

MINUTES

July 7, 2010

Official minutes of the regular meeting of the Two Harbors Planning Commission held July 07, 2010 in the City Council Chambers at 522 First Avenue, Two Harbors.

Present: Kittilson, Zastera, Kari, Simonson, McDonald, Davidson, Detlefsen (7)
Absent: Scheidt, Senst (2)
Others Present: Bergstad [ARDC], Mike Creger (Lake County News Chronicle)

Chair Zastera called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Kari, Davidson to approve agenda as amended. Motion approved by all members present and voting.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Kittilson, Simonson to approve June 01, 2010 minutes as written. Motion approved by all members present and voting.

Reports

Bergstad presented a letter from Kent Skaar, Acquisition and Development Section Leader of the DNR Parks and Trails Division to the Harbors Advisory Committee providing an update on the status of the archaeological mitigation. The DNR plans to have field work completed by October 2010 and expects that will satisfy the requirements of the Historic Preservation Act. Additional archaeological work will be completed prior to construction of the marina basin by mechanically stripping the altered surface soils.

Bergstad also presented the minutes from the June 10 Harbors Advisory Committee where the EAW boat launch reconstruction was discussed. The EAW is available online at the Environmental Quality Board website.

Old Business

a. Off-Premise Signage and Chamber of Commerce Report

Bergstad reported that a letter to the state administrator of the Federal Highway Administration for the City Council to approve at their July 12 meeting.

Bergstad reported that the Chamber of Commerce had been given until October 1, 2010 to remove their billboard. They are currently looking into taking over the abandoned billboard on the north side of Highway 61 in city limits. The Chamber is not currently encouraging the City to pursue gapping of the NSSD.

Motion by McDonald, Davidson to communicate with the North Shore Scenic Drive Council and America's Scenic Byways Resource Center to discuss options for off-premise directional signage in Two Harbors and other communities along the North Shore Scenic Drive and to invite North Shore Scenic Drive representatives to a future Planning Commission meeting to discuss the issue. Motion by all members present and voting.

Bergstad reported that the Chamber had approached the City to act as local government sponsor for an application for federal transportation funds to help construct their proposed offices which would include a north shore trail head. Bergstad reported that the Council vote to act as the local government sponsor with the Chamber being responsible for securing the local matching funds. The Chamber could still pursue scenic byways grants for other portions of the project including land acquisition. If the project is approved for funding the Planning Commission and Trees and Trails Commission should review the

comprehensive plan and trails plan to make sure the trail head center is connected to the local trails.
(*See clarification)

Motion by Davidson, McDonald to offer a letter by the Planning Commission to the proper official in support of the Chamber of Commerce project as a North Shore Trail Head as it supports the City's comprehensive trail planning efforts. Motion approved by all members present and voting.

Bergstad stated that he could prepare a letter referencing the motion and have Zastera sign it. The letter could be sent when the application was ready to be submitted.

Comprehensive Plan

a. Review of June 29th Public Meeting

The Planning Commission discussed comments by McDonald that participants at his table felt that the 1999 had not been successfully implemented and that the new plan would not either. The Planning Commission asked Bergstad to prepare a review of the 1999 Comprehensive Plan focusing on lessons from accomplishments and missed opportunities in implementing the plan.

The Planning Commission discussed the purpose of the Comprehensive Plan. Bergstad stated that the plan would have more chance of success if the plan focused on land use policies that the City could directly influence.

The Planning Commission discussed the importance of having better communication between city planning and the public even when the Commission is not reviewing new business. Bergstad stated that the City website would be updated with Planning Commission minutes, agendas, and comprehensive planning materials.

b. Vision Statement Development

The Planning Commission reviewed and discussed the June 29th Vision Nuggets and assets and issues list to develop the following 2010 Comprehensive Plan Vision Statement:

“In the future the city of Two Harbors is a true small town gateway that showcases Lake Superior and the recreational opportunities that exist in the area, which also thrives in and of itself with quality housing, jobs, and services.

The city's high quality of life and modern infrastructure attracts residents, visitors, and business and industry.”

c. Review of Assets and Issues

The Planning Commission began reviewing and expanding the explanation of assets and issues identified at the June 29th public meeting. The Planning Commission discussed Lake Superior shoreline protection and public accessibility, issues that affect parks and recreation opportunities, and several different housing issues. The Planning Commission will continue the discussion at their next meeting. A complete summary of the discussion will be included in the comprehensive planning report on the July 05 meeting.

Announcements

Zastera reported that a local resident had mentioned that the traffic control sign indicating no entrance to Highway 61 near Culver's is located too far back on the frontage road to be useful. Vehicles have to turn around and come back. After discussion of the issue Zastera reported that she would talk to Tom Gelineau about it.

Kari reported that the trailer selling tie dye t-shirts that had sparked Planning Commission discussion last year had not returned to Two Harbors. Kittilson reported that Holiday Station Stores had enforced a policy not to allow vendors on their property.

Adjournment/Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Planning Commission will be held July 20, 2010 at 7:00 pm in the City Council Chambers.

Motion by Kittilson, Simonson to adjourn. Motion approved by all members present and voting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.