

PUBLIC WORKS & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, September 3, 2008
Minutes

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:40 p.m.

Members Present

Mayor Paul Skrede, Jon Monson, Public Works Supervisor Jerry Hudlow, John Menzel, Police Sergeant Chris Whiteside, Teresa Pendleton, City Administrator Dana Young

Unleashed Dogs in Parks

Discussion was held regarding the current ordinance pertaining to the leashing of dogs in parks. In reviewing Section 510 on Dog Regulations, discussion was held on two specific items in the ordinance, including:

1. A dog is considered "at large" if it is off the premises of its owner and is not (a) controlled by a leash of six feet or less in length, (b) at heel beside a person having custody of the dog and obedient to that person's commands, or (c) within a vehicle or similar confinement.
2. Dogs are prohibited to enter any public beach and any playground or ball field of any park with the exception of Thorpe Park where dogs are allowed only on the walking path on a leash.

The Committee thought it was interesting that the ordinance permitted dogs to be unleashed at the heel of its owner and that dogs were permitted in parks as long as they didn't enter onto any playgrounds or sports fields.

The Committee recommended stronger enforcement of the dog regulations, particularly at Thorpe Park, but decided to postpone any further recommendations requiring the leashing of all dogs until a later date.

Coyotes

The Committee reviewed a memo from Police Chief Johnson on coyotes within the city. Police Sergeant Whiteside noted that there had been approximately 7 complaints issued regarding coyotes and two reports of cats killed by coyotes.

Paul Skrede noted that the options for removal of coyotes as addressed in the Police Chief's memo were not particularly effective and the foot traps seemed to be more of a hazard for local dogs and cats than coyotes.

The Committee recommended taking no action at this time regarding coyotes and to continue to monitor the situation. It was further recommended that staff contact other area communities on what they were doing regarding coyote complaints.

Traffic Monitor Reports: Azure, Lake & Virginia

Dana Young stated that Rich Reynolds (3720 Virginia Avenue) and Lisa Harry (18750 Lake Avenue) have requested a stop sign to be installed on Monaltrie Avenue at the intersection of Monaltrie & Azure to help slow down the speed of vehicles through this area. He stated that Lisa Harry has also

requested a four-way stop sign at the intersection of Deephaven Avenue and Lake Avenue and that Jeff Diebel, 3635 Virginia Avenue, has requested a dead end sign to be installed at the end of Virginia Avenue near the entrance to the cul-de-sac.

The Committee reviewed the traffic monitor reports on Azure & Monaltrie, Deephaven Avenue & Lake Avenue and at the end of Virginia Avenue and recommended the following action:

Azure & Monaltrie – The Committee recommended that the amount of traffic and the speed of the vehicles at this location simply did not warrant the installation of stop signs at this intersection.

Deephaven Avenue & Lake Avenue – The Committee recommended that the traffic monitor be installed on Deephaven Avenue near Easton Road to provide better information on the volume and speed of traffic on Deephaven Avenue.

Virginia Avenue cul-de-sac – Motion by Paul Skrede to recommend the installation of a dead end sign subject to a letter sent to the residents of the cul-de-sac stating that the sign would be installed for location purposes only and not to encourage the use of the cul-de-sac as a playground. Seconded by Dana Young. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion to adjourn the Public Safety Committee by Dana Young. Seconded by Teresa Pendleton. Motion carried 7-0. The Public Safety Committee adjourned at 2:32 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 is scheduled to begin the project on September 4th.

Hamilton Avenue – Widmer Construction is scheduled to begin the project by the end of September.

Haralson Park Project - Arteka Companies is scheduled to begin the project on September 8th.

Hill Park / Village Park

Discussion was held regarding proposed improvements to Hill Park & Village Park.

Main Beach Improvements

Dana Young stated that City Engineer David Martini has reviewed the drainage problem at Deephaven Beach and recommended the installation of a curb on the east side of the bituminous path to control water runoff across the beach area.

Paul Skrede stated that he was concerned with the aesthetics of the curb and preferred improvements at Deephaven Beach that included:

- Cutting slightly into the hillside to provide for more level ground and continuing with the wooden wall across the hillside. Drain tile would be installed to pipe water to the north and south thereby substantially reducing the erosion of the southern portion of the beach area.
- Remove the boardwalk, which is already beginning to warp.

- Remove the bituminous pathway and replace with decorative pavers.

Discussion was held on presenting this concept to the Park Committee for their review.

Bees, Buckthorne & Garlic Mustard at Thorpe Park

Jerry Hudlow reported that several complaints had been received about bees nesting in the Thorpe Park and Shuck Park playground area. He stated that he called his contact person with Critter Control and was told that there isn't anything that can be done with these bees as they are non-aggressive ground bees that seasonally nest in the sand.

Discussion was held regarding Buckthorne & Garlic Mustard growing at Thorpe Park and Burton Park. Paul Skrede stated that he would be supportive of the City trying to manage these invasive species on city property. He stated that he would like to run this issue past the Park Committee to see if they might be interested in having the city purchase several buckthorne removal machines for the public or Adopt-a-Park volunteers to use.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Dana Young, seconded by Jerry Hudlow. The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Public Works & Safety Committee will be held on Wednesday, October 1, 2008.