

**PUBLIC WORKS & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Wednesday, November 4, 2009**  
**Minutes**

**Call Meeting to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m.

**Members Present**

Mayor Paul Skrede, Teresa Pendleton, Jon Monson, Public Works Supervisor Jerry Hudlow, John Menzel, Police Chief Cory Johnson, City Administrator Dana Young

**Weed Control Applications at City Parks**

Dana Young stated that due to periodic complaints from residents, Shelley Souers has done some research on chemical-free weed control at City Parks and has found that:

1. While a number of companies claim that they can apply chemical-free weed treatments, there are actually very few chemical-free organic applications that control weeds. The few organic options that are available cost 3 times that of regular weed control applications and are not nearly as effective.
2. The few organic options that are available include the spot treatment of weeds with vinegar and water. Also, corn gluten can kill weed seedlings (particularly crabgrass) by 60% but has little effect on dandelions.
3. The best method for controlling weeds is to use organic fertilizers to create a healthy lawn. This, combined with constant irrigation, is the best way to control the growth of weeds. Lawns that are not irrigated, such as our parks, will continue to get weeds particularly in June and July when the turf thins and weeds emerge.
4. Without constant irrigation, cities such as Deephaven, Chanhassen, Excelsior, Shorewood and Tonka Bay supplement organic fertilization with weed control applications.
5. Most weed control applications have been on the market since 1960 and are the most studied in terms of their effect on the environment and people. Since most weed control chemicals are diluted to ½ an ounce for 1000 square feet of lawn, applications dry very quickly (typically within a ½ hour) and once they are dry they don't pose any problems.

Dana Young stated that in light of the fact that chemical-free weed control applications are not particularly effective and are 3 times more expensive than regular weed control applications, it is very difficult to recommend going with chemical-free weed control applications at city parks.

Jerry Hudlow noted that there are periodic over-applications by Chemlawn that occur near the park trees that can stunt the growth of the leaves for a short period of time until the tree successfully absorbs the fertilizer.

Paul Skrede stated that he would like staff to meet with Chemlawn to discuss how they would propose to apply their applications so that it doesn't temporarily adversely affect the park trees.

Jerry Hudlow stated that Chemlawn could also possibly cut down on their concentrations. He added that he felt that the fertilizer concentrations also contributed to the additional growth of weeds in the pond.

### **Walden Beach Recommendations**

Dana Young stated that he met with Sarah Dale, 19350 Walden Trail, a couple of months ago at Walden Beach and she recommended the following items to help control winter traffic:

1. Keep the number of parked vehicles to the nine existing parking spaces.
2. Prohibit parking between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. (same as summer).
3. Use a sturdier snow fence to limit snowmobile access.
4. Install No Snowmobiling signs.

Police Chief Johnson suggested that the most effective of the four options would be to limit the number of parked vehicles at Walden Beach to the nine existing parking spaces.

### **Other**

Discussion was held concerning the installation of Holiday lights at Village Hall, potential future improvements to the Hwy 7 & Vine Hill Road intersection, the school zone and the results of a meeting that had been held between the Police Chief and Elementary School Principal Brian McGinley on potential improvements to the traffic flow at the Elementary School.

The Public Safety Committee meeting adjourned on a motion by Dana Young. Seconded by Cory Johnson. Motion carried 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

### **Engineering Proposal for the Village Hall Tennis Courts**

Alan Catchpool, with CEI Engineering, was present to discuss his proposal for providing engineering and inspection services on the reconstruction of the tennis courts at Village Hall Park in the amount of \$6,750.00.

He stated that he would propose to provide plans and specifications for Council review in February for a March or April bid letting. He stated that CEI Engineering has significant experience in tennis court maintenance, repair and reconstruction for the cities of Bloomington, Woodbury and Rochester.

Dana Young asked how many viable contractors would bid on this project. Alan Catchpool stated that there are around 6 experienced contractors who he expected to bid on this project but would anticipate as many as 12-15 bidders.

Discussion was held on prior engineering costs and services that had been used at Shuck Park.

Paul Skrede asked whether CEI Engineering would be responsible for developing a grading plan. Alan Catchpool stated that he would be responsible for the grading plan, which would be designed to achieve a 1% slope that is standard for a tennis court.

Paul Skrede asked whether CEI Engineering would also give recommendations on the different types of tennis court services for Council consideration. He stated that CEI could certainly do that but stated that the Village Hall courts would likely be either asphalt or concrete. He stated that a clay court would be prohibitively expensive.

Further discussion was held regarding CEI's proposed bid in the amount of \$6,750. Alan Catchpool stated that the fee is based on design services that are established at 4% of the project cost and on inspection services that are 5% of the project cost.

The Committee recommended obtaining cost information regarding the Shuck Park tennis court and on any design information that might be available on Greenwood's tennis court, which John Menzel noted was in excellent condition despite its age. Further discussion was held on the possibility of obtaining the engineer's recommendation on whether a full reconstruction of the tennis courts is warranted or a more limited reconstruction that would potentially be less costly.

### **Part-Time Snow Plowing Help**

Dana Young stated that Public Works employee Dick Jeurissen will have shoulder surgery on December 1<sup>st</sup> and is scheduled to off of work for two months. He stated that he and Jerry Hudlow have discussed this matter and options included:

1. Hire Scott Haas on a full-time basis to help plow snow and take over Dick's workload during his absence.
2. Hire Jay Menzel, John Menzel's brother, who has a CDL license, to work part-time for the City only during those times when snow plowing is needed.
3. Split the existing snow plowing routes between the available crew.

Paul Skrede asked if Dave Svoboda would be available to help plow as he has done in the past. Jerry Hudlow stated that Dave would likely help out, but may not be available to help during every snow fall due to other commitments.

The Committee recommended that Dana Young and Jerry Hudlow meet and interview Jay Menzel for the part-time position.

### **Other**

Jon Monson recommended repairing the Historic Deephaven sign located at the entrance to Village Hall.

Paul Skrede asked staff to confirm the height of the new cell tower.

### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Jon Monson, seconded by Dana Young. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 3:03 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Public Works & Safety Committee on Wednesday, January 6, 2010 will be cancelled due to a conflict with the meeting date.