

CITY OF GRAND MARAIS
MINUTES
October 12, 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. No one spoke.

Motion by Lenz, seconded by Kennedy to approve the Agenda; September 28, 2011, Minutes; Payment of Bills; and Moose Madness Street and Sidewalk Permit. Approved unanimously.

Bev Wolke representing the Chamber of Commerce and Maggie Barnard representing Cook County Visitors Bureau request approval of the Street and Sidewalk Permit for the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony and the Christmas Parade on November 25, 2011. They are requesting that the city have the tree, lights, banners, lamp post garlands/lights in place and the Mayor to light the tree.

Motion by Carlson, seconded by Spry to approve the Christmas Festival Permit for November 25, 2011. Approved unanimously.

The council listened to comments about the bike trail being used as a groomed snowmobile trail during the winter months.

Tom Nelson, Traveler's Rest, had no problem with the trail plowed or groomed: however, last year was the best he has seen it and would like to see the groomed snowmobile trail continue.

Harley Tofte, Cook County Snowmobile Club trail groomer, said last year was a test situation. The snowmobile club funded the grooming. This year they are getting support from the businesses benefiting from the trail.

Kristen Kunze walks on the bike trail/snowmobile trail, but it is dangerous because snowmobilers do not expect her to be there. She would like to see year-round pedestrian accessibility.

Another citizen found it difficult to walk on the groomed trail because of the pattern made by the groomer and sometimes it was icy.

Another citizen said that snowmobiles also use 2nd and 3rd Streets to access the west end businesses. She was informed that those routes cross private property and are plowed so they are not good access for snowmobiles.

Written comments received included:

David Mills would be more in favor of grooming it for cross country skiing and was concerned about tearing up the tar by plowing and snowmobiles when there is not enough snow.

Kristen Dearth said that the pedestrian connection from the west end of Grand Marais was unsafe because the snowmobile trail was uneven and slippery and people were walking along the highway. She is in favor of clearing the bike trail during winter.

Dan Anderson, Cook County Snowmobile Club, wrote that the club could not afford to groom the bike trail because they received no support from the west end businesses last year.

Courtney Johnson walks his dog on the bike trail daily. Last year the trail was groomed for snowmobiles and it was difficult to walk on and was often icy. He observed people walking on the shoulder of the highway. He requests that the bike trail be cleared for pedestrian use.

Nina Simonowicz would do some winter walking if the trail had a hard-pack surface and low piles at the driveway edges.

Council discussed the difficulty of keeping the sidewalk on the north side of the highway cleared. The City may need to ask the county for help to keep the sidewalk open. Councilors Kennedy and Sivertson did not feel it is right to give away pedestrian access.

Motion by Carlson, seconded by Spry to allow the snowmobile groomer and snowmobiles to use the bike trail from Wisconsin Street/Highway 61 intersection and to have the city attempt to keep the north sidewalk open.

Ayes: Carlson, Spry, Lenz

Nays: Kennedy, Sivertson

Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Lenz to approve the Second Reading of Ordinance 2011-03 An Ordinance of the City of Grand Marais, Minnesota, Amending Grand Marais Code, Chapter 46, Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions. Approved unanimously.

Ordinance 2011-03 is referred to as the "Social Host Ordinance".

Motion by Spry, seconded by Kennedy to approve payment of two bills to the Economic Development Authority from the Bond Proceeds for Cedar Grove Business Park: \$15,962.28 for the final payment to KTM Paving and \$ 7,708.10 for engineering services payment to S.E.H., Inc. Approved unanimously.

Councilor Lenz' Report:

- 1) Golf Revenues are up 20% from last year.
- 2) Pool Revenues are up 20% from last year.

- 3) The DNR is looking at a better boat ramp by the dog pound. We will get the proposal later this year. If this proposal is implemented, maintenance on the ramp at the Coast Guard Station will cease.
- 4) Park Revenues are up \$23,460 from last year as of September 2011.
- 5) Community Connection (S.E.H.) Meeting to review the Preliminary Final Design Concept and cost estimate is to be determined.
- 6) The Land Trust will meet with Carlson, Lenz, and Roth on October 19th at 11:00 a.m. about the parking lot in Boulder Park. The Land Trust is not happy about the parking lot and does not think it is in the spirit of the agreement.

Councilor Spry's Report:

- 1) The E.D.A. will move forward with the remodeling at Superior National Golf Course. It is difficult when the county controls the funding.
- 2) The E.D.A. voted to hire an architect for Phase I of the golf course.
- 3) The E.D.A. received a quote for a website design, but backed away from it because it was too expensive.
- 4) The Superior National Golf Course Committee will be giving a presentation in Grand Marais. We will request that they hold the meeting in conjunction with a city council meeting.

Mayor Carlson's Report:

- 1) We have received a letter of intent to negotiate from the union.

Councilor Kennedy's Report:

- 1) The Public Utilities Commission voted to have no rate increases for 2012.

Councilor Sivertson's Report:

- 1) The Library looks great from the outside. The addition fits, the details are nice and the color is good.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.