

***CITY OF GRAND MARAIS***  
***MINUTES***  
***April 27, 2011***

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

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

Members absent: Bob Spry

Staff present: Mike Roth, Kim Dunsmoor, Dave Tersteeg 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. No one spoke.

**Motion by Lenz, seconded by Kennedy to approve the agenda; April 13, 2011, Minutes; Payment of Bills; and Garden Club Annuals Funding Request. Approved unanimously.**

Amy Demmer, Grand Marais Art Colony Director, requests approval of the street and sidewalk permit for the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Grand Marais Arts Festival on July 9-10, 2011. Vendors will remove all of their own trash.

**Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Lenz to approve the Grand Marais Arts Festival Street and Sidewalk Permit. Approved unanimously.**

Dave Tersteeg, Parks Manager, updated the council on the Community Connection Project. Ten proposals were received and four firms were selected for interviews. The Park Board recommends hiring Short, Elliot, Hendrickson Inc. in the amount of \$24,700 for site survey and concept design development.

**Motion by Lenz, seconded by Sivertson to hire S.E.H. Inc. for the Community Connection Project in the amount of \$24,700. Approved unanimously.**

Dave Tersteeg, Parks Manager, updated the council on the sewer upgrades for 20 sites in the campground. The purpose of this extension is to provide “full-service” sewer connections to 20 existing water/electric sites. The Park Board received 4 firm quotes and recommends hiring Edwin E. Thoreson, Inc.

**Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Lenz to hire Edwin E. Thoreson, Inc. in the amount of \$47,475.65. Approved unanimously.**

The Park Board is in the process of receiving quotes for upgrading the electric connections to these sites.

Nancy Grabko, Lake and Cook County Housing Initiative, gave the 2010 Annual Report. Since the Initiative’s inception, 49 families have been served: 25 in Cook County and 24 in Lake

County. There are still 83 families on the waiting list. The 3 year average return on investment of levy dollars is \$16.08 per \$1 of county levy funding. The program is successful by receiving grants from many agencies: AEOA, DEED, MN Housing Finance Agency, IRR, St. Louis County Development Division, Federal Home Loan Bank, Greater Minnesota Housing Fund, Northeastern Minnesota Housing Consortium, Minnesota Housing Partnership and levy dollars from Lake and Cook County. All 16 projects for 2010 are complete.

Mayor Carlson has been receiving complaints about areas of town that could look better than they do: Tire and Auto Lodge has junk cars by the highway, the old theater, and junk ice machines by the Beaver House. There are rules and performance standards in the zoning ordinance. We will start by seeing if we can get cooperation of the business owners.

Councilor Lenz received complaints about the city's maintenance area by the campground: it is time to do some clean up. The best solution would be to move the maintenance area away from the campground. The crew would be very excited about another location, but it will be expensive. The joint facility with other government partners is not going to happen.

Mayor Carlson received complaints about large campers/recreation vehicles parked on city streets and crowding the street. Some cities have ordinances prohibiting or limiting recreation vehicle parking on streets. Council wondered if the city has jurisdiction over county roads within the city limits. The city attorney will look into this issue.

Mayor Carlson asked about the process needed if Homestead Cooperative would like to pave the driveway/11<sup>th</sup> Avenue W from 2<sup>nd</sup> Street to the Homestead parking lot. Homestead Cooperative would need to submit a petition for improvements and indicate what kind of improvements they are requesting. The city would do a feasibility study and decide whether to do the project or not.

Councilor Lenz updated the council about Arrowhead Animal Rescue. They are in the process of obtaining a 501(3)(c). They would like an agreement to use the pound as a holding area in the same manner as Animal Advocates had used it. The proposed agreement will be sent to the city attorney for review.

The Library Board is discussing moving the library to the school during the library extension construction. The proposed area is the administration offices by the community gym. Both elm trees by the library will need to be removed as well as some trees on the east side.

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

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:34 p.m.