



Grand Marais Open House #1

Questionnaire Results and Comments - June 4.2011



Lombard North Group
Planners and Landscape Architects

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GRAND MARAIS OPEN HOUSE #1 – QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

INTRODUCTION

A Questionnaire was handed out to participants at the June 4, 2011 Public Community Orientation Presentation of the Grand Marais Secondary Plan – *Creating a Destination Community*. As part of our presentation, community participants were provided a visual preference survey and a questionnaire to fill out. The visual preference survey included 42 images covering 7 community development themes including: Commercial Character; Grand Marais Main Street; Parking; Active Transportation Roadways; Signage; Neighbourhood Character; and Multi-family Character. The questionnaire included fifteen questions in a combination of multiple choice and short answer format. The questions were divided into four broad categories including: Profile of Respondents; Neighbourhood Amenities; Transportation; and Community Needs. For each question we summarize below the responses received to date.

Lombard North Group would like to thank all of the residents who participated at the Open House and provided our Planning Team with their feedback and comments. We look forward to meeting with you again on our next upcoming community workshop.

Community Participants

Total Number of Respondents = 78

Gender:

Male = 40

Female = 38

Age Group:

36-45 yrs.	46-55 yrs.	56-65 yrs.	66-80 yrs.	80+ yrs.
7	15	29	22	3

What community area do they come from?:

community area:	Grand Marais	Grand Beach	Communities with access to PR500	other
Year Round Residents =	32**	0	7	1
Seasonal Residents =	36	1	0	0
Total Residents =	68	1	7	2

**PR 500 = Provincial Road 500*

***Note: Two respondents indicated they are in transition to move within the community year round; therefore, were counted as year round residents.*

Number of Years Resided in the Community Areas:

Number of years resided	0-5 yrs.	6 to 10 yrs.	11 to 15 yrs.	15-20 yrs.	20+ yrs.
Number of respondents	9	7	7	5	48

Visual Preference Survey Results

During the Open House, the Planning Team provided an overview of regional changes, Grand Marais' role within the District and the community choices ahead. Included in this presentation was a series of themed images viewed by respondents for ranking on a scale of -3 (very negative) to +3 (very positive) with 0 being neutral. The images selected demonstrated a range of community development possibilities; some subtle, some more exceptional for Grand Marais. The results below show which of these images were *liked* (positive rating) and which were *not* liked (negative rating) by community respondents.

Theme 1: Commercial Character

What you **liked**?



What you **didn't like**?



Theme 2: Main Street Corridor

What you **liked**?



What you **didn't like**?



Theme 3: Parking

What you **liked**?



What you **didn't like**?





Theme 4: Active Transportation

What you **liked**?



What you **didn't like**?



Theme 5: Signage

What you **liked**?



What you **didn't like**?



Theme 6: Neighbourhood Character

What you **liked**?





What you **didn't like**?



Theme 7: Multi-Family Character

What you **liked**?





What you **didn't like**?



The following survey responses were suggested by respondents to the themes of Neighbourhood Amenities; Transportation; and Community Needs. The number (#) following each entry indicates the number of times each entry was suggested.

Do you feel that you have good access to community-wide recreational amenities?

Yes = 39, No = 35

Comments:

Pedestrian and bike trails

1. Would like to see more bike & walking trails connecting the beach with GM/GB (6)
2. We don't have a good trail system established
3. More benches for pedestrians

4. Connecting pathways to the beach, cottages and commercial areas
5. Need to complete trails
6. We should have dedicated bike/pedestrian paths that separate people from vehicles along the highway (it's not currently safe for youth)

Walkable community

1. A walk or bike ride will get you anywhere (2)
2. Takes a bit of effort to find it but it's available

Beach/Lake Access

1. Boat launch and marina (3)
2. Better beach access in Grand Marais and especially along Grand Marais Boulevard (3)
3. Beaches are being filled with rocks with no access and no trails
4. Poor access to boat ramp at Lake
5. Management of provincial park is negative + restricts public use of beach, trails
6. Block access to south spit
7. All accesses to the beach have been washed away
8. Need increased access to the lake in the winter for snowmobiles
9. Better (more) use of the lakeshore
10. The beach in Grand Marais is not well kept at all
11. It is very difficult to get to the water and the back beach is very dangerous
12. No public staircase to access beaches at Lakeshore Heights
13. We have to channel into the lagoon from the lake
14. Impossible to reach the beach at the south end of Grand Marais Boulevard
15. Squaw beach is ruined
16. No access to the east beach lake from Grand Marais

Cooperation with Grand Beach Provincial Park

1. Grand Beach Provincial Park limits access in winter to sand dunes and channel area
2. Because we border the park, we have to pay for access to their amenities

Other

1. Little or no accessibility for handicapped people (2)
2. More year-round facilities
3. Don't want any more amenities
4. Come for peace and quiet from City life

Are there recreational amenities at a community level that you would like to see?

Year-round Facilities

1. Wellness Centre which incorporates a variety of health and recreation opportunities (11)
2. Swimming pool for exercise (6)
3. Curling rink (2)
4. Focus on year-round amenities (2)
5. Recreate the dance hall experience (2)
6. Hockey rink
7. Community activity space for programming

Outdoor facilities/activities

1. Boat launch/marina (12)
2. Bike paths, trails and walkways connecting all areas of Grand Marais including the lake, beaches and picnic areas (11)
3. Golf course (5)
4. Outdoor sports fields (5)
5. Dedicated or restricted roadways for pedestrians and cyclists (2)
6. A park in GM for the children (i.e. swings, slides, climbing wall, sandbox) (2)
7. Bumper boats with water cannons
8. Inclement weather activity
9. More benches along Grand Marais Boulevard (shore line) (2)
10. No golf courses
11. Lawn bowling
12. Close Grand Marais Boulevard and make it into a green space. There are back lanes to access those cottages
13. Bird watching programme
14. Signs for trails
15. Park benches

Commercial Services and Amenities

1. More shopping
2. Hotel at the beach for all year visitors
3. Grocery store of lower cost and wider variety
4. Picnic areas
5. Coffee shops and meeting places
6. Fine dining restaurants
7. Encourage RRC to operate a culinary school in Grand Marais
8. Medical facilities (e.g. pharmacy)

Youth

1. Focus on developing recreational amenities and attractions for youth (6)
2. Safe playgrounds (2)
3. Splash park

4. Skateboard park for younger kids
5. Sports for children (teams)

Winter Activities

1. A privately funded ski and board winter rec centre. The land is suitable as previous studies have indicated
2. Ice pond for skating

What is your primary mode of transportation when in Grand Marais?

Primary mode of transportation	car	cycling	walking
Number of Respondents =	56	17	27

What would encourage you to use alternate modes of transportation?

Improved Connectivity

1. Paths (pedestrians and bikes) that link and interconnect different areas of the community (e.g. marsh, lake, beaches, commercial areas, etc.) (31)
2. More dedicated/separated biking/hiking trails (6)
3. Lit pathways at night
4. Sidewalks along main street
5. Pathways/sidewalks for all users and for all seasons
6. Benches along the lake
7. Better access to the lake with trails (pedestrians and cyclists)
8. We need greater trail access from cottage lot communities from the south to Grand Marais
9. A continuous trail along the lake to connect grand beach to each beach along the lake

Commercial Amenities

1. Central shopping/recreational area within walking distance (3)
2. Public washrooms
3. More bike parking areas

Transportation Considerations

1. Lower speed limit on highway 12 within GM and PR 500
2. Sharrows for bikes along Main Street
3. Closing certain roads (e.g. Grand Marais Boulevard)

4. Pave highway 500 to major subdivisions
5. Shuttle service

Where do you shop?

Location	Grand Marais	Winnipeg	Other*
Number of Respondents	22	38	26

** The other locations mentioned by respondents included Selkirk and Pine Falls.*

Are there commercial services that are not available in Grand Marais that you would like to see in the community?

Local Commercial Services

1. Quality grocery store (8)
2. Hardware store/lumber (8)
3. Farmer's market (June to August) (7)
4. Laundromat (4)
5. Car wash (3)
6. Meat shop. Fresh cuts of meat ready for BBQ (2)
7. Support businesses that exist
8. Marine supply store
9. Landscape supplies
10. Large commercial store
11. Good restaurants
12. Co-Op
13. Restaurants open later
14. Ice cream stand
15. Need a major upgrade to the shops and area
16. Interesting variety of shops
17. Walmart

Health and Wellness

1. Medical (i.e. Doctors and dentists, drug store) (16)
2. Swimming pool
3. Fitness centre
4. Recreational activities and spaces for children

Recreation

1. Library (4)
2. Sport complex
3. Bowling lane

Food Services

1. Bakery (4)
2. Coffee shop and retail built at the pedestrian scale that promotes walking and active transportation (4)
3. Restaurants open 7 days a week (3)
4. Tim Horton's/subway

Transportation Services

1. Taxi service/shuttle (2)
2. Bus shuttle from Winnipeg Airport

Tourism

1. Hotel (5)
2. Marina with houseboats (4)
3. Well established hotel-resort
4. Shopping amenities (Gimli is a good model)
5. Golf course
6. Gift shops/local handicrafts

Financial Services

1. Banking (10)
2. Insurance (5)

Year-round

1. Public washrooms and showers (2)
2. More Year-round restaurants

Other

1. Post office
2. None (2)
3. Not really. it's 30 minutes to stores.
4. Come to the beach for peace and quiet

How important are housing options other than single family cottages in GM? Rank in order of priority where (1) = High/ (2) = Medium/ and (3) = Low.

Housing Option	Ranked 1st	Ranked 2nd	Ranked 3rd
Seniors Housing	50	5	7
First-time homebuyers	25	17	2
Multi-family condos	15	18	21
Rental accommodations	32	13	14
Affordable housing	26	11	17
Other*	5	2	1

**The other options listed by respondents included high income trailer parks and detached condos.*

What are the community assets that you believe most important to the future of GM that should be enhanced by the community plan?

Environment

1. The improve the health of the lake (6)
2. The beach – clean up the water (2)
3. Maintain green and natural areas (2)
4. Controlling lake level damage, quality
5. beaches, forest, sand hills, marshes, lakes and streams
6. Shore line and cliffs
7. Back beach is eroding so badly

Cottage Character

1. cottage character
2. Low speed, quiet, pedestrian, cycling (get rid of atv's, snowmobiles from town streets, fireworks)
3. Trees
4. Lakefront could be developed like the forks

Community Character

1. Clean up Main Street and people's yards (cut grass and get rid of cars) (2)
2. Join both sides of main street together

3. Year-round services with public services
4. Change management of Grand Beach from Conservation to tourism
5. Provincial Park
6. A central shopping centre
7. Create a reason for people to move here
8. Geographic location (close to Winnipeg)
9. Making the area pedestrian friendly by slowing down the traffic
10. Create a central town (gateway to the Provincial Park)
11. Small community feel

Recreation Opportunities

1. Recreation and Wellness Centre (4)
2. Boat access to the lake (2) – south bay
3. Trail system for bikes and pedestrians (2)
4. Recreation that attracts youth (2)
5. Bike friendly roadways and paths
6. Build up the spit with picnic tables and area for swimming
7. Horse shoe and volleyball nets
8. Bike and walking paths along Grand Marais Boulevard
9. Bird sanctuary
10. Improve picnic areas and green spaces
11. Build a better playground
12. Fix up the park
13. Close Grand Marais Boulevard and turn it into a green space
14. Fishing areas

Infrastructure Services

1. Garbage pick up (7)
2. Twin Hwy 59 (3)
3. Fix up the public washrooms (2)
4. High speed internet (2)
5. Improve dikes and roads
6. Beautification projects, tree plantings, benches, marina
7. Slow traffic on residential streets
8. Sewer and water services
9. Public washroom on the way in to town for the public
10. A place for visitors to dump garbage instead of the back lane
11. Access road for businesses
12. Ensure we make affordable improvements to our infrastructure

Tourism

1. Hotel/conference centre near the beach for tourism (similar to Gimli) (6)

2. Improve beach and lake access (6)
3. Boutiques and galleries (2)
4. All season recreation destination
5. A winter play land
6. Better parking and rest areas
7. Lake Winnipeg / Grand Beach / Recreation (boating/kite surfing/bird watching/atv/snowmobile/cross-country skiing/paddling)
8. More commercial venues in the park
9. Amenities and attractions for tourists and day-trippers
10. Liquor kiosks on the boardwalk at Grand Beach like the rest of the civilized world.

Commercial Services

1. Grocery store
2. Medical centre
3. Restaurants
4. Encourage small businesses to establish

Demographic Pressures

1. Need to attract young families

Every community has challenges, what do you think are the key challenges the GM plan must resolve?

Building Partnerships

1. Work with the RCMP, Parks and Park Patrol to deal with visitors appropriately instead of in a negative way (this drives people away) (8)
2. Grand Marais needs to work with the Grand Beach Provincial Park (4)
3. Parks branch are so resistant to change (3)
4. Address the division and disconnect between Grand Marais and Grand Beach residents (3)
5. Work proactively with the Provincial government (2)
6. Working with the RM, provincial government, RCMP for a joint approach for moving into the future including involvement of Grand Beach Provincial Park officials
7. Changes must be made within the Provincial Park to include more commercial amenities (e.g. A hotel and other small restaurants beach side)
8. Need to work with Province and the RMs
9. Change!!! Connect Grand Beach and Grand Marais

Strengthening the character of the Community

1. We need a central commercial development area (3)
2. We need a consistent and quality design strategy (3)

3. Clean up the existing properties (e.g. garbage) (3)
4. Development on the east side of the lake as been slow. The reason is that there hasn't been a town centre. Grand Marais could become our town and regional service centre. The neighbouring RM of Alexander has no interest in regional development in our region.
5. What is our brand? What do we want to be known for? Build community around what you want to be known for and attract
6. Maintain the character of housing (i.e. small and compact cottage development)
7. Grand Marais does not have an identity
8. Push development to main street
9. Way too many big houses
10. Keep the simplicity of cottage life and nature while improving the beach area

Promoting year round Tourism

1. GM/GB must be world class
2. Public Washroom and showers
3. There are currently no accommodations or activities that create an environment for people to stay in the area longer than the day or weekend
4. Water sports that any other beach of this magnitude would provide
5. Make it more fun (carousel, entertainment facilities, horseback riding, etc)
6. Remove entrance kiosk to the park area
7. We need something to attract people to come and stay for a while vs day trippers which have now
8. Access to the lake summer/winter
9. Encourage day-trippers with activities such as shopping & restaurants as not everyone enjoys sitting on a beach. Gimli and Riding Mountain are good examples
10. Encourage winter use like skating (example: The Forks)
11. More promotion of the town similar to Gimli (shops, etc)
12. We need a definite plan to capitalize on the over 400,000 visitors to the park by providing ways and places for visitors to stay and spend.

Addressing the environment

1. Clean up the lake (12)
2. Need to stabilize the shores of the lake from erosion in Grand Marais (5)
3. Environment (2)
4. Garbage pick up (2)
5. Restrict commercial growth within the Provincial Park
6. We need to build up the whole back beach and not wait until it falls into the lake
7. Shoreline problems along Grand Marais Boulevard
8. Promote use of marshland conservation
9. Protect the marsh

10. Should implement By-laws that restrict pesticide use and other household toxins that affect the lake
11. Development needs to take into account the health of the lake and marsh
12. Heritage centre could be a world class education centre on the health of marshes
13. All this planning is for not if the lake issues aren't dealt with
14. People will stop coming to the beach and certainly people won't purchase homes here if you can't enjoy the main attraction (lake and beach) of the area

Changing Minds within the Community

1. Making information readily available for property owners for discussion, consultation and planning processes
2. Changing this community from a 'drop in' seasonal community to a year-round community with year-round benefits
3. Apathy
4. Convincing the people we have a beautiful area to be proud of which has to be respected by all of the people
5. Addressing the division between old time residents and newer residents
6. We need to attract younger professionals to the community and not drive them away
7. Residents who don't like change
8. Need to get momentum to encourage people to buy in. it is hard starting from zero (although the heritage centre is a start). Others will take pride and start to invest once a critical mass of improvements is realized.
9. Educating those who don't want anything to change
10. You have to convince the permanent residents of Grand Marais to want to better this community
11. The locals weren't at the meeting. There were no métis people there. How are we going to get them out?
12. I would like something to take part in to make us feel as part of the community, but not sure what type of activity

Infrastructure Services

1. Slow traffic within the community area (4)
2. More frequent road maintenance (2)
3. Transfer station to accept more refuse (i.e. larger furniture)
4. Grand Marais Boulevard needs fixing with top soil to pack down rd
5. Sewer and water (need to determine where and how)
6. Upgrade Main Street to 4 lanes.
7. Address the Traffic in the summer
8. Road access and transportation issues (highway 12 & 59)
9. Improve amenities at Grand Beach
10. Twin Highway 59

Financial Sustainability

1. Ensure that projects are financially sustainable
2. Affordable property taxation

Commercial Amenities

1. Commercial development is needed
2. Shopping is limited
3. Lack of medical facilities

Growth and Demographics

1. Need to attract more people to the area and more all-year residents (6)
2. Demographics - We need to attract more young families to the community (6)
3. Seasonal growth vs stable year round
4. We need seniors condo
5. Need to provide a reason for young people to stay here.
6. Perhaps some focus should be made at developing commercial around HWY 59 and HWY 12 junction to service all beach areas
7. Are we a community that wants young people or are we a seniors retreat?
8. A permanent trailer park community
9. Segregate seasonal and year-round residences
10. Completely opposed to attracting more people to Grand Marais