

January 8, 2008

A regular meeting of the Scandia City Council was held on the above date. Mayor Seefeldt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following council members were present: Council members Pete Crum, Michael Harnetty, Dolores Peterson, Mayor Dennis Seefeldt, and Donnette Yehle. Staff present: Administrator Anne Hurlburt, City Attorney Dave Hebert, Deputy Clerk Brenda Eklund.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Donnette Yehle, seconded by Dolores Peterson, moved to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

ACCEPT 2007 DONATIONS

The City received the following donations in 2007:

<u>From:</u>	<u>Purpose:</u>	<u>Amount:</u>
Anonymous	Community Center	\$10.00
Forest Lake Athletic Association	2007 Open Gym Program	\$300.00
Scandia Fire Relief Mir Verner (1/12/07)	SCBA Masks Fire Department	\$5,390.00 \$50.00
Scandia-Marine Lions Club	2008 Open Gym Program	\$200.00
Mir Verner (12/27/07)	Fire Department	\$50.00

Michael Harnetty, seconded by Dolores Peterson, moved to accept the 2007 donations to the City. The motion passed unanimously.

MINNESOTA SESQUICENTENNIAL

Administrator Hurlburt was contacted by Lynne Moratzka of the Gammelgarden Museum regarding whether or not the City was sponsoring any activities in recognition of the Minnesota Sesquicentennial in 2008. The consensus of the council was to forgo any official events commemorating Minnesota's statehood.

MOSTAD CLAIM

Mayor Seefeldt reported on the Mostad case that was heard in Conciliation Court on December 20, 2007. Howard and Marney Mostad had filed a claim against the City in the amount of \$7,000 for improvements to their driveway on property located at 11270 192nd Street. The Mostads claim that the driveway is eroding into the street due to city negligence. The judge's order to dismiss the claim was received on December 26th, stating that the statute of limitations has expired on this type of improvement and that there was no proof that the damages are due to negligence by the city.

ENGINEERING SERVICES

On January 3, 2008, a committee made up of Mayor Seefeldt, Councilmember Harnetty and Administrator Hurlburt met with City Engineer Tom Peterson and Mark Hanson, Bonestroo Vice

President. The purpose of the meeting was at the request of Bonestroo as an annual review of engineering services. Council and staff provided comments using an evaluation form provided by Bonestroo. Administrator Hurlburt compiled the comments and ratings which indicated that services are not currently meeting expectations. At the meeting's conclusion, the engineers suggested the following:

- Increasing oversight by Bonestroo management staff;
- Providing detailed monthly reports on all activities; and
- Providing a report detailing options for a pro-active plan for pavement/ roadway maintenance.

The committee agreed on this approach and recommended to the Council that services be evaluated again after 90 days. The committee also recommended that Bonestroo's request for a rate increase not be considered until the council is satisfied with the level of performance. Council was in agreement that this approach should improve services, especially to be more proactive on development concerns.

PLANNING SERVICES

City Planner Richard Thompson has recently announced his retirement. While he will continue to work part-time on the upcoming mining permits, TKDA has proposed that Senior Planner Sherri Buss begin serving as Scandia's City Planner. Ms. Buss was present to introduce herself to the council. An informal review of planning services was postponed to allow the Planning Commission to participate.

The Planning Commission meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. The following were present: Commission Chair Chris Ness, Commissioners Christine Maefsky, James Malmquist, Kevin Nickelson, Peter Schwarz and TKDA Senior Planner Sherri Buss.

BIG MARINE DEVELOPMENT, LLC – REVISED LANDSCAPE PLAN FOR TII GAVO

Big Marine Development, LLC has requested approval of a revised landscape plan for the Tii Gavo Open Space Conservation Subdivision. The original plan, prepared by Putman Planning & Design, was approved on June 5, 2007. The developer is proposing modifications which they feel are a better alternative to the ecological health of the site.

Jason Husveth and Ken Arndt, Critical Connections Ecological Services, were present to discuss the revised plan. The new plan reduces the proposed amount of native and non-native ornamental plantings, increases the use of native trees and restores the native plant communities, including about 22 acres of created prairie and savanna. Specifically, the number of trees and shrubs will be reduced from 422 to 249, with many being transplanted from on-site. The intent of reducing the number of trees was to take the monetary value of these trees and put it toward establishing native prairie in several on the outlots. The outlots currently are old fields with disturbed wetlands that are overgrown with non-native grasses such as brome and reed canary grass. A 5-year restoration plan is proposed to return the fields to native plantings. The developer is

committing to covering the costs for the first three years, after which the Homeowner's Association would cover the maintenance costs.

TKDA Senior Planner/Landscape Architect Sherri Buss presented her report on the evaluation of the request. Ms. Buss recommends approval of the plan with a number of conditions. These conditions were incorporated into draft Resolution 01-08-08-01.

Commissioner Maefsky inquired how the transplanted trees are selected from the site. Mr. Arndt stated that selective thinning of healthy trees from the edges of the woodland are being transplanted into the savanna. A higher success rate can be obtained by using native trees that are adapted to the site. Councilmember Harnetty asked Mr. Husveth to explain the five year restoration plan. Mr. Husveth stated that the first year will involve herbicide and controlled burning, followed by seeding and installation of a forb enhancement mix. Wildflowers should bloom by year 3, with seeding throughout year 4. By year 5 the acreage should be well established to native prairie.

The commissioners and councilmembers discussed the revised plan and suggested changes to the resolution which would guarantee the financial costs of the restoration plan for five years or until the restoration is complete (rather than three years), and allow for inspection reports by a qualified landscape architect for the first five growing seasons (a change from three growing seasons). Commissioner Schwarz felt satisfied with the presentation and stated that it may be better than the prior plan. Regarding a question of what if at the end of five years, things are not going satisfactorily? Staff advised that the letter of credit can be extended and retained until the city inspector is satisfied that it is complete. Currently there is a \$177,000 landscaping letter of credit being held by the city. Commissioner Maefsky stated her approval of the plan and the need to carry out the plan as stated. Councilmember Peterson stated her approval of the plan. Councilmember Harnetty asked for Ms. Buss' opinion of the plan. Ms. Buss felt it to be a very good plan that fits the character of the area and benefits the long-term health of the land, but the "devil is in the maintenance". Mayor Seefeldt felt that this plan is consistent with restoring native habitat and a good move on the developer's part. The Planning Commission recommended approval of draft Resolution 01-08-08-01 with changes to conditions #2, #5, and #6 in which financial guarantees and inspection reports are extended to five years.

Dolores Peterson, seconded by Michael Harnetty, moved to accept the recommendation of the Planning Commission to adopt draft Resolution 01-08-08-01 Approval of Revised Landscape Plan, Tii Gavo Major Subdivision, as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

PLANNING SERVICES

Upon the retirement of City Planner Richard Thompson, Sherri Buss, Senior Planner for TKDA, introduced herself and welcomed any questions that the Commissioners or Councilmembers had

of the services provided by TKDA. Replying to an inquiry on experience, Ms. Buss stated her natural resources experience with conservation and preservation ordinances and the fact that she is a certified landscape architect. Berry Farrington will continue to be involved with Scandia's planning issues and a representative of TKDA will be in attendance at monthly Planning Commission meetings.

Dolores Peterson, seconded by Donnette Yehle, moved to appoint Sherri Buss as Scandia's City Planner. The motion passed unanimously.

Dolores Peterson, seconded by Pete Crum, moved to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Eklund
City of Scandia Deputy Clerk