foot wide with ditches. There is one property that abuts the project that is not in the city limits. The assessment would have to be declared and deferred.

1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Avenues West: The avenues are currently constructed at 40 feet wide. Duluth constructs 28 foot wide streets whenever possible. This allows for parking on both sides even in winter. Occasionally, the traffic engineer will post no parking signs on a street for snow removal days. S.E.H. recommends 28 feet with alternate side parking in the winter.

The council would like to hold informational meetings for the neighborhoods to get input about the width of streets and sidewalk locations prior to the next council meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:28 p.m.