

Date: June 21, 2006

To: Mayor and Council Members

From: John Archocosky

RE: Activity Report

Once again, this past month was busy with all kinds of activities involving the continued development of our City in conjunction with the "Cool Cities" program.

Our recent trip to Lansing was very productive. The development team was able to meet with representatives from several agencies including the State Department of Treasury, the Department of Environmental Quality, the Michigan State Housing Development Authority, the State Historic Office of Preservation as well as the Michigan Department of Transportation. We also were able to meet with financial experts and developers from the private sector to discuss the reality of converting the Central School to a housing complex to serve our downtown area.

All of the meetings were very informative and gave us further direction in terms of several of our proposed projects but the greatest amount of time was devoted to the financing of the Central School. After hearing the various options available for moving this project forward, it became clear that creating affordable senior housing would by far be the most beneficial. Combining this with some higher end units on the second floor and even some commercial space on the lower floor will definitely make the project possible. The development team will continue to move forward with the direction that was given as a result of these meetings.

Mayor Soderbloom, Councilman Marcell, and I attended the Michigan Municipal League Region 7 meetings this past week in Sault Ste. Marie. As usual, the MML staff and the City of Sault Ste. Marie put together a very informative agenda which was relative to several aspects of the day to day operations here in Iron River. In addition to several guest speakers, the MML staff gave status updates on several pieces of legislation currently being considered which will have a direct impact on our City's operations and budgeting issues. Next summer the City of Iron River will be the host community for this event which brings together all the communities from across the entire U.P. Planning for this meeting will begin soon and will very likely include the participation from our local area

businesses. This will be a great opportunity to showcase our City as well as draw quite a few new visitors to the area.

All of our ongoing local construction projects are on schedule, in budget and moving along without a great deal of inconvenience to our citizens. The major ones have been recapped in the Pending Issues Report. Please review it and call me if there are any additional projects you would like me to include in the report.

Along with all the other day to day routine work, the DPW has been working very hard to keep the grass under control and has started cutting private properties that are in violation of the Noxious Weed Ordinance.

Our Police Department has also stepped up its ordinance violation activities in an effort to control blighting property. In visiting others it appears that the City of Iron River is not by itself in the problem of blight control. It seems that several other communities are using outside or contracted help to work on this problem. I hope to have an individual in place within the next week or two that will be able to devote a significant amount of time to this code enforcement activity.

During a recent visit to the Central School building it was obvious that individuals have been breaking and entering this property and have caused significant structural damage to the building's interior and exterior. The DDA has offered a \$500 reward for information which leads to the arrest of the individual(s) who were responsible for this damage. Our Police Department will be working very hard to find the perpetrator(s). Once convicted, full restitution for the damage will be sought.