

**WALKER PLANNING COMMISSION
BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 27, 2014
6:00 p.m. 701 Elm Street Walker Fire Hall Meeting Room**

- 1. Call to Order** 6:00 p.m. by Chair Wilkening.

Roll Call

Members Present: Jane Ekholm, Char Moore, Gary Wilkening, Greg Smith, Rich Hanson

Members Absent: Terri Bjorklund

Staff: Pamela Smith

- 2. Additions or deletions to agenda:**

None.

- 3. Announcements by Chair:**

None.

- 4. M/S/A Wilkening/Smith to approve of minutes with the recommended changes for November 25, 2013.**

Motion to recommend the approval of LU-2013-05 (Piprude) Metes and Bounds Lot split application. The roll call vote will be changed as follows: Ayes: Moore, Smith, Wilkening, Ekholm Nays: None. Motion passed (4-0)

Ayes: Moore, Ekholm, Smith, Hanson, Wilkening

Motion passed (5-0)

- 5. Planning/Zoning Report for November and December 2013.**

The report was reviewed by Chair Wilkening.

- 6. Comprehensive plan review-prioritize work items for 2014.**

Items from 2010/2011 were reviewed and discussed. There was brief discussion on creating a plan for establishing wayfinding signs by way of a kiosk and reviewing where Edy had left off conducting a business inventory. Most of the items for 2010/2011 have been completed. Char will bring items from 2010-2014 relating to Park Committee to review at the next Park Board meeting.

There are several items from the Comprehensive plan Implementation Tasks that are currently in the works including:

2012

Work with Shingobee Township to standardize industrial development standards.

Establishing an outdoor skating rink.

2013

Study the feasibility of measures to mitigate odor issues at the lakeside park.

Prioritize as critical enhanced pedestrian connections to the lakeside park area.

2014

Study the feasibility of constructing a fishing pier at one of the public park facilities.

Items from 2012 that will need to be revisited are the following:

Specific Implementation Task	Plan Section	Who will get this done?
Meet with the school to discuss options for trimming or removing vegetation along the outside of the athletics fields so as to connect the surrounding neighborhoods to the activity and community spirit of the school site.	Community Character, Housing	Parks Committee
Remove visual obstructions from public rights-of-way where they inhibit public viewing of Leech Lake throughout the community.	Community Character, Housing	Public Works
Work with other cities in Cass County to request that the county modify its approach to zoning around cities to coordinate commercial development efforts with the investments of its municipalities.	Economic Development	City Planner
Annually update a business inventory to measure the success of the City's policies and strategies.	Economic Development	City Planner
Establish a task force to work with School District 113 on ways the City and the District can work cooperatively to increase enrollment and reduce costs.	Government	City Council /Special Committee
Integrate a form-based code into the existing zoning ordinance throughout the City.	Community Character, Economic Development, Housing	Planning Commission

Items from 2013 to be revisited:

Specific Implementation Task	Plan Section	Who will get this done?
Meet with Cass County officials to discuss ways in which the Cass County Courthouse Plaza can be recaptured and enhanced for public use.	Parks and Recreation	Parks Committee
Assemble representatives from the Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Forestry Department, Leech Lake Riders and any other organizations that are interested in trails and trail maintenance to discuss ways to share resources.	Parks and Recreation	Parks Committee
Establish signage along the recreational trail through town.	Parks and Recreation	Parks Committee

Items from 2014 to be revisited:

Specific Implementation Task	Plan Section	Who will get this done?
Develop a trails map that includes cross-country ski trails and other trails in the surrounding townships.	Parks and Recreation	Parks Committee
Meet with School District #113 officials to discuss ways in which the City and the school can cooperate to increase the amount of park land and recreational facilities available for public use.	Parks and Recreation	Parks Committee
Remove parking from the city dock areas so that the site can be dedicated to those arriving to Walker by boat and those seeking to access the docks from the City, and to create pedestrian space for regular use and events.	Community Character, Parks and Recreation	Planning Commission /City Engineer
Identify city-owned, platted lots currently used for public parking. Develop a strategy for converting each to commercial use.	Economic Development	City Planner
Adopt new standard street sections that reduce longterm costs by narrowing lane widths to appropriate neighborhood scale and providing safe pedestrian mobility throughout the city.	Community Character, Economic Development, Housing, Transportation and Infrastructure	City Engineer
Coordinate with local arts organizations to promote public art. Budget a modest amount each year for this community effort.	Community Character	Parks Committee
Identify each public water access point within the City of Walker. Develop a long-term plan for the use of each site consistent with the values of this plan.	Parks and Recreation	Parks Committee

Priorities for 2015 will be revisited at the next regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting. Items 7 and 8 from the Agenda will be moved to the February Agenda as well.

7. M/S/P Wilkening/Hanson to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Ayes: Moore, Ekholm, Smith, Hanson, Wilkening Nays: None.

Motion passed (5-0)