

Cook County/Grand Marais Economic Development Authority
Minutes of Meeting via Zoom
Tuesday, May 12, 2020, 4:00 PM

Present: Howard Hedstrom, Scott Harrison, Heidi Doo-Kirk, Carol Mork,
Bev Green, Hal Greenwood

Absent: Anton Moody

Others Present: Carrie Johnson Brad Shannon, Pat Campanaro, Mary Somnis

Meeting called to order by Hedstrom. No public comments received. Upon a Motion by Mork, second by Green and all ayes, the Agenda was approved with some additions. Motion carried. Upon a Motion by Green, second by Doo-Kirk and all ayes, the April 14, 2020 Minutes were approved. Motion carried.

Cook County Historical Society (CCHS) board accepted the counteroffer from the EDA Board to sell Lot 7, Block 5 for \$20,000 plus closing costs. Carrie Johnson told the EDA they might not commence construction for two years, due to COVID, etc. This will be stated in the Development Agreement. Upon a Motion by Greenwood, second by Mork and all ayes, the EDA agreed to proceed with the sale of the lot for \$20,000 plus closing costs. Motion carried.

North Point is in the process of establishing a 501c non-profit to operate a faith-based center for teens in 7-12 grades. Their focus is to support, mentor and connect with youth. They partner with treehousehope.org. They will provide informal support to youth, outside of the existing systems, as another alternative. They offered \$19,000 for Lot 3, Block 4. In conversations with Somnis, it was discussed that the lot is .84 acres, much smaller than lots that were sold previously. Doo-Kirk said the size of the lot was not the basis for the cost. Upon a Motion by Doo-Kirk, second by Green and all ayes, the EDA made a counteroffer of \$25,000 including closing costs. Motion carried. Brad Shannon left the meeting to consult with others involved in the project. He soon returned and said the group accepted the counteroffer.

A Public Hearing will be set for May 27 or 28 regarding these two lots and Lots 8 and 9, Block 5, for which sales are pending. Somnis to schedule and announce. The Public Hearing will be via Zoom, due to COVID-19.

A Grand Marais Fire Recovery Grant of \$20,000 has been offered to the EDA to assist the three businesses that were lost in April. The funds are for the purpose of planning and rebuilding the businesses. The EDA board reviewed the Grant Agreement. Upon a Motion by Greenwood, second by Mork and all ayes, the board agreed to accept the grant. Motion carried.

Request from Lutsen Mountains Expansion Letter of Support was discussed. Upon a Motion by Greenwood, second by Mork, with Hedstrom, Harrison, Mork and Greenwood in favor and Doo-Kirk and Green opposed, the board agreed to send a letter of support, with a statement that there are concerns regarding 1854 Treaty Rights. With a vote of 4 – 2 the Motion carried.

Pending sale of Lot 6, Block 4 was discussed. Kim Linnell is negotiating with a potential buyer. The EDA has First Right of Refusal if a lot is re-sold within the first five years after sold by the EDA. Upon a Motion by Greenwood, second by Green and all ayes, the board waived the Right of First Refusal. Motion carried.

Financials for Superior National and EDA were presented by Harrison for review by the board. The Finance Committee will meet and discuss additional salary for Campanaro as the Northland Foundation is not fully funding her position. Harrison presented budget projections for Superior National and the EDA, based on the potential reductions in revenue at the golf course and levy for the EDA. The board will continue to monitor these throughout the year. Upon a Motion by Doo-Kirk, second by Greenwood and all ayes, the monthly bills were approved for payment as presented. Motion carried.

Other Business

MNPCA has requested information regarding storm water management at Cedar Grove. Somnis is collecting the requesting information in response. Greenwood stated the Grand Marais Planning and Zoning Commission is proposing updates to city ordinances to enable the development of housing. Included in the proposal are condos on the second story of downtown businesses, smaller lot sizes and more. Information is available on the City of Grand Marais website. Upon a Motion by Greenwood, second by Doo-Kirk and all ayes, the meeting was adjourned. Motion carried.