



City Administrator's Weekly Update

WEEK ENDING MARCH 31, 2017

Upcoming Events:

April 3, 4:30 pm
Parks Commission
City Hall

April 4, 5:30 pm
Council Work Session
City Hall

April 4, 7:00 pm
City Council Meeting
City Hall

April 5, 8:00 am
EDA
City Hall

April 13, 4:30 pm
Cable Commission

April 18, 5:30 pm
Council Work Session
City Hall

April 18, 7:00 pm
City Council
City Hall

April 19, 6:00 pm
CAFD Board

April 25, 4:15 pm
Library Board
Library

Administration/Finance

Personnel

The City Administrator hiring process has moved forward this week. Sharon Klumpp of Springsted | Waters visited Cloquet to hold one-on-one interviews with all Council members and meet with Department Heads. The purpose of her visit and meetings was to identify the leadership and management qualifications the City is looking for in our next City Administrator. The result of this visit will be a recruiting brochure highlighting the City and the desired qualification of this position.

4th of July Celebration

July 4th is right around the corner and the planning committee has started organizing and preparing for an entire day of FREE July 4th activities for families and residents from Cloquet and the surrounding communities. Stay tuned for updates as they continue planning.

Public Works/Parks

Emerald Ash Borer

The City has received good news from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture stating that Cloquet will no longer be part of the quarantine area for the Ash Borer.

Highway 33/I-35

Staff met with MnDOT and their Consultant this week to further discuss an ongoing study for I-35 access in our area. Safety improvements for Hwy 33 ramps are planned for construction in 2018. With the design and the public involvement process slated to begin in the next few months.

Two proposals were received to complete ditch mowing along Highway 33 and other rural roads around Cloquet. Pricing was favorable compared to previous mowing contracts the City has completed, however, staff will be checking references and vetting both contractors ability to complete the work prior to making a recommendation for award to City Council.

Lake Superior Waterline

The annual scheduled shut-down of the Lake Superior Waterline will begin Monday morning. Tasks to be completed during the shutdown include reservoir inspection and cleaning of the pump station.

Community Development

Economic Development

This week staff time was focused on preparing materials for the Joint EDA-City Council meeting April 4th and the April 5th regular EDA meeting. Staff has been working with the City's Financial Advisors (Ehlers) and the City's Development Attorney in reviewing the Country Club Patio Home application for tax increment financing for review next week by the EDA.

Staff will be meeting with the Chamber and County next week to discuss implementing production edits to the Cloquet map for distribution at City Hall and what costs may be involved.

Dave Hallback, Mayor

City Council Members:

Jeff Rock, Ward 1
David Bjerkness, Ward 2
Roger Maki, Ward 3
Kerry Kolodge, Ward 4
Steve Langley, Ward 5
Adam Bailey, At Large

James Barclay,
Interim City
Administrator
1307 Cloquet Avenue
Cloquet, MN 55720
(218)879-3347
jbarclay@ci.cloquet.mn.us

Visit Our Website at:
www.ci.cloquet.mn.us

On Monday night the School Board approved a purchase agreement with Roers for the adaptive reuse of the current Cloquet Middle School Building into apartments. The same application and same development team members as last year are involved with this project. The development team will meet with the City Council at the Work Session meeting in early May and will host an open house in the Middle School building in late April.

The Minnesota Twins reached out to Cloquet requesting photography to be used in their "Caps On" promotions on social media (also on Twitter and Instagram), the Facebook link is: <https://www.facebook.com/Twins/videos/10155155605469841/>.

Small Cities Grant

Marketing flyers were created for more outreach with Cloquet's Small Cities Grant Program. Staff met with commercial property owners in the West End on the program and other alternative funding sources to improve rental units above storefronts.

Planning/Zoning

April Planning Commission materials include the Planned Unit Development application and preliminary subdivision plat materials for the Country Club Patio Homes project, the Site Plan Review for White Pine Apartments, and two zoning ordinance amendments involving legal and property owner notices.

The building counter has remained steady with permit inquiries and inspections. Plan review is underway for a new home on West Taylor. Inspections were conducted on commercial re-roofing projects at USG and Pine Tree Plaza. Matt continued liquor license inspections along with ongoing inspections for security additions at Churchill Elementary. Staff participated in a building walk-through with State Plumbing and Building Inspectors for the new Middle School under construction.

*If you aren't in over your head, how do you
know how tall you are?*

-T. S. Eliot