

CITY OF GRAND MARAIS
MINUTES
June 29, 2011

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, 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 on the same subject.

Jean Mathis, Security State Bank, would like to see more signage and blockades when streets are closed for an event. People drive in the bank's drive through the wrong way and try to access the blocked off street. It is a safety issue and a hazard for pedestrians.

Jean Mathis, Security State Bank, is ordering items to place on their roof to deter the pigeons from their building. When the old theater was torn down, the pigeons began looking for other places to nest. They are creating a mess in and around the building. When they have the deterrent spikes installed, the pigeons will move to another building in town. She called the state for advice, they said the pigeons will not go away; they will just keep populating and looking for a similar place to nest.

Julie Joynes Carlson said that the pigeon problem is also at their old hotel/storage building. They will be installing deterrent devices. The seagulls have become more aggressive too. It would help if spikes were installed on top of the street light posts.

Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Spry to approve the Agenda; June 8, 2011, Minutes; Payment of Bills; and Lion's Club Fisherman's Picnic Raffle Permit. Approved unanimously.

Bev Wolke, Chamber of Commerce, requests a Fourth of July Parade Permit. The girl scouts will be selling food items in Harbor Park, the Parade will begin at 8:00 p.m., Mysterious Ways will play music in Harbor Park until the fireworks begin.

Motion by Spry, seconded by Kennedy to approve the Fourth of July Parade Street and Sidewalk Permit. Approved unanimously.

Bev Wolke, Chamber of Commerce, car show feedback has been very positive. In the future, we would like to have more signage and blockades to deter people from trying to drive around blockades and driving down the street where the classic cars are displayed.

Results from the city's survey were very positive. Comments and suggestions included: bring more cars and more people, sales were almost double last year's car show, the music was great, fundraising opportunities, businesses could join in with sidewalk small sale tables to improve the festive spirit, don't block the alley so employees and deliveries can reach Sivertson's and Trading Post parking and delivery areas and more signs and blockades are needed for safety.

Wally and Anthony Everson have requested to gain access to their property by opening up 4th street from 8th Avenue West to 6th Avenue West. The property is currently land locked. They would like to develop the area into housing. The council tabled this discussion until next meeting when they will have an agreement to consider that will place parameters on the scope and duration of the access.

The Planning Commission has been studying how to deal with potential planned unit development projects within the two mile buffer zone where the city has extra-territorial subdivision jurisdiction. The Planning Commission recommends adopting Ordinance 2011-02 An Ordinance of the City of Grand Marais, Minnesota, Amending Grand Marais Code, Chapter 62, Subdivisions. This will place the same Planned Unit Development language that is in the zoning ordinance into the subdivision section. The draft ordinance has been sent to the county for review, but we have not received a response as of this date.

Motion by Carlson, seconded by Spry to approve the First Reading of Ordinance 2011-02 An Ordinance of the City of Grand Marais, Minnesota, Amending Grand Marais Code, Chapter 62, Subdivisions. Approved unanimously.

The lease agreement with North House Folk School was reviewed by the city attorney. Any improvements made to the campus must be approved by the city council.

Motion by Sivertson, seconded by Lenz to approve the North House Folk School Improvement Plan. Approved unanimously.

North House Folk School parking lot improvements fall within MNDOT's right of way. The city is the property owner and would need to participate in the permit process with MNDOT in order to secure the parking area.

Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Sivertson to work with North House Folk School and MNDOT to secure parking. Approved unanimously.

Superior Cycling Association is sponsoring the Sawtooth Challenge Mountain Bike Race and requesting a street and sidewalk permit to close Broadway to Highway 61 for the start of the race.

Motion by Spry, seconded by Lenz to approve the Sawtooth Challenge Mountain Bike Race Street and Sidewalk Permit.

Ayes: Spry, Lenz, Carlson, Sivertson

Abstain: Kennedy (event organizer)

North Shore Federal Credit Union is requesting a street and sidewalk permit to host their Annual Member Appreciation Cook Out and Kids Day. The street in front of the Credit Union will be closed.

Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Sivertson to approve the North Shore Federal Credit Union Street and Sidewalk Permit. Approved unanimously.

We received the feasibility report from the city engineer today for the 11th Avenue West Improvement. An estimated cost of the improvement is between \$34,359 and \$ 296,233.

Motion by Spry, seconded by Kennedy to approve Resolution 2011-07 A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Grand Marais, Minnesota Receiving Feasibility Report on Improvement of 11th Avenue West and Calling for Hearing. Approved unanimously.

Arrowhead Animal Rescue is requesting a contract similar to the previous contract with Arrowhead Animal Advocates. Bill Lenz proposed some changes to the contract. This matter was tabled until the next meeting.

The pound is in need of several things:

- 1) The floor needs to be power washed and sealed
- 2) Need a latch for the window
- 3) Need approval for both cats and dogs
- 4) Gates are rusty – need to replace chain link in existing gate.
- 5) East side needs to be modified for cats – door needs replacing so cats cannot escape
- 6) Place a raised platform with a grate installed in the back of the kennel
- 7) Solid barrier to visually block cats from dogs.
- 8) Bench tops need new material that can be washed.

City employees and volunteers can make these changes.

Motion by Carlson, seconded by Spry to approve improvements up to a cost of \$1,000.

Ayes: Carlson, Spry, Kennedy, Sivertson

Abstain: Lenz (Arrowhead Animal Rescue Member)

Arrowhead Animal Rescue is also requesting that a fence be installed attached to the pound so volunteers can interact with dogs, throw balls, etc. Council asked for an estimate to install a 55' fence and referred this matter to the Park Board for their recommendation. If we want to make large improvements, we should move the pound out of the campground area. This matter was tabled to the next meeting.

Mike Roth, City Administrator, gave an update about the brush pile. We are talking with the United States Forest Service (USFS) to open a brush pile in a pit on County Road 6. We would need to monitor the pile for inappropriate materials, but the USFS would burn it. We burned the brush pile a couple of weeks ago, the fire spread to a smaller debris pile and the fire spread into the woods. An employee noticed the spreading fire and called the fire department. The fire had been unattended for about 1½ hours. We were issued a fine for \$140 for an unattended fire. We

do not intend to open this site again as a brush pile. We have placed barricades and a sign that states that the brush pile is closed. People can get a burning permit from the DNR to burn their brush in their own yard or break down their debris to campfire size (3' x 3'x3') and burn it without a burning permit. There are also other brush pile sites in the county.

There being no further business, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:13 p.m.