



Planning Commission

Staff Report

Vacation	Community Development Department	Date: 4/2/26
Statement of Issue:	Consider a recommendation to the City Council regarding the vacation of a street right-of-way within Grand Rapids Second Division.	
Background:	Community Development staff have initiated the process to vacate a municipal street right-of-way within Grand Rapids Second Division (at Blandin Beach). The legal description is: 6th Street NW right-of-way Adjacent to Blocks 8 and 9, Grand Rapids Second Division, Itasca County, Minnesota. The vacation is being requested to facilitate a DNR grant application for improvements – including a new building – that would sit in the current right-of-way. Please see the attached location map with area of proposed vacation shaded. The staff review committee have no concerns or objections regarding the right-of-way vacation. The staff review committee consists of the Engineering/Public Works Department, Community Development Department, Fire Department, Police Department, and the Grand Rapids Public Utilities Commission – electrical and water department managers. Minnesota Statutes 412.851 governs the procedures for vacating right-of-way (or a portion of) in a statutory city. Under this statute the City Council has the authority to vacate a public right-of-way on its own motion or through a petition of the majority of the landowners.	
Considerations:	When considering the vacation of public right-of-way, the Planning Commission must make findings of fact based on the attached list of considerations.	
Recommendation:	Staff recommends that the Planning Commissioners visit the site, review the comments submitted by the Review Committee, and review the relevant sections of the Comprehensive Plan. Prior to making a recommendation to the City Council to approve/not approve the vacation, the Planning Commission should make specific findings to support its recommendation and reference those specific findings in their motion to either approve or not approve the right-of-way vacation.	

Required Action:	Pass a motion forwarding a recommendation to the City Council for approval or non-approval of the proposed public right-of-way vacation. <u>Example Motion:</u> Motion by _____, second by _____ that, based on the findings of fact presented here today, and in the public's best interest, the Planning Commission does hereby forward to the City Council a recommendation to (approve) (not approve) the vacation of public right-of-way described as: <i>6th Street NW right-of-way Adjacent to Blocks 8 and 9, Grand Rapids Second Division, Itasca County, Minnesota.</i> <u>Contingent on the following stipulation(s):</u> • _____.
Attachments:	• Site map • Staff Review Committee Comments • List of the Planning Commissions Vacation Considerations • Staff presentation