



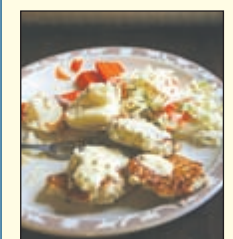
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Citizens not quiet about noise ordinance

Grand Marais city councilors made more changes to a proposed noise ordinance June 24, but unanimously approved the new regulations on first reading. If the ordinance receives a positive vote on second reading, scheduled for July 8, it will become effective upon publication soon thereafter.

The vote followed a 75-minute public hearing during which about a dozen residents and business owners spoke, and another half-hour of discussion and debate among councilors.

Those speaking during the public hearing spoke either in favor of using a decibel meter to measure the level of music volume, or setting hours during which amplified music performances are allowed.

Cook County Sheriff Mark Falk told council he needed an ordinance that was enforceable, and advised that the option setting time limits was more practical. "There's no argument when it's 10 p.m. or midnight," Falk said. "But decibel meters are open to interpretation and not as black-and-white." The sheriff also said he believed there were more important public safety concerns that his officers should be devoting their time to.

The amended ordinance states that it's okay to play amplified music — either inside or outside — at any time as long as the sound cannot be

“Decibel meters are open to interpretation and not as black-and-white.”

heard above the level of conversational speech beyond 100 feet (up from 50 feet) from the place of origin. However, music may be played at any level between the hours of noon and 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday; between noon and midnight on Friday and Saturday, and the Sunday before Labor Day and Memorial Day, and the July 4 holiday. Further exceptions will be considered for special events or festivals when the sponsoring organization applies for the permit.

Consultant hired to investigate shared facility

Jane Howard

Consultant David Skelton, retired St. Louis County maintenance manager, has been hired by six Grand Marais-area agencies at a cost of up to \$8,000 to explore the feasibility of a multi-agency maintenance facility. The Cook County Board of Commissioners, the last agency to sign on, agreed Tuesday, June 23, 2009 to pay 25% of the cost.

Cook County Highway Engineer Shae Kosmalski has spearheaded the concept and said Skelton is working on his fourth shared facility project. "He's half the price of an architecture/engineering firm," Kosmalski said. "He really represents the people. ...He has a lot of passion for these."

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Staff photos/Rhonda Silence

The Gunflint Ranger District hosted an Open House on Friday, June 19, one of many events celebrating the centennial year for Superior National Forest. In 1909, President Theodore Roosevelt set aside the 644,114 acres. On hand was Forest Service founder Gifford Pinchot (actually Steve Robertson of the Tofte Ranger District). See more of the celebration on page B7.



Celebrating Summer



Staff photos/Rhonda Silence

The 2009 Wooden Boat Show and Summer Solstice Pageant at North House Folk School was a wonderful beginning of summer celebration on the Grand Marais waterfront. **Top:** The wooden sailing *Aakvik* looked beautiful berthed at the Folk School dock. It was one of dozens of boats crafted with loving care by wooden boat builders. **Middle:** Boat lovers of all ages enjoyed learning more about the craft of boat making. **Lower Left:** Saturday's live auction was the highlight of the weekend for many Boat Show attendees. Graham Butler of Grand Marais (left) was the winning bidder on Thoreau's cabin at \$1,375. After the bidding, Butler met one of the cabin's builders, North House student Carrie Jennings of North Field, MN. **Lower Right:** North House *Beginning Boat Making* instructor John Beltman found time to do some work on an old wooden boat during the weekend. See the Solstice Pageant on page A3.

Park board struggles with master plan

Jane Howard

The Grand Marais Park Board came a little closer to making final decisions on its recreation park master plan when it met in city council chambers Tuesday, June 23, 2009.

The meeting started with a review of the May 19 "listening session" intended to gather input from the community. Board members agreed that the comments were mixed regarding how much to change the location of campsites and how much green space to include in the new plan. The meeting had ended with consultant Bob Bruce expressing frustration with some of the comments and with the park board's minimal involvement in the discussion. "I feel badly that I let some of the comments get under my skin," said Bruce. He apologized for a lack of professionalism.

The board approved a document Park Manager Dave Tersteeg had formulated to answer questions about potential changes to the park.

According to the document, "The master plan projects a vision for the park 25 years and beyond." The plan will guide day-to-day actions that collectively work toward achieving the goals that have been set out by the park board. No changes to campsite configurations are being considered either this summer or next. Any changes would need to make sense financially for the park. The ball field and pool would not be relocated unless suitable replacements are ready on Community Center grounds. The public works garages will be relocated only when funding is in place.

The master plan attempts to answer the question of how much and what part of the park should be used for camping and facilities, landside marina support, trails, roads and parking, playgrounds, and open space. The plan does not attempt to determine either the amount of revenue the plan would generate or what kinds of changes might take place in the marina.

Bruce said he believes the public's opinions on the two plans presented May 19 were split down the middle. He said that after that meeting, he came to believe that they should step back and take a "30,000-foot" view of the future of the park and hopes the plan they decide on will be considered a good one in 30-40 years. With that in mind, he developed a site map offering a third option. He believes his latest design is "functional and workable" and takes into consideration input from the park board, the city council, the community, and professionals.

Bruce's third option did not include an event pavilion, although he left space adjacent to a new park office that would allow the building to be expanded. "We don't know if that's a viable use or not," he said.

Bruce's recommendation included a large area of reconstructed wetland surrounding what is left of a former wetland in the southeast corner of the park. "I'm convinced there's money available [for] that, and I'm convinced it's beneficial in its own right," he said.

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