

CITY OF GRAND MARAIS
MINUTES
January 11, 2012

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

Members present: Larry Carlson, Bob Spry, Tim Kennedy, Jan Sivertson and Bill Lenz

Members absent: None

Staff present: Mike Roth, and Chris Hood by telephone

Mayor Carlson 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.

Ilena Berg and Kerrie Fabius of Cook County Soil and Water asked the Council for a letter of commitment to support a grant application. The grant would fund a water monitoring program at four locations in and around the harbor, but off-shore. The letter of commitment states that the City would commit to review the collected information with Soil and Water.

Motion by Lenz, seconded by Kennedy to adopt the proposed letter of commitment. Approved Unanimously.

Three items were added to the draft agenda: discussion of two new park job descriptions, an EDA grant for commercial redevelopment, and a closed session to discuss labor negotiation strategy.

Motion by Sivertson, seconded by Spry to approve the agenda as amended; December 28, 2011, Minutes; and payment of bills. Approved unanimously.

George Wilkes, Don Grant, and Virginia Danfelt of CCLEP gave the Council an update on the energy plan project. They presented an executive summary of the plan, including goals. The final plan will include a report of the extensive data collection, public input, and analysis followed by the goals, with related action steps. A key component of the plan is to have CCLEP serve as the committee responsible for maintenance and implementation of the plan. The committee will return with a final draft for consideration at an upcoming meeting. The Council was encouraged to share any questions or concerns they had after reviewing the draft.

Paul Coe, the City's insurance agent, presented the liability policy renewal. The renewal is effective September 2011, but the policy was delayed from LMCIT. Coverage is the same as last year other than the coverage on the power plant will be limited to the identified value until such time as the plant is compliant with new EPA regulations.

Motion by Spry, seconded by Lenz to approve the liability insurance renewal. Approved unanimously.

Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Lenz to approve the Liquor Liability renewal. Approved unanimously.

Motion by Lenz, seconded by Spry to appoint Robin Duchien and Sally Berg to the Park Board. Approved unanimously.

Motion by Sivertson, seconded by Kennedy to appoint Sally Berg to a two-year term on the Library Board. Approved unanimously.

Motion by Lenz, seconded by Spry to appoint Ed Bolstad to the Planning Commission. Approved Unanimously.

Motion by Lenz, seconded by Kennedy to appoint Adam Harju to the Public Utilities Commission. Approved Unanimously.

There are still 3 Planning Commission openings. Mayor Carlson expresses willingness to join the commission if they were unable to recruit additional members.

Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Lenz to approve the following board appointments:

Board Name	Council Representative
Economic Development Authority	Bob Spry
Library Board	Jan Sivertson
ARDC Board	Bill Lenz
North Shore Management Board	Jan Sivertson
Park Board	Bill Lenz
Personnel Committee	Larry Carlson, Bill Lenz
Planning Commission	Tim Kennedy
Public Utilities Commission	Tim Kennedy
Public Utilities Board	Bob Spry, Bill Lenz, Jan Sivertson
Safety Committee	Tim Kennedy
North House Folk School Liaison	Jan Sivertson
CCLEP Liaison	Tim Kennedy
Safe Routes to School/Active Living	Tim Kennedy
Energy Plan/ Biofuels Study	Tim Kennedy

Approved unanimously.

Motion by Spry, seconded by Sivertson to appoint Tim Kennedy as Acting Mayor. Approved unanimously.

Motion by Lenz, seconded by Spry to designate the Cook County Newsherald as the City of Grand Marais' Official Newspaper including fees of \$8.00/column inch. Approved unanimously.

Motion by Spry, seconded by Kennedy to approve Grand Marais State Bank, North Shore Federal Credit Union, Security State Bank, League of MN Cities 4M Fund, and Morgan Stanley Smith Barney as depositories of city funds. Approved unanimously.

Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Lenz to hire Ken Bockovich as a part time lifeguard/instructor. Approved unanimously.

Councilor Lenz' Report: The Park board will discuss updated community connection plans at their February meeting.

Roth reported that the Forest service is no longer willing to discuss using the pit on county Road 6 as a burn pile. They will be abandoning the pit. The County Firewise committee and the Devil Track Lakeshore association have offered to allow the City to designate the pit on Ball Club Road as the city's official burn pile site. We will develop a letter of understanding for a future meeting.

The Council reviewed a report by Nancy Grabko regarding a possible grant from IRRRB for demolition of a commercial building downtown to prepare for redevelopment.

Motion by Spry, seconded by Lenz to authorize Grabko to prepare an application to IRRRB for a demolition grant. Approved unanimously.

The personnel committee met to review two new job descriptions in the parks department. After the resignation of the assistant parks manager, staff has suggested changing this position to one which focuses on maintenance activities, Parks Facilities Manager. Staff also recommends upgrading the existing Park Secretary/Bookkeeper position to Park Office Manager, adding some responsibility for office programs and staff. They recommend that the City Council approve the new descriptions.

Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Spry to approve the Parks Facilities Manager and the Parks Office Manager job descriptions. Approved unanimously.

Motion by Lenz, seconded by Spry to approve the IRS mileage reimbursement rates of \$0.555/mile. Approved unanimously.

Motion by Spry, seconded by Kennedy to close the meeting to discuss labor negotiation strategy. Approved unanimously.

The meeting was closed at 5:53 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 5:58 p.m.

Motion by Lenz, seconded by Spry to close the meeting to discuss legal strategy regarding pending/threatened litigation with Burbach Aquatics. Approved unanimously.

The meeting was closed at 5:59 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 6:37 p.m.

Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Lenz to authorize the City Attorney to research a declaratory judgment action against Burbach Aquatics. Approved unanimously.

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

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.