

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

August 13, 2013

Minutes

Call Meeting to Order

Chairman John Flynn called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

Members Present

John Flynn, Leslie Gustafson, Patrick Regan, Jim Elvestrom, and City Administrator Dana Young

Members Absent

Cindy Webster and Scott Ferguson

April 9, 2013 Minutes

The Committee approved the April 9, 2013 minutes on a motion by Jim Elvestrom, seconded by Leslie Gustafson. Motion carried 4-0.

Presentation on Emerald Ash Borer (Jeff Hafner)

Jeff Hafner, with Rainbow Treecare and a Deephaven resident, was present to provide information concerning the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). He stated that he is a consulting arborist with Rainbow Treecare and helps cities develop EAB management plans.

He stated that trees provide a significant benefit as a shared asset to the entire community but require maintenance and care. He stated that trees could be considered part of a city's infrastructure.

He stated that EAB poses an enormous threat to native ash trees and will kill every ash tree unless they are protected. He stated that the cost of prevention is far less than the cost of tree removal or replacement. EAB was discovered in 2000 and it is very difficult to determine if a tree is infected until the entire canopy is almost gone. He stated that the MN Department of Natural Resources encourages treatment or removal of ash trees.

He stated that Deephaven is currently 11 miles from the infected zone. He stated that it would be difficult to develop an inventory of public trees in Deephaven because the variation in street widths would make it difficult to determine the ownership of trees along the boulevard. He stated that it would be very helpful to determine ownership of boulevard trees particularly when the ash trees start dying.

He stated that many other trees require protection, particularly during construction activities. He noted that the presence of trees adds greatly to help prevent storm water runoff. He added that trees are a real benefit and require an investment.

Jeff Hafner stated that this concludes his discussion and stated that he would be willing to volunteer his services to help the City in any way.

John Flynn asked if Jeff could estimate the number of ash trees in comparison to the rest of the tree population. Jeff Hafner stated that ash trees make up 10-20% of the tree population.

Further discussion was held on treatment options and cost. Jeff Hafner stated that it cost approximately \$10 per inch to treat a tree for EAB every two years.

Robinson's Bay Plan (Mark Haarman)

Mark Haarman was present to discuss his concerns regarding the growth of buckthorn, which he considers to be a significant threat to the urban forest. He stated that buckthorn takes over the root growth of other trees and emits a poison that has been found to adversely affect aquatic wildlife. He stated that he works with the Forestry Department with the University of Minnesota on buckthorn issues. He offered to head up a volunteer group to remove buckthorn on public property in Deephaven. He stated that he has worked in the past for the Chimo East and West Associations in the removal of their buckthorn near the entrances to their neighborhoods and charges a much lower hourly rate than regular tree service companies.

He stated that his second interest in attending tonight's meeting is to see if City would be interested in installing a canoe and kayak rack at Robinson's Bay Beach.

Leslie Gustafson stated that her only concern regarding a canoe or kayak rack is that there is no designated space to launch canoes or kayaks at Robinson's Bay Beach and noted that there are a lot of kids down at this beach.

The Committee thanked Mr. Haarman for his interest in volunteering to lead a group of interested citizens in removing buckthorn on city property.

Park Reports

Committee members provided their monthly park reports:

John Flynn – stated that he would prefer the color of the refurbished platform courts to be green and blue.

Jim Elvestrom – stated that he wished we had purchased a second bench for the tennis court at Thorpe Park and wondered why we don't install tennis court net cranks to enable the public to adjust the nets.

Park Committee Candidate

The Park Committee interviewed Jonathan Weiss, 18870 Rutledge Road, for the vacant Park Committee position.

Motion by Patrick Regan to recommend the appointment of Jonathan Weiss to the Park Committee for a term of office expiring on February 2015. Seconded by Leslie Gustafson. Motion carried 4-0.

2014 Capital Projects

Discussion was held regarding 2014 Capital Projects, including:

- Construction of a pickleball court
- Shuck Park renovations (\$35,000)
- Construction of a new dock for Deephaven Beach (\$35,000)
- Purchase of shade structures

Other

Dana Young stated that he had received a request from Tom Kaul about whether the city would be interested in the donation of a triangular piece of property located next to Northome Road and the abandoned railroad right of way in the Deephaven Park area. The Committee indicated that they had little interest in this property for park purposes.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Leslie Gustafson, seconded by Patrick Regan. Motion carried 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Park Committee will be held on Tuesday, September 3, 2013.