

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
Thursday, February 13, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Mills at 7:00pm. Anderson, Roden, Miller and Mills present. Pardon absent.

Citizens Present: Larry Roden, Ryan Goodman, Jason Crotty, Leslie MacKenzie, Peter Foster, Olivia Nienaber, Nancy Cosgriff, Tom Warth, Jerry Glomb, Larry Whitaker, Liz Kelly, Jim Maher, Anne Reich, Jane/ Dave Kennedy, Mike Tibbetts, Ginny Averill, Wendy Ward, Mary Lusher.

Approval of Agenda – Miller moved and Roden seconded to accept the agenda as amended.

Citizen Considerations –

Olivia Nienaber – Ms. Nienaber was in attendance to review a program she is involved in called OWLS, which stands for Outdoor Wilderness Leadership & Service. The project is meant to help improve the environment for early migrating birds and involves planting clusters of trees and bushes that have winter retaining fruit. There will also be an event held at the Scandia Community Center where youth and adults can build bird feeders to take home and put in their yards.

Ms. Nienaber is requesting approval to plant two trees and three bushes somewhere in the community, and donate \$424 to help pay for the project. Roden suggested talking to the Urban Forest Task Force and approaching the Marine Folk School for additional help and resources.

Anderson commended Ms. Nienaber on the presentation and agreed that the Urban Forest Task Force would be a great resource.

*Anderson moved and Miller seconded to allocate \$424 from the Park and Recreation fund to support Ms. Nienaber's project request. Motion passed unanimously.*

New Year's Eve Party Update – Jerry Glomb reported that the New Year's Eve party was a great success and the group donated \$850 of the proceeds to the City.

*Anderson moved and Roden seconded to accept the donation in the amount of \$850 to be allocated to the fireworks fund. Motion passed unanimously.*

Marla – Jim Maher reported that both the 8<sup>th</sup> Birthday party and the Oscar Party were held. Craig Blacklock donated a museum sized book of photography for display at the library. Documentary night has wrapped up with approximately 700 people attending over the full series. Science and Art camp will happen this summer again and John Gorka will be performing this spring. There are four board members that have resigned including Mary Burke and Anne Reich who have both served for six years.

Planning Commission - The Commission held a public hearing for Jane Kennedy who is requesting a CUP for a bathroom in an accessory building and has recommended approval. The February meeting will be held on Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup> and there will be a public hearing for a solar variance for Larry Whitaker.

*Miller moved and Anderson seconded to approve the CUP for Jane Kennedy as recommended. Motion passed unanimously.*

There will be a workshop with the Commission and City Council on February 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm to discuss the STR ordinance.

Committee Assignments – The Council met on February 4<sup>th</sup> to review the various committees. There were some committees that were dissolved and others that were combined. The Council has also decided to stand by the Resolution passed in 2009 outlining how the committees should operate. All committees will be required to meet at least one per quarter and held in a public location. Minutes must be taken and submitted to the City Clerk to post on the website.

Nancy Cosgriff questioned what happened with the Village Center Task Force and why it is no longer listed as a committee. Miller stated that all citizen committees are not infinite and the Council felt that the charge and goals of that committee are complete with the Judd Street project. Miller also pointed out that the committee had not met in over a year and a half and so they were no longer an active committee. Ms. Cosgriff believes the group still has a lot of great ideas and would like to see an opportunity for residents to work with the City to implement those ideas. Anderson agrees that residents should be involved, but that doesn't necessarily need to be as the Village Center committee. However, those residents could create a business association, chamber of commerce or some other volunteer group. Wendy Ward believes that citizen volunteering is one of the most critical things of the town, and is disturbed that nobody was in attendance at the workshop. The Council noted that the workshop was noticed and discussed at council meeting for the last several months. Anderson also noted that the Council did not do anything controversial with the committees and would like to move forward with the motion and continue with the agenda.

*Miller moved and Anderson seconded to approve the committee assignments as amended. Motion passed unanimously.*

Public Safety – Chief Malmgren submitted the annual report. The Art Fair will move forward this fall as it looks like the Judd Street road project will most likely be pushed to 2021. That would mean that this will be the last year for the Art Fair and there will need to be discussion on how to change the event moving forward. Miller publicly thanked Mary Skamsner who will be retiring from the Department after 20 years of service.

Roads - The State Historical Society is still reviewing the Judd Street project and has many

questions as the City has never had a historic review of the area. This, along with some potential watershed issues, will most likely push the project back to 2021. Mike Tibbetts would like to scale back the project, forget about the Federal watershed grant and have the City do an overlay on Judd Street. Miller noted the sidewalks need to be fixed and brought up to code and the large culvert under the Mill Stream is in danger of collapsing. Wendy Ward would like to use this opportunity to embrace the Historic Preservation work.

Personnel - No Report

Parks & Rec -

Millsite – No Report

Urban Forest – Peter Foster presented the committee members and proposed work plan. Mr. Foster would like to increase the committee member number to more than three. The Council was fine with that. The proposal shows two gravel beds, however that will depend on funding. Miller would like to see a proposed budget brought to Council in August for discussion. Miller questioned the Emerald Ash Borer and how the proposal addresses ash trees on private property. Currently the City is only treating the Monfort Dunn Ash tree and the Council will need to work with the committee on how to educate the community on the EAB moving forward. The Council will look at the budget and see if any of the projects could be paid for out of the Parks and Rec budget.

Lymegrinder Biking Event – There is a mountain biking event in April that is a fundraiser for Lyme disease. The group putting on the event would like to come into Marine and use some of the city trails in Jackson Meadow. The event will be on April 2<sup>nd</sup> and so the concern is potential damage to the trails due to soft soil conditions. Miller would like to give the okay to use the City Streets to Guslander, however not the City trails unless conditions change.

Cemetery – No Report.

Water Systems- No Report.

Holidays/Events – The Osceola Train will be attending an upcoming Council meeting to discuss the July 3<sup>rd</sup> event.

City Properties – No Report.

Citizen Committee Reports

EDA – The Marine Village School is moving forward and a letter of intent is anticipated very soon.

Green Step Cities - Leslie MacKenzie reported on the Green Step Cities. The group is working on Step 4 and will be meeting in February at the Town Hall. There are currently 17 people on the

email list for the committee and so the committee has divided into teams. Ms. MacKenzie reviewed the many different areas these teams are working on, including sewer education, recycling, and a welcome packet for new residents. Because there are so many people working on this committee, Ms. MacKenzie is looking for approval to not have Council approval for every one of those committee members and noted that the teams will work under the guidance of the core committee which are Liz Kelly, Peter Foster, Leslie MacKenzie and Anne Reich. The Council consensus was to allow the smaller teams to work under the main committee and that their findings and recommendations come through the main committee and Council liaison. The Council reviewed the requirements to achieve Step 4, which is very involved. Anderson believes that a lot of the break downs between the citizens and the Council is due to a communication breakdown and so he would like to see the committee over communicate with the Council to avoid any breakdowns.

Communications Infrastructure – Anderson presented the updated logo, both in color and black and white. Comments were taken from the audience.

Anderson also updated the Council on the cell tower proposal. The maintenance shop site is being looked at again as a potential location. Any new information will be forwarded to the Planning Commission.

The sign for the downtown will move forward once the road project is complete, using the original design the Village Center Task Force presented originally.

Consent Calendar – *Anderson moved and Roden seconded to approve the Minutes of 1/9/20, 2/4/20, Treasurer's Report of 1/20, List of Bills for 2/13/20, Zoning Administrators Report, Public Works Maintenance Report and Planning Commission Minutes. Motion passed unanimously.*

Old/New Business –

Board of Review meeting will be April 7 from 9am – 10am. At the last Board of Review meeting, it was discussed potentially changing the time to 9am – 9:30am. The Council decided to leave it as is.

Mayor Notes/Clerk's Report –

Adjournment - Miller moved and Roden seconded to adjourn at 8:56pm.

Minutes taken by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk