

CITY OF GRAND MARAIS
MINUTES
June 14, 2012

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

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

Members absent: None

Staff present: Mike Roth, Kim Dunsmoor 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 Kennedy, seconded by Lenz to approve the Agenda with addition of Go Cook County discussion; approve May 30, 2012, Minutes; and approve Payment of Bills. Approved unanimously.

Bev Wolke, Chamber of Commerce, presented The 4th of July Street and Sidewalk Permit. One change was made to the application. The parade time will be 8:00 p.m., there will be music in Harbor Park, and the girl scouts will sell food items until the fireworks begin. Now for every event sponsored by the Chamber, there are three permits that need to be filled out: Park Board for Harbor Park activities, City Council for Street & Sidewalk Permit, and County Commissioners for use of Wisconsin Street and Broadway that are considered state aid roads. The county charges \$100 for their permits. The city cannot grant permission to use county roads, even though the city has paid for all the improvements to Wisconsin Street and Broadway south of Highway 61 in the past few years.

Motion by Spry, seconded by Lenz to approve The 4th of July Street and Sidewalk Permit. Approved unanimously.

East Bay Suites is requesting a variance from the height restriction to construct roof mounted air conditioning units on their property zoned DW Downtown Waterfront Commercial. The units would exceed the 30' height limit by 16". The property is legally described as Lots 5-10, Block 13, Village Plat.

Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Sivertson to approve Resolution 2012-05 A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Grand Marais, Minnesota approving the Request for a Variance for East Bay Suites. Approved unanimously.

Jim Boyd, Go Cook County, spoke with the council about the need for a strategic economic development plan for Cook County. From 2000 through 2011, the county economy grew at less than the rate of inflation. This leaves little money for businesses to reinvest in their capital asset, which means they decline and add few new jobs, especially well-paying, full-time jobs that can support young families. Between 2000 and 2010, the county population was static, but the

number of young people fell while the number of those 65 years and older increased. Those are not sustainable trends. We need an overall plan for prosperity to help us figure out our priorities and provide a vision for future decisions. A diverse group of county residents serve on a steering committee to oversee the strategic planning effort. The goal is to work energetically for six months developing a plan that can earn adoption by the Cook County Board, EDA Board, Grand Marais, the county township and others. A website will be set up to collect feedback from the public and some public hearings will be held. The plan would serve as a guide for the next 10-20 years. The group would like to contract with Randy Lasky of Northspan Group at an estimated cost of \$30,000. They are requesting the funds from various agencies as follows: \$11,500 ARDC, \$6,000 Cook County, \$3,000 City of Grand Marais, \$3,000 Arrowhead Electric Coop, \$3,000 Economic Development Agency, \$2,000 Cook County Northshore Hospital, \$1,000 Sawtooth Mountain Clinic.

Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Sivertson to approve the request from Go Cook County of \$3,000 for professional services provided by Northspan Group.

Ayes: Kennedy, Sivertson, Spry, Carlson

Nay: Lenz

Lenz voted against the motion because the city residents pay twice when groups request funding from both the city and the county.

Councilor Lenz' Report:

- 1) The hot tub bubbler at the pool is not working. It will cost approximately \$700 to fix the bubbler.
- 2) Revenues for the park are up \$7,000 for May.

Councilor Spry's Report:

- 1) The Economic Development Agency received 8 applications for the director position.
- 2) The EDA was awarded the housing grant for 4 businesses and 5 homeowners in the amount of \$291,000.
- 3) The EDA is being sued by S.E.H. for services in the business park.

Mayor Carlson's Report:

- 1) Carlson, Kennedy, Lenz and Roth attended the listening session to hear that the County and School are planning to put the community center on the west-end of the school. People seemed generally supportive of the concept. The city had no involvement in the discussion. The county will own the facility and the YMCA will operate it.

Councilor Sivertson's Report:

- 1) The library is asking for input from landscapers for the library grounds. They would like to replace some trees that had to be removed for the construction.

City Administrator Roth's Report:

- 1) We received a letter from the Bolstad's regarding the proposed rain garden project. A license or a service agreement should be made. The city attorney will go through the license agreement and remove things that are irrelevant to satisfy the steward and SWCD. They will work together to bring an agreement to the next council meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:17 p.m.