

PUBLIC WORKS & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, October 1, 2008
Minutes

Call Meeting to Order

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

Members Present

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

Mock OSHA Report

The Committee reviewed a Mock OSHA Report conducted by SafeAssure, the City's safety coordinator.

The Committee noted that there are much fewer deficiencies noted in the report than in past Mock OSHA inspections. Jerry Hudlow noted that many of the deficiencies have already been corrected.

Police Chief Johnson stated that the one Police Department related item that has yet to be completed is the recommendation for the purchase of an eyewash station to be located within the gun cleaning station. He stated that a portable eyewash station would cost approximately \$204.

Motion by Paul Skrede to recommend the purchase of a portable eyewash station in the amount of \$204. Seconded by Cory Johnson. Motion carried 6-0.

Request for the Planting of Trees on Minnetonka Blvd

The Committee discussed a request from Bryan & Yi Ellis, 19900 Andover Place, to plant some trees or shrubs along Minnetonka Blvd to provide their home with better privacy, light protection and to improve the aesthetic value of their property.

Yi Ellis stated that she and her husband are new to this area and are unsure what type of plant or shrub would best provide screening for their house.

Paul Skrede stated that the City had approved a request several years ago for a Cottagewood Road resident to plant trees within the street right-of-way and the approval was conditioned on the fact that the resident would be permitted to plant trees at their own risk and cost.

Dana Young asked the Committee if they had any objections to the request provided that the City stipulate the location of the trees, provide advice on the general type of trees to be planted and that the resident would plant the trees at their own risk and cost.

Dana Young suggested that Jerry Hudlow meet with Bryan & Yi Ellis to recommend specific tree species and the appropriate location of the trees or shrubs. Jerry Hudlow stated that he would like to bring an arborist from a nursery along with him to help with tree suggestions.

Motion by Dana Young to recommend approval of the request from Bryan & Yi Ellis, 19900 Andover Place, to plant trees or shrubs within the right-of-way along Minnetonka Blvd to provide better screening and privacy for their residence. Seconded by Paul Skrede. Motion carried 6-0.

Traffic Count at Deephaven Avenue & Easton Road

The Committee reviewed the traffic monitor reports on Deephaven Avenue & Easton Road to help provide better information on the volume and speed of traffic on Deephaven Avenue. The information would also help to determine whether the request to install a stop sign on Deephaven Avenue at the intersection of Deephaven & Lake Avenue was warranted.

Police Chief Johnson noted the traffic monitor showed that there were approximately 500-600 vehicles per day on Deephaven Avenue at Easton Road and approximately 5-8% seemed to be traveling in excess of the posted 35 mph speed limit.

Dana Young stated that the number of vehicles exceeding the speed limit appears to increase from the Deephaven Avenue / Lake Avenue intersection to the Deephaven Avenue / Easton Road intersection, which seems to indicate that a number of vehicles were gradually increasing their speed as they drove north on Deephaven Avenue. However, he noted that the overall number of speeding vehicles remained fairly small.

Discussion was held regarding the original request to install a four-way stop sign at Deephaven Avenue & Lake Avenue. Dana Young stated that he would be concerned with a stop sign on Deephaven Avenue at this intersection due to the limited sight lines for vehicles traveling north on Deephaven Avenue and suddenly having to slow down for the stop sign. Police Chief Johnson stated that it would also set a precedent and it would be difficult to prevent stop signs at every intersection.

Motion by Cory Johnson to recommend denying the request to install a four-way stop sign at the intersection of Deephaven Avenue and Lake Avenue due to this not being an ideal location due to the curve in the road near the intersection of Deephaven Avenue and Lake Avenue. Seconded by Jerry Hudlow. Motion carried 6-0.

Mutt Mitt Complaint

Discussion was held regarding a complaint from David Paulson about the number of mutt mitts that are ending up in ponds rather than garbage containers. Due to the fact that none of the Committee members could recall seeing a problem with mutt mitts ending up in the Thorpe Park pond, the Committee decided that no action was needed on this request.

Complaint regarding the Feeding of Crows

Discussion was held regarding a complaint that a resident was feeding excessive amounts of crows at the intersection of Therese Street and Highland Avenue. The Committee recommended that the Police Chief discuss the complaint with the resident.

Other

Paul Skrede stated that he would like to look into the possibility of shortening up the median to allow for the better flow of traffic at the Vine Hill & Hwy 7 traffic light. Police Chief added that he would like to see a change in the duration of the light on Hwy 7 as well. He stated that the traffic light only provides a 23-second interval for traffic to turn onto Hwy 7.

Paul Skrede stated that he would like to look into the possibility of installing a four-foot walkway along Ridgewood Road from Eastwood Road to Vine Hill Road.

Jerry Hudlow voiced concern about a tree blocking traffic visibility at the Rutledge & Deephaven Avenue intersection and a monument blocking visibility at the Hummingbird & Minnetonka Blvd intersection.

Motion to adjourn the Public Safety Committee by Dana Young. Seconded by Cory Johnson. Motion carried 6-0. The Public Safety Committee adjourned at 2:18 p.m.

Project Updates

Brief updates were given on the following projects:

- Fairhomes Storm Sewer Project – completed, with final payment held to ensure that all the restoration work has been completed to everyone's satisfaction.
- Highland Avenue – Widmer Construction completed the project on September 6th.
- Hamilton Avenue – Widmer Construction is scheduled to begin the project by the end of September.
- Haralson Park Project - Arteka Companies began construction on September 19th.

2009 Sewer, Water, Storm Water & Marina Projects

The Committee reviewed the 2009 Utility Project List to determine the schedule of projects for next year.

Sewer Fund

Sewer repairs are scheduled in 2009 at an estimated cost of \$70,000. Repairs will be based on the observations made by the City Engineer of the televised reports taken this year.

Water Fund

No projects are scheduled. Water hydrants in the Pines and Minnetonka Blvd are operational and were repainted this year.

Storm Water Fund

Azure / Northome / Rutledge Storm Sewer Main Extension Phase I is planned for 2009 at an estimated cost of \$159,000. Phase II is scheduled in 2011. The Committee recommended beginning Phase I in 2010 rather than 2009.

Marina Fund

The reconstruction of the St. Louis Bay Docks is planned for 2009 at an estimated cost of \$90,000. Discussion was held on whether the public works crew could remove the old dock this fall. Jerry Hudlow stated that he doubt if the public works crew would have the time necessary devote to removing the existing dock.

Walking Path request along Northome Blvd

Paul Skrede asked if there was enough room on the north side of Northome Blvd to install a four-foot wide path off of the bituminous surface of the street. Jerry Hudlow stated that there were several areas where there was less than four feet in width.

Dana Young confirmed that Public Works still intended to expand the shoulder along the north side of Northome Blvd this fall. He stated that the project was waiting on the City Engineer's recommendation.

Zamboni Garage

Discussion was held regarding the construction of a garage onto the Sand/Salt Shed for the storage of public works vehicles to accommodate the parking of the Zamboni in the Maintenance Garage. Jerry Hudlow stated that he would like a garage addition with the following dimensions:

- 24' x 30' (width of 24' & depth of 30')
- 18' wide door / 12' in height

Jon Monson stated that he would try to provide a design of a garage addition in time for a fall construction.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Dana Young, seconded by Jerry Hudlow. The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Public Works & Safety Committee will be held on Wednesday, November 5, 2008.