

**GRAND VIEW LODGE TRAFFIC COMMITTEE
CITY OF NISSWA
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22, 2018
5:00 P.M. – CITY HALL**

A meeting of the Grand View Lodge Traffic Committee was held on Wednesday, August 22, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Members Present: John Ryan, Peter Mann, Dawn Musick, Anne Fischer, Maria Seep, Tom Farrell and Craig Wilfart.

Members Absent: Gary Johnson, Dil Stachour, Fred Heidmann.

Staff Present: Tom Blomer and Jenny Max.

There were four people in the audience, all residents of Linden Boulevards.

John Ryan called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

Jenny Max noted there was no formal agenda for the meeting; rather, this meeting would provide a final opportunity for the GVL Traffic Committee to discuss the preliminary Spack report prior to Spack issuing its final report.

Max provided a summary of the process thus far and noted that Bryant Ficek and Max Moreland presented their preliminary report to the Public Works Committee at its August 8th meeting.

Craig Wilfart noted the resident members have put together a few slides to present their ideas; however they would like to first ask the City if an update could be provided regarding the conditions placed on Grand View with respect to the Conditional Use Permits recently approved.

Max noted that staff is reviewing the conditions of approval and the traffic mitigation plan, and will be requesting a meeting with Mark Ronnei. Anne Fischer asked how GVL can operate some of the new cottages when they haven't been fully completed. Max said that the City does not enforce the building code, which means that the City does not issue a certificate of occupancy to verify construction is complete.

Wilfart began the resident presentation. Wilfart addressed the CSAH 77/Nokomis Avenue intersection and noted the residents agree that a roundabout is the likely best solution at this intersection. Is there a timeline for the proposed roundabout and who drives this conversation? Max said that the City would request feedback from Crow Wing County to get answers to those questions, but that the County would be very involved in this conversation.

Wilfart noted that over the course of one weekend he stopped 52 cars driving down East Linden and helped redirect them. Of the 52 cars, 50 of them were GVL guests unsure of where to go.

The residents noted that incorporating dedicated bike lanes and connecting pedestrian walkways throughout the resort was a very important piece to improving vehicular traffic flow. Wilfart noted that improved street and walkway lighting should be addressed, as GVL is not well lit for guests to find their way around at night.

Wilfart offered the idea of improved wayfinding signage and whether or not it should be City of Nisswa themed or GVL themed.

Wilfart noted that the residents would like to see some consideration of CSAH 77 speed limits reduced from 55 MPH to 35 MPH, from Nokomis Avenue to TH 371. They would also like to see consideration of City streets within GVL and the Linden Boulevards decrease from 30 MPH to 20 MPH.

It was noted that the public access sign on East Linden has been removed and the residents would like to see it put back.

Parking was another area that is in need of improvement. More parking needs to be identified while also paying attention to impervious coverage. Perhaps looking at whether overflow parking is paved or gravel in conjunction with identifying the new areas for parking.

Wilfart asked if GVL would be willing to give the Committee a tour of the new Cottages? The residents also asked if GVL knows what the future capacity is of the resort once the new development is completed.

Max stated that from what the City has heard and based off of the number of land use permits issued thus far, just about all of the 21 Cottages have been sold or nearly sold. The ownership will have the same function as other GVL units with the Cottages being in a rental pool. Max was unsure of the capacity of each unit.

The Committee discussed items surrounding City sewer. Blomer explained how the City calculates the number of connections (ERCs), and how that was factored for both the Cottages and the new hotel. Blomer also explained which buildings are currently metered and which are not. The residents expressed concern about the recurring sewer smell taking place.

Wilfart noted a concern regarding potential conflict of interest with City of Nisswa Leadership. John Ryan stated that his position is whatever is in the best interest of the City and not what is in the best interest of any specific person, group of people or Grand View Lodge. Ryan said that there has been a disconnect in the past between the Council, city staff and the residents and hopes that will improve.

The committee residents asked for direction regarding an increase in lake traffic. There has been an increase in boat traffic, boat rentals, personal watercraft, etc. in front of the main lodge. The residents would like to see improved delineation in the swimming area with added buoys. A conflict of interest concern was expressed regarding Mayor

Heidmann's new business and his operating hours, which extend to before dawn and after dusk. Blomer noted that concerns about activity occurring on the lake itself should be directed to the Crow Wing County Sheriff's Office.

The residents also asked for assistance regarding construction hours of operation and whether or not there were any City ordinances surrounding how early and late contractors can work. Max said the City would look into that issue.

The residents requested Spack give more consideration to creating a different GVL main entrance off of CSAH 77, somewhere in between the maintenance road entrance and the Nokomis entrance. Could the S curve on CSAH 77 be straightened out as part of creating a new entrance? Max said adding a new connection off of CSAH 77 would be difficult to get done, but would make the request of Spack to provide some input in their report.

Resident Rod Thole addressed the Committee regarding a proposed idea to bring the maintenance road entrance straight down to West Linden/Dutchmens Bluff. Thole noted creating a direct line to that area would cause a decrease in property value, and possibly create a safety issue with non-resident traffic now driving down past these homes that have historically been secluded from general traffic.

Wilfart shared a few sets of photos to the Committee, illustrating the current traffic congestion and confusion taking place. Wilfart reiterated that GVL needs improved event parking, added no parking signs and improved lighting for better visibility at night.

Fischer noted they would like to see GVL's plans for future parking lots, and noted any new employee parking lots could be used for overflow event parking since evening events don't usually conflict with GVL's higher staffing levels during the day.

Wilfart said that the residents want to protect the value of having dead-end roads. In summary, the three main resident concerns surround the safety of pedestrians/bicycles in harmony with vehicular traffic, the flow/movement of all traffic throughout the resort, and the available parking for guests and event use.

There being no further business, John Ryan adjourned the Grand View Lodge Traffic Committee meeting at 6:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Max, City Administrator