

**WALKER PLANNING COMMISSION
BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT
REGULAR MEETING
March 25, 2013
6:00 p.m. 701 Elm Street Walker Fire Hall Meeting Room**

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

Roll Call

Members present: Gary Wilkening, Jane Ekholm (Late), Char Moore, and Rich Hansen

Members Absent: Jeff Holly and Greg Smith

Staff: Terri Bjorklund (City Administrator) and Pamela Smith

Others: Terry Freeman Dave Enblom

Gail Tufty Laura Hadrava

2. **Additions or deletions to agenda:**

None.

3. **M/S/A: Moore/Hanson to approve to recommend to City Council for Mr. Enblom, Mr. Freeman to outline request for a resolution from the Walker City Council establishing a County State Aid Highway system within the City limits.**

Terry Freeman and Dave Enblom describe that they are requesting a resolution from the City of Walker because Cass County would like to get funds associated with the County State Aid Highway system on what is known as the "Ah-Gwah-Ching" road or "County State Aid Highway 37" and will not be able to move forward until the City concurs with the designation of the road because it passes through land currently owned by the City of Walker.

Enblom- in order to designate it as a State Aid Highway we need the City of Walker's concurrence.

Enblom notes that the actual construction of this project is most likely at least 5-10 years from now.

Motion passed (4-0)

4. **M/S/A: Ekholm/Hanson to approve to start a discussion on land exchange between the City of Walker and Hawkinson Construction.**

Freeman and Enblom discuss the possibility of a land exchange between Hawkinson and the City of Walker. The land exchange would see Hawkinson receiving approximately 11.4 acres and the City of Walker approximately 16.8 acres. Freeman explains that there are aggregate vs. land values. Enblom noted that the exchange of land, and or cash, and value of aggregate need to be taken into consideration also that the timing of the land exchange and designation of State Aid do not necessarily have to coincide with each other. The Board discussed briefly the idea of a public hearing for this but further discussion on this project being outside the City of Walker limits may not require a public hearing. The Board will consider having a public hearing if found necessary.

Motion passed (4-0)

5. **Reviewed bike route thru forestry and from Forestry to school (Safe Routes to School Grant)**

Bjorklund explains the Safe Routes that will be undertaken with the Walker Ranger District Office Shingobee Bike Trail Plan and would like the Board to be aware that Northern Engineering has provided an estimated cost of engineering for the portion of the Trail starting at the Forestry property and going up past the school. Ulteig also provided a quote and the Bike Trail Committee recommends using NEI for the project.

6. M/S/A: Ekholm/Moore to recommend the \$4,600 expenditure to Ulteig for the update of the Zoning Map.

Wilkening states that Ulteig should also provide the update in digital format and a dozen 11x14 colored copies.

Motion passed (4-0)

7. Announcements by Chair:

None.

8. M/S/A of minutes: Hanson/Ekholm to approve minutes for February 25, 2013.

Motion passed (4-0)

9. Building/Zoning Report.

The Building Administrator Bjorklund reads the zoning report and the notes the action taken by Council.

Hanson raises a question on the use of sign permits. He has seen signs around Walker at different intersections that appear to be from Bemidji Design Center.

Bjorklund states that they have not applied for a temporary sign permit for any of the locations of the signs.

The Board feels that this needs to be enforced.

Wilkening mentions sending a letter to Bemidji Design Center regarding this matter.

10. Continue work on Ordinance Chapter 91: Animals

The Board questioned § 91.03 IMPOUNDMENT and if Walker Animal Hospital deals with enforcing the impoundment of animals. It is clarified that Cass Lake currently deals with the impoundment of the animals. Hanson question how many animals a year does the City of Walker impound. Bjorklund states that she will look into that.

The Board discusses modifying the wording of the draft of the ordinance 91.05 FARM ANIMALS to be changed from (5) acres in size provided that no animal shelter/barn shall be within three hundred (300) feet; to change (300) to (150) feet. Also different wording of the maximum of 300 animal units; to change to, not to exceed 30 animals total.

11. Adjourn. The meeting of the planning commission was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.