

PUBLIC WORKS & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, April 7, 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 potential methods to control geese at Thorpe Park. Dana Young stated that goose control has been identified as an issue in both the 2010 Park Survey and by the Park Committee. He stated that the Park Committee has recommended controlling geese by either hiring a contractor to spray a chemical that acts as a goose repellent or to grow long grass around the pond that discourages geese from using the pond.

Paul Skrede recommended a couple of possible solutions to the goose problem at Thorpe Park. He suggested that the Public Works crew provide enhanced maintenance of the walking path by using the brush attachment and the water truck to clean off the goose feces and to also utilize the services of the Canada Goose Control Program to remove the number of geese at Thorpe Park.

Watershed District Concerns regarding Snow Storage

Dana Young stated that he received an email from Becky Houdek, a staff member with the Minnehaha Watershed District, who stated that she had received a complaint from a concerned citizen about the snow that is dumped at Robinson's Bay Beach and the potential impact to the lake. She stated that while the Watershed District doesn't have any regulations to specifically address this issue, she stated that she was concerned that the amount of dirt, salt, and other pollutants present in the snow could have a negative impact on water quality in the bay.

Discussion was held regarding the potential impact to the lake from the pile of snow at the Robinson's Bay parking lot. Jerry Hudlow stated that he felt the residual effect of the melting snow has been minimal and the crew cleans up any dirt or rocks after the snow pile melts. He also noted that public works uses much less concentrations of sand and salt on the parking lot.

Paul Skrede recommended thanking Ms. Houdek for her concerns but to note that the snow pile at Robinson's Bay Beach is useful for discouraging snowmobile traffic and is necessary for the storage of snow.

Park Survey Results

The Committee reviewed the comments in the 2010 Park Survey. The Committee recommended the following action:

- Relocate the Police sign within the planter at the entrance to Village Hall to make it more visible.
- Repaint all city signs, where needed.
- Consider the construction of storage areas for containing garbage containers at Thorpe Park and Village Hall Park.

Paul Skrede suggested that if Thorpe Park is considered as a potential site for communication towers, the carrier could be requested to use the tower for a light pole for the hockey rink and the carrier could be required to reconstruct the warming house for use as a combination warming house and carrier equipment shed.

Further discussion was held on the possibility of instituting a Buckthorne Removal Program at Thorpe Park. Jerry Hudlow stated that the Public Works crew could cut down the Buckthorne at Thorpe but do not currently have anyone on staff with a chemical application license to spray the stumps to prevent the Buckthorne from re-growing.

Bus Stop Request

Dana Young stated that John & Suze Muchow, 4209 Heathcote Road, have requested the installation of a bus stop being placed at the intersection of Heathcote Road and Minnetonka Blvd. He presented an email from Suze Muchow for Committee review.

The Committee recommended that instead of revising the current agreement with Metro Transit regarding the number of Bus Stop signs in Deephaven, it was recommended that the Muchow's consider using the current Bus Stop one block further south at the intersection of Park Avenue and Minnetonka Blvd or simply informally request that the bus driver stop at Heathcote Road each morning and afternoon.

Grace Lutheran Church

Dana Young stated that he has been contacted by Karen Jensen, representing Grace Lutheran Church, who has offered to provide 10-12 volunteers to provide community service to the City of Deephaven on May 8th as part of their Saturday of Service program. Discussion was held regarding potential projects for the volunteers.

Load Limits

Dana Young stated that the State will be lifting load limit restrictions on April 12th. The Committee recommended lifting load limit restrictions in Deephaven on that same date.

Other

Dana Young reported that he has been informed by Reliakor, the street sweeping contractor, that they will begin sweeping on April 26th instead of April 19th as was originally scheduled.

Paul Skrede noted that HCMC will be spending more time at the Deephaven Fire Station largely due to the efforts of Police Chief Johnson.

Motion to adjourn the Public Safety Committee meeting by Dana Young. Seconded by Chief Johnson. Motion carried 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Playground Improvements at Thorpe Park

Discussion was held regarding the replacement of the three existing playgrounds at Thorpe Park with a new playground structure.

It was the general consensus of the Committee that the Public Works crew could remove the existing wooden playground structure. However, the Committee questioned the necessity of removing the other two playground structures and recommended that the Park Committee provide an accurate site plan that accurately depicts the proposed location of the new playground equipment on the existing site that would show its proposed location with and without the two other existing playground structures.

Other

Dana Young stated that he has asked Ray Finley, of Tennis West, to provide an analysis of the need and cost of using the new armor crack sealing at each of the City's three tennis courts.

Discussion was held regarding the seal coating rock that had inadvertently been plowed into a number of resident's lawns in the Pines. The Committee recommended clearing the rock on a request basis.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Dana Young, seconded by Jerry Hudlow. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 3:06 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Public Works & Safety Committee will be held on Wednesday, May 5, 2010.