

CITY OF GRAND MARAIS
MINUTES
April 30, 2014

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

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

Members absent: None

Staff present: Mike Roth, Kim Dunsmoor and Chris Hood

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.

Greta Hall representing AFSCME Union members made a statement regarding an employee who was laid off and a current vacancy. AFSCME has agreed to mediate a grievance regarding the layoff on May 8th.

Motion by Spry, seconded by Lenz to approve the Agenda moving Cook County Farm and Craft Market to item E; April 9, 2014, Minutes; and Payment of Bills. Approved unanimously.

Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Sivertson to approve the Cook County Farm and Craft Market request to use the municipal parking lot in the same manner as last year. Approved unanimously.

Ami Alcala is requesting the use of city owned property at the end of 1st Avenue West between the Trading Post and Harbor Park for a Remote Control Sailboat Rental business. Services will include a 15-30 minute rental weather permitting 10 am – 7 pm. Sailboat height is approximately 4 feet above the water line. Remote controllers do not have antenna's. The business will be set up and taken down every day. There will be nothing left on the beach at the end of the day. City Attorney Hood suggested a license agreement for use of the beach and the city listed as an additional insured on the vendor's insurance policy.

Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Carlson to approve the vendor permit and use of beach at the end of the 1st Avenue West between the Trading Post and Harbor Park. Approved unanimously.

Todd Christiansen presented the Grand Lakeview Preliminary Plat. This is a revised version of a previous incomplete application. This plat consists of 8.3 acres of property zoned C/I and R-1 split into 24 residential lots intended for 12 twin-homes and two commercial lots. The Planning Commission held a public hearing on April 16, 2014, to consider the request. The lots are substandard and the road will be a private requiring a variance. No public input was received. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the preliminary plat by a 5-0 vote. The applicant will be required to prepare engineered plans for the infrastructure that meets requirements and satisfies the City, covenants that address maintenance of shared private

infrastructure and subject to the applicant getting approval from the Fire Chief for the construction details of the proposed turnaround.

Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Spry to approve Resolution 2014-07 A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Grand Marais, Minnesota Approving the Grand Lakeview Preliminary Plat. Approved unanimously.

Greg Wright, North House Folk School, gave the annual report as a part of the lease conditions. North House is thriving. Student enrollment in classes has steadily increased and grew by 19% in 2013. Class enrollments are 50% of revenues, 10% is from events, 20% from donors and 20% from supplies and store sales. The hallmarks of North House Folk School are the small class sizes, sense of community and rustic campus. Another Mountain Stage event is being planned. North House Folk School is in the process of a facility study. Some emerging options include: do nothing, pursue Green Building (replace yellow house), storage, housing for interns and instructors, or pursue another piece of property for expansion.

Bruce Block, Sydney's, discussed the need for a streetlight near his business. There is a lot of foot traffic in the evening and the street lighting ends just before his property. Mayor Carlson also discussed the need for a streetlight at the intersection of Hwy 61 and the Gunflint Trail. Council directed City Administrator Roth to look into the cost and feasibility of these street light requests.

Councilor Spry's Report:

- 1) Invite everyone to the Cook County/Grand Marais Economic Development Authority Open House at 4:30 p.m. on May 13, 2014. This meeting will be posted so all can attend.

Councilor Sivertson's Report:

- 1) New Library Director starts May 12th.

Councilor Kennedy's Report:

- 1) A squirrel damaged the transformer at the substation.

City Administrator Roth's Report:

- 1) We would like to hire a groundskeeper at the golf course that does not require a high school diploma creating a golf course laborer position.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:39 p.m.

Mayor, Laurence Carlson

ATTEST:

City Administrator, Michael J. Roth