

City of Battle Lake Council and Planning Commission Joint Meeting – September 5, 2023

Mayor Richard Bullard called the regular council joint council/planning commission meeting to order on Tuesday, September 5th at 7:00 p.m. Also present from the council were Julia DeMars, Don Maslow, and Marjorie Quammen, attending virtually from Lake Region Hospital. Absent was Ryan Christensen. Members present from the Planning Commission were Heather Jacobson, Rezin Everts, and Greg Maynard. Absent were John Salvevold and Dennis Pederson. Also present at City Hall were Clerk/Treasurer, Val Martin; and Ben Olesen from Hometown Planning.

Members of the public were in attendance to discuss the rental of dock slips and also the rental of lake access, renting a small portion of their lakeshore for someone else's use. Martin explained that this came up after a property owner wanted to rent lake access to several people. They have done it for years but would like to expand the amount of lakeshore access to be rented. Staff also discovered that property owners further down the lake were renting dock slips. After working with the City Attorney and Ben Olesen from Hometown Planning, Martin said it was determined that the boat slip rental is a commercial activity that needs a conditional use permit. and the rental of portions of land for lake access is not addressed in this situation. Martin also found that the County would require a permit for dock slip rental and to contact the DNR to see if the DNR requires a permit. Martin has also contacted DNR and they consider 7 dock slips a marina which would require a permit from them and approval from the local government.

Concerns raised included:

- No restroom facilities
- Parking issues
- Overcrowding
- Whatever is decided at this point would set precedence.
- Dock storage

Some attendees commented:

- Most rentals of boat slips have been to people who live here and found that they do not have issues – people don't hang out on shore but just use the dock to keep their boat on the water.
- There has been historic use of lake access with no past problems.
- What is the difference between someone having several docks for their own use and renting out slips?
- It was stated that the DNR controls what is in the water and the City would just be regulating the land adjacent to the water.

The Council and Planning Commission continued discussions and no decisions/recommendations were made. Martin will do additional research and will see what some other Cities have done.

Comprehensive Plan Update – Ben Oleson:

- Several things have changed since the last update in 2012:
 - The growth of commercial and residential properties
 - Complete Streets project was completed
 - The Glendalough Trail from Battle Lake to Glendalough Park was built.
 - Major improvements at Glendalough Park.
 - Many new businesses.
 - Newly regulated vacation rentals.
 - More visitor traffic.
 - The reformation of the EDA and LACC.
- It was determined that the Council and Planning Commission should both be involved in all the meetings.
- Public input should come partway into the process with the possibility of sending a survey.
- Everyone felt the plan was good but it needs to be updated and some new goals created.
- Include an action plan with each goal – who does it and when.
- Do more with the history portion of the plan.
- Timeline – within one year.

Oleson will provide a detailed cost estimate with a schedule for next week's council meeting.

Adjourn 8:45 p.m.

Valerie Martin, Clerk/Treasurer