

CITY OF GRAND MARAIS
MINUTES
September 30, 2009

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

Members present: Tim Kennedy, Kay Costello, Sue Hakes, William Lenz and Jan Sivertson

Members absent: None

Staff present: Mike Roth, Kim Dunsmoor, Dave Tersteeg, Amber Clay and Chris Hood by teleconference

Mayor Hakes 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 Kennedy, seconded by Lenz to approve the Agenda; September 30, Worksession Minutes; September 30, 2009, Minutes; and Payment of Bills. Approved unanimously.

Jodi Yuhasey, Violence Prevention Center, requested to place an artificial tree with purple lights in the triangle by Java Moose during October to raise awareness and offer hope to survivors of domestic violence. There is no power in the triangle at this time. If the utility crews cannot put power in that area, they may ask for power from a nearby business or place the tree in another area.

Motion by Hakes, seconded by Costello to approve the Violence Prevention Center request to place a tree in the triangle at Hwy 61 and Wisconsin Street or another reasonable place with the support of city staff. Approved unanimously.

Dave Tersteeg, Park Manager, presented the Park Master Plan as recommended by the Park Board. In August of 2008, we received a Lake Superior Coastal Grant and put out a request for proposal for a park master plan consultant. Three proposals were received and the Park Board selected a consultant in September 2008. Public worksessions were held monthly from October 2008 through June 2009. A preliminary "Listening Session" was held in November 2008. Four large public forums were hosted in January, April, May, and July 2009. A "Master Plan" link on the park website was established to engage the public and provide up to date access to draft planning documents – www.GrandMaraisRecreationArea.com. Postcards were mailed to seasonal campers in February 2009. All meetings openly invited the public and were extensively advertised and promoted by staff using the local newspaper, internet, radio and poster boards. Over 50 written comments were received and an average of 30 people attended the public forums. Twelve different concept designs were considered throughout the process. The Park Board developed goals and policies to guide the concept design depicting activity zones and land usage. Impervious services will be minimized and wetlands will be

protected. Ongoing planning efforts of the Cook County Community Recreation Center Project provided much of the framework for decision making regarding removing the pool and ball field as they are replaced by the community center projects. Input to locate the public works garages off site has been unanimous. In the concept design, there are about 30 fewer campsites on the east side of the park than are currently present. Community access to recreation in the park will continue to be encouraged through a new trailhead connection on the east edge of the park that will connect to trails throughout the park and along the shoreline. The Event Pavilion, marina, playground, and sliding hill will also encourage the public to enjoy the park. The design concept is a 25 year plan.

Councilors Costello and Sivertson were disappointed that there is not more open space on the east end of the park in the concept design and wanted more public input so the council could hear directly from the public. Mayor Hakes and Councilors Kennedy and Lenz felt that the Park Board held a very open public process. They held many public meetings, listened to the people and came up with a plan that would have pieces that the different groups requested. The Park Board is a diverse group of people that did not agree on every part of the design throughout the process, but eventually came to a unanimous recommendation to the council for the Park Master Plan with Concept Design 5.1. In addition, members of the council have heard from people in public and private settings with comments and concerns about the park master plan. The council thanked the Park Board for their hard work in developing the Park Master Plan.

Motion by Lenz, seconded by Hakes to accept the Park Master Plan Concept Design SW 5.1 as recommended by the Park Board.

Ayes: Hakes, Lenz, Kennedy

Nays: Costello, Sivertson

The Economic Development Authority was discussed. There is a \$1.63 million bond due in January and we have not heard from the EDA about their business plan to market and sell the lots in the Cedar Grove Business Park. Mayor Hakes will write a letter to the Economic Development Authority reminding them of our bond obligation and asking them for their marketing plan to sell lots. Their next meeting is October 13th. The council will need to take preliminary action at their October 14th meeting. The \$100,000 loan to the EDA is due to be repaid in October.

Councilor Kennedy's Report:

- 1) The public utility crews have been working as hard as they can. A crew from Elk River Energy is here to help in the clean up and restoration of power from the windstorm on Monday. Many trees are down and a lot of poles snapped and have to be replaced. The crews have been working from sun up to sun down.
- 2) The Biomass District Heating Committee has been working to establish reasonable and accurate numbers. We hope to hear about the grant by mid-October. We are not sure where Ely sits on this and we cannot go forward without them. We are learning a lot throughout this process. If a biomass plant is not able to move forward now, maybe it will happen in the future.

Councilor Sivertson's Report:

- 1) The 1% Sales Tax effort is moving along. We had an interesting meeting this morning. We need help with phone calling and door knocking. The meetings are getting fewer and fewer people. There are a lot of people talking positively about it. Parents are for the 1% because it offers something for kids. The group will meet with the senior citizens on October 12. There is a lot of work to do in the first three weeks of October.

Councilor Lenz' Report:

- 1) The campground area lost a big tree and a lot of branches. The burn pile is full, so there is a new burn pile to be located in the parking lot of the ball field in the park.

City Administrator Roth's Report:

- 1) The regularly scheduled meetings for November fall on Veteran's Day and the Day before Thanksgiving. November 11th must be rescheduled and it is up to the council preference for November 25th.
 - a. November meeting dates were rescheduled to the second and last Tuesdays of November: November 10th and 24th.
- 2) The street light that came down was corroded at the base and the other street lights in that area are in similar shape. We may need to ask MNDoT to assist in the replacement of street lights.
- 3) We still have not received a permit from MNDoT for the speed sign.

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

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.