

PUBLIC WORKS & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, May 5, 2010
Minutes

Call Meeting to Order

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

Members Present

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

Members Absent

None

Goose Control at Thorpe Park

Discussion was held regarding the suggestion that had been made by Councilmember Crockett and Wheaton at the May 3rd Council meeting on the possible use of the Police Department to remove geese at Thorpe Park.

Chief Johnson stated that the existing ordinance would have to be modified to permit the discharging of firearms within the city limits.

Further discussion was held on the potential public reaction to witnessing the police shoot geese at Thorpe Park. Mayor Skrede suggested that this could potentially turn into a public relations nightmare for the city.

Jerry Hudlow noted that the number of geese at Thorpe Park have been very light so far this year.

It was the general consensus of the Committee that the modification of the city ordinance and the potential adverse public reaction greatly outweighed the potential benefits of having our Police Department shoot geese at Thorpe Park. The Committee further recommended working with the Canadian Goose Control to concentrate their trapping efforts at Thorpe Park.

Spring Cleanup Day Summary

Dana Young provided a brief summary of the May 1st Spring Cleanup Day. He stated that the number of residents disposing of their junk at City Hall seemed to be about the same as the last two years but it appeared that there was a significant drop-off in the number of residents that participated in the curbside compost program.

Trail / Roadway Signage

Discussion was held regarding the appropriate signage to advise trail users that they must yield to traffic.

Paul Skrede noted that one of the main problems is that some cities treat trail crossings as pedestrian crosswalks and require vehicles to stop, while other cities require trail users to yield to traffic. He stated that this lack of uniformity on trail and roadway signage causes great confusion to users of the trail.

Discussion was held regarding the current signage at the trail crossings at Minnetonka Blvd and Linwood. Chief Johnson noted that Three Rivers Park District currently has a small stop sign and a small sign that states "Trail Users must Yield to Traffic". Chief Johnson stated that he would prefer to see a much larger sign with that same language posted at each intersection to provide adequate notice to trail users. He noted that he saw a larger sign in St. Louis Park on the Dakota Trail

Paul Skrede stated that it would be helpful to take a picture of this sign so that it could be actually shown as an exhibit in the City Resolution supporting better trail signage. He offered to take a picture of the sign if the Chief could determine where it was located on the Dakota Trail.

Bonne St. James

Bonne St. James was present to request that the City:

1. Water the park trees more frequently.
2. Spray Thorpe Park for Japanese Beetles.
3. Discontinue mowing the Thorpe Park ditches so it can serve as a wildlife sanctuary and to help filter groundwater into the pond.
4. Tone down the lighting at the Thorpe Park pavilion and the playground.

Dana Young stated that the primary reason for mowing the ditch has always been due to concerns that the high grass was blocking the flow of stormwater into the pond. He stated that staff will be meeting with the City Engineer tomorrow and can ask him if he feels that the flow of stormwater is adversely impacted by the growth of grass in the ditch. He stated that if the City Engineer determines that long grass within the ditch is not blocking the flow of water, the City would likely not object to keeping the ditch unmowed.

Other

Chief Johnson noted that the traffic monitor has been installed at 4940 Highcrest to address a complaint from Ron Kalmen regarding excessive speeding in that area.

Jon Monson commended the public works staff for repainting the Deephaven Police sign located at the entrance to Village Hall.

Motion to adjourn the Public Safety Committee meeting by Chief Johnson. Seconded by Teresa Pendleton. Motion carried 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Tennis Court Improvements

Dana Young presented recent quotes and information pertaining to potential costs on improving the Village Hall tennis courts. He stated that he is still waiting on cost information from Tennis West on the use of Armor Crack Sealing.

Haralson Park Improvements

The Committee discussed ways to address potential drainage problems at Haralson Park. Dana Young stated that John Menzel had suggested converting the existing trail sand and rock that has washed across Haralson Park into a path. The Committee generally felt that this would be the least expensive and most aesthetic way to addressing the natural drainage through Haralson Park.

Motion by John Menzel to recommend the installation of a path over the natural drainage way through Haralson Park to address the continual drainage problems. Seconded by Jerry Hudlow. Motion carried 5-0.

End of Dale Street

Dana Young stated that he would like to get together with Jerry Hudlow to review a complaint from Andrew Mahoney regarding the condition of the street at the end of Dale Street.

Other

Paul Skrede recommended that the red water stain on the City Hall building be cleaned off. In addition, he requested that staff obtain quotes on re-siding, repainting and spot painting City Hall. He further requested obtaining a quote on the install of a water softener or filter system to remove the red colored water in the public works building and in the outside water system.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Dana Young, seconded by John Menzel. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Public Works & Safety Committee will be held on Wednesday, June 2, 2010.