

PUBLIC WORKS & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, June 4, 2008

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, John Menzel, Police Chief Cory Johnson, City Administrator Dana Young

Members Absent

Jon Monson, Teresa Pendleton

Recreational Fires (Doak Davis)

Doak Davis, 3566 Leroy Street, was present to complain about the number of recreational fires and chimney fires conducted by his neighbor. Mr. Davis stated that he has had an issue with his neighbor for the last three years concerning the recreational fires and chimney fires that they have on their property. He stated that his neighbors have had a recreational fire for 12 out of the last 16 days and continually use green treated wood, which results in very smoky fires. He stated that it is not unusual for his neighbors to have recreational fires from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. on weekends. He stated that these continual fires have resulted in a number of medical issues including migraines and was concerned that it was causing some damage to a portion of his house.

It was the general opinion of the Committee that these recreational fires were excessive and the Police Department needed additional requirements to better control recreational fires. The Committee reviewed some information from the city of Champlin that stated that recreational fires can be canceled or terminated if the winds are too strong, conditions too dry or if there are complaints from nearby citizens of the smoke going into their personal residence or for medical reasons.

Motion by Dana Young to recommend revisions to the recreational fire provisions of the City Code by incorporating language from the city of Champlin and from guidelines developed by the Deephaven Police Department. Seconded by Paul Skrede. Motion carried 5-0.

Doak Davis asked if there would be any consideration given to controlling the number of chimney fires conducted by his neighbor. Dana Young stated that this issue was not so easily controlled by the City and he would have to consult with the City Attorney on whether there was any action that could be taken by the City.

Drainage Ditch Mowing at Thorpe Park (Bonne St. James)

Bonne St. James, 18390 Minnetonka Blvd, was present to request that the public works crew discontinue mowing the ditch through Thorpe Park so that the ditch could continue to be used as a bird sanctuary. She stated that letting the grass grow in the ditch helps to filter the water and provides a much cleaner pond. She noted that this year, after mowing the ditch, the pond is now filled with leaves and should be dredged.

She stated that it would be very helpful if the Committee reviewed a presentation by the Watershed District, which would dispel much of the misinformation about the use of the ditches through Thorpe Park. She also complained that she witnessed the Chemlawn apply weed killer during a rainstorm.

Dana Young stated that his only objection to the use of the storm water ditch as a bird sanctuary is that the primary purpose of the ditch is for storm water and discontinuing the mowing of this ditch simply slows down the flow of water.

Paul Skrede stated that he would be willing to visit with the Watershed District to discuss their opinion regarding mowing the ditches.

Bonne St. James stated that the new park lights are too bright, are unnecessary and give her migraines. She stated that the lights should be kept off until midnight.

Paul Skrede stated that he disagreed with her assessment that the lights are not needed and have heard from a number of people who support having the lights at the park.

DEC Pedestrian Crosswalk Improvements

Discussion was held on what should be the first step in enhancing the safety of the pedestrian crosswalk improvements at Deephaven Education Center.

Police Chief Johnson suggested that the first step should be designating the area from Vine Hill Bridge to Cottagewood Road as a school zone. Paul Skrede agreed.

Motion by Police Chief Johnson to recommend that the City Council designate the area from Vine Hill Bridge to Cottagewood Road as a school zone. Seconded by Paul Skrede. Motion carried 5-0.

Emergency Warning Sirens

Discussion was held on the replacement of the emergency warning sirens at Thorpe Park and Village Hall. Police Chief Johnson stated that he will meet with the company that inspects our sirens to get their recommendations on their condition.

Jerry Hudlow noted that he recently had the public works crew repair the platform on the siren at Village Hall.

The Safety Committee adjourned on a motion by Dana Young, seconded by Cory Johnson. Motion carried 5-0.

John Sweeney, Street Vacation Request

John Sweeney, 3865 Deephaven Avenue and Tom Goodrum, MFRA Consulting, were present to discuss the possible vacation of the unimproved portion of Park Avenue. John Sweeney stated that the primary benefit of the street vacation is that it could give him the possibility of increasing the total square footage of his property to 40,000 s.f., which would give him enough square footage to subdivide his lot or perhaps more readily allow him to construct an addition onto his existing house.

Discussion was held on whether the Committee would be willing to recommend the vacation of this unimproved portion of Park Avenue. Jerry Hudlow stated that he would have to check to see if there were any utilities in this portion Park Avenue.

Dana Young stated that he couldn't see any compelling reason why the City wouldn't be agreeable to vacating this unimproved portion of Park Avenue, particularly since it seemed pretty unlikely that there were any utilities in this portion of this unimproved street.

Later in the meeting it was learned that John Sweeney's lot is part of a drainage easement, which would not enable it to be subdivided. For this reason, it was unlikely that John Sweeney would need to request a vacation of the unimproved portion of Park Avenue.

St. Therese Drainage Culvert Request

The Committee reviewed a request from Ed Smith, St. Therese Parish Business Administrator, for the City to place a protective cover over a drainage culvert located in the southeast corner of the Church property. Jerry Hudlow stated that he didn't have an issue with purchasing a protective cover over the drainage cover.

Motion by Dana Young to recommend the purchase and installation of a protective cover over the city's drainage culvert located in the southeast corner of the St. Therese Church property. Seconded by Jerry Hudlow. Motion carried 4-0.

Zamboni Garage

Paul Skrede provided a brief review of the Council's discussion concerning the construction of a proposed Zamboni Garage. He stated that the Council was receptive to constructing an addition to the Sand/Salt Shed in order to free up space for the Zamboni in the public works garage as long as the additional space was justified.

Dana Young suggested that Jerry Hudlow provide his recommendations on the proposed design of the addition to the Sand/Salt Shed. He stated that once he has this information, he could move forward with final design.

Project Update

Dana Young stated that the preconstruction meeting on the 2008 Fairhomes Storm Sewer Project would be held later today at 4:00 p.m.

Brian Schmidt, 19150 Highland Avenue – Discussion was held regarding the storm sewer project at 19150 Highland Avenue. Dana Young stated that the City Engineer is recommending that the existing storm sewer system located at 19150 Highland Avenue should be replaced due to its age and location within the driveway of Brian Schmidt. The City Engineer stated that the storm sewer grate should be moved east of the driveway to accommodate the property owner's construction of his driveway and to replace an aged storm sewer system.

Motion by Paul Skrede to recommend bids on the reconstruction of the storm sewer system at 19150 Highland Avenue. Seconded by Dana Young. Motion carried 4-0.

Chris Wilhelm, 4880 Highcrest Drive – Dana Young stated that the City Engineer reviewed the storm water drainage problems that were presented to the Committee by Chris Wilhelm. The City Engineer stated that he didn't feel the City caused the drainage problems and Mr. Wilhelm should make his own improvements to alleviate the runoff problems.

Hill Park Improvements

Discussion was held regarding proposed Hill Park Improvements. Dana Young stated that improvements at Hill Park have been included within the 2008 Park Improvement Fund Budget in the amount of \$3,000.00.

Paul Skrede stated that he would put together a list of improvements that he would like to see at Hill Park.

City Hall Entranceway Improvements

Discussion was held regarding proposed City Hall Memorial Park Improvements. Dana Young stated that improvements at City Hall Memorial Park have been included within the 2008 Park Improvement Fund Budget in the amount of \$5,000.00.

Paul Skrede stated that he would meet with Jerry Hudlow to review potential improvements to the grassy area near the rear door of City Hall. Dana Young stated that he would get some input from City staff on the proposed improvements.

City Hall Sign Landscaping Improvements

Discussion was held regarding proposed City Hall Sign Landscaping Improvements. Dana Young stated that these improvements have been included within the 2008 Capital Improvement Fund Budget in the amount of \$3,500.00.

The Committee decided that the current landscaping around the City Hall sign were adequate and further landscaping improvements were not needed.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Dana Young, seconded by John Menzel. The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Public Works & Safety Committee will be held on Wednesday, July 2, 2008.