

PUBLIC WORKS & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, June 13, 2017
Minutes

Call Meeting to Order

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

Members Present

Paul Skrede, Police Chief Cory Johnson, Teresa Pendleton, and City Administrator Dana Young

Also Present

Tony Jewett (enters at 2:10 p.m.)

Discuss Cleveland Park Request

Dana Young stated that since we last discussed this request, the Committee asked those residents to mark those trees that they would like to have removed with red ribbon and those residents to mark those trees that they would like to keep with green ribbon. He stated that the City has also asked their tree inspector to inspect the trees and mark with yellow ribbon those trees that should be removed because they are dead or dying, or could potentially interfere with utility lines, or pose a safety hazard. He stated that his own personal recommendation would be for the City Council to approve for removal those trees marked by the City tree inspector.

Paul Skrede stated that he, Steve Erickson, Public Works Foreman John Menzel met yesterday with the City Arborist to review the trees along Hamilton Avenue. He stated that he and Steve just let the City Arborist do his thing and was somewhat surprised when he marked several trees that had no ribbons at all due to the Arborist's concern that these trees posed some sort of threat to utility lines or from falling into the City street. He stated that he hoped all the residents here today received his email informing them of the trees marked by the City Arborist and asked if anyone had any questions.

Shawna Melvin (3430 Hamilton Avenue) asked what type and number of trees were marked for removal by the City. She stated that she thought she saw about ten or so trees marked with a yellow ribbon.

Paul Skrede stated that he didn't count the number of trees marked with a yellow tape. He provided the reasoning behind why a number of trees marked in yellow ribbon were proposed to be removed.

Lynn Stetler (3580 Hamilton Avenue) noted that the trees marked by the City did not include buckthorn and wondered if we even need a total of the trees to be removed.

Paul Skrede stated that we could include a count for those regular trees to be removed and for those buckthorn trees to be removed.

Lynn Stetler noted that there are also several Mulberry trees in this area and felt that they should be removed since they are such messy and dirty tree.

Dana Young stated that he would check into Mulberry trees and whether they are considered, along with buckthorn trees, to be noxious trees.

Al Farha (3475 Hamilton Avenue) asked if this would also be the opportunity to remove noxious weeds growing in this area, such as garlic mustard and Creeping Charlie, and replace them with hardy, low maintenance alternatives.

Paul Skrede stated that Steve Erickson did not think there was a lot of support in his neighborhood for planting new grass down in this area.

Les Arndt (3455 Hamilton Avenue) asked how the City would deal with the ongoing maintenance of this area, particularly with invasive weeds.

Dana Young stated that the City would intend to keep a closer eye on this park area and make it a higher maintenance priority.

Paul Skrede stated that he would love to get suggestions from area homeowners on potential future improvements.

Dana Young stated that both Al Farha and Shawna Melvin have done a great job in keeping the City informed on maintenance issues at the park but noted that the City will have to do a better job on keeping a closer watch on this area.

Al Farha stated that we can all agree that buckthorn in this area is a problem, particularly as you go up the trail. He asked if the City would be interested in having volunteers assist with this effort.

Paul Skrede stated that he would be pleased if the City would address the appearance along the street and volunteers could assist with the trail, with coordination from the City.

Dana Young noted that there are a number of Eagle Scout projects underway in the City and perhaps one of them could assist with buckthorn removal.

Lynn Stetler asked how the buckthorn was going to be removed, either by clear cutting or would they be removed properly.

Dana Young stated that he would like a longer term solution on the buckthorn.

Paul Skrede asked if the residents would mind if the buckthorn were chemically treated.

Franz Santander (3430 Hamilton Avenue) stated that the City would have to be mindful that they are all on private wells.

Paul Skrede asked if there would be any resident who would object to Dana Young's recommendation to remove those trees marked by the City tree inspector.

Shawna Melvin expressed concern regarding the precedent of removing trees to improve the view of residents.

Paul Skrede stated that he knows what Shawna is saying but thinks that this park area has been neglected for a long time. He stated that the City has turned down other requests in the past from residents wanting the City to remove a tree in a park that was interfering with their view. He stated that the City reviews each request individually, just like the City Council does with variances. He stated that the Council has no interest in benefitting one property owner over another when it comes to an issue pertaining to park land.

Dana Young stated that he doesn't expect everyone to agree with every tree marked for removal by the City tree inspector but the process conforms to what the City has done elsewhere by following the recommendations of the tree inspector.

Shawna Melvin stated that a lot of people use Cleveland Park and didn't know how to determine what improvements should be made at a natural park.

Motion by Dana Young to recommend that the City Council follow the recommendations of the City tree inspector to remove those trees marked in yellow ribbon and to research the best methods for the removal of buckthorn, garlic mustard, creeping Charlie, and Mulberry trees through the advice and recommendations of the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District. Seconded by Teresa Pendleton. Motion carried 4-0.

Storm Damage

Discussion was held regarding the response of Public Works and the Police Departments to the storm damage that occurred last Sunday morning. Discussion was held on the need for better barricades and to determine who needs to properly set the barricades in place. Chief Johnson stated that we currently only have cones and police tape to try to barricade streets or downed trees and power lines. He stated that we could really use flashing barricades. Further discussion will be held on the City's response to the June 11th storm when Public Works Foreman John Menzel is available.

Fishing on Public Property

Discussion was held on some recent problems with kids fishing from the boat docks and from the Deephaven Beach swimming docks. Paul Skrede stated that he heard from a resident that some kids were fishing from the swimming dock at Deephaven Beach and were reluctant to move to the fishing pier. He stated that when they finally moved to the fishing pier, they still continued to fish in the swimming area.

Dana Young noted that the Park Committee recently met with a couple of residents who requested permission for people to fish off of the municipal docks. He stated that the Park Committee recommended that the City Council approve fishing from both the Carson's Bay and St. Louis Bay boat docks.

Paul Skrede stated that he would not be interested in having people fish from the municipal boat docks as there are areas that lend themselves to fishing and areas that do not.

Chief Johnson stated that he agreed and this fishing issue has been a problem for quite some time as the Police have kicked people off the docks for years but there isn't an ordinance in place that prohibits fishing from swimming docks or from the boat docks. He stated that it isn't uncommon to find kids fishing from off of someone's boat on the City's boat docks.

Paul Skrede stated that there should not be any fishing from the boat docks or from swimming docks and it should only be allowed at the fishing pier, the Burton Park dock and from the canoe launch.

Chief Johnson stated that his officers usually allow fishing on the boat docks until the first boats come onto the docks. He stated that people come from all over to fish here in Deephaven. He stated that an ordinance should be adopted that clarifies specific locations for fishing so that the appropriate signage can be posted.

Motion by Paul Skrede to recommend that the City Council consider the adoption of an ordinance that would describe fishing and non-fishing areas in Deephaven. Seconded by Chief Johnson. Motion carried 4-0.

Other

Dana Young stated that he expected William Beiber (19680 Lakeview Avenue) to be present today to discuss his request for reimbursement for the repair of his private sewer lift station. He stated that he did not agree with Mr. Bieber's request for the following reasons:

1. We could find nothing in the house file at 19680 Lakeview Avenue or at 19094 Minnetonka Blvd that would indicate that the private lift stations were or were not the responsibility of the City.
2. There are a number of private lift stations in Deephaven. We have never repaired or paid for the repair of these private lift stations for the past 20 years.
3. Several of these private lift stations are located in the basement, we would have no way to access these lift stations to determine if they need to be repaired.
4. These private lifts stations are strictly for the benefit of the private homeowner to pump their own wastewater into the City's sewer system. They are needed because the elevation of the home is below the elevation of the sewer main. They do not benefit any other sewer customer but that individual customer.
5. The City's sewer rates do not take into account the repair and maintenance of private lift stations.

He stated that further discussion on Mr. Bieber's request could be held at a future meeting.

Dana Young stated that he also expected Julie Baustert (20795 Linwood Road) to be present today to discuss her concerns regarding construction hours. He stated that this item might come up as well at a future meeting.

The Public Safety Committee adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Discuss Thorpe Park Project

Paul Skrede provided the following summary of a meeting held with him, Kent Carlson and Steven Streeter's architect regarding the warming house / restroom:

- The architect recommended building a new warming house / restroom instead of adding on to the existing warming house
- It was recommended that the bathrooms be located along the trail side
- The windows are proposed to be 24"-30" off the ground to provide parents the ability to see the ice rinks
- It is hoped that windows will be provided at no cost
- They are attempting to keep the roof line with dormers and vaulted ceilings
- The entranceway will be changed with another door added on the north side accessing the hockey rink
- The proposed mechanical will have a storage room with hose bids on the exterior
- The overall size of the new warming house will be larger than its current footprint
- The warming house will have the capability to be locked and the restroom will likely be open all night, with motion sensor lights.

Tony Jewett recommended outlets in the interior and rubber floors for both the warming house and restrooms.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Dana Young, seconded by Paul Skrede. Motion carried 2-0. The meeting adjourned at 3:27 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Public Safety & Public Works Committee will be held on Tuesday, July 11, 2017.