ANOKA
REAL. CLASSIC.

Public Services

Cemetery, Engineering, Parks and Public Works

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE ANOKA PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

DATE: Tuesday, April 19, 2016

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: Anoka City Hall – Council Work Session Room
2015 First Avenue North, Anoka

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. APPROVE MINUTES
3. OPEN FORUM
4. NEW BUSINESS
   a. Waterfowl Management Policy
5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
   a. Development Opportunities Update
   b. Anoka Station Park Update
   c. Docks/River Update
   d. Castle Field Update
6. MISCELLANEOUS
7. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING
   a. Park Reservation Policy Update
   b. Performing Arts Policy Update
8. ADJOURNMENT

If unable to attend, please call the Parks Department at 763-576-2980.

Auxiliary aids for handicapped persons are available upon request at least 96 hours in advance. Please call the Human Resource Coordinator at 763-576-2740 to make arrangements.

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

AGENDA ITEMS

4.a

WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT POLICY

CITY OF ANOKA PARKS & REC

STAFF REPORT

ITEM – 4. A

DESCRIPTION – Waterfowl Management Policy

BACKGROUND – The MN Department of Natural Resources has changed their permitting process and policies regarding goose management practices that involve trapping geese, egg addling, or other management practices typically performed at area golf courses. The DNR is requiring all public entities that request permits for such activities establish a goose management policy. Rather than be specific to only geese, staff felt that the policy should be inclusive of waterfowl in general to help address issues we may encounter with ducks/geese in the parks as well.

SUMMARY – The attached policy is a draft, and based on review, comments, and approval by the Park Board will be submitted to the City Council on Monday May 2, 2016 for final approval. Green Haven staff plans to hire a contractor this spring to do either goose removals or egg addling. This is not an annual activity. Hogan, Golf Superintendent Mike Bruals' labradore retriever, has been fairly successful in temporarily displacing geese from the course but more aggressive techniques are being requested for 2016.

Waterfowl Management Policy

Background
Although most people find a few ducks or geese acceptable, waterfowl populations can quickly get out of hand and rapidly increase in residential, golf and park areas because 1) habitat is abundant, 2) waterfowl have a high reproductive potential and a long life span, and 3) mortality from hunting and other predation is low.

Waterfowl live in particular areas that meet their needs for food, reproduction and security. Geese are grazers that feed primarily on short grasses such as those found in parks, lawns and golf courses. They need feeding sites with open vistas and access to lakes and marshes to escape danger. Golf courses, parks and large lawns next to ponds, rivers, marshes and lakes often provide all of these ingredients. Docks, yards and beaches provide secure "loafing" sites for preening and sunning.

Waterfowl are extremely prolific. Ducks can reproduce at 1 year of age and geese at 2 or 3 years of age. A pair of adult geese raises an average of about 4 young per year. At normal reproduction and mortality of 10 years, a pond or lake with 3 pairs of adult geese can multiply to nearly 50 birds within 5 years and to over 300 in just 10 years.

Objectives
The objectives of the waterfowl management plan are:
1. To maintain waterfowl flocks at levels that will not reduce the use of picnic areas adjacent to rivers or ponds.
2. To prevent waterfowl from damaging the turf on the golf course.

Management Options
1. Feeding Bans. The City of Anoka does not allow feeding of waterfowl in the parks. Well-fed domestic "park ducks" and geese serve as decoys, encouraging wild birds to congregate in unnaturally high concentrations. Wild waterfowl are capable of finding their own food and will survive without handouts from people.
2. Harassment. The use of harassment techniques to discourage waterfowl from using golf courses, picnic areas and athletic fields for feeding, nesting, or flocking. Harassment includes the use of dogs, vehicles, streamers, and noise-makers. Harassment helps move waterfowl to areas outside of the golf course or park property. Nesting waterfowl cannot be harassed without a federal permit.
3. Hunting. The MN Department of Natural Resources prescribes hunting as the most effective means to control waterfowl populations. City of Anoka currently allows waterfowl hunting in the designated Waterfowl Hunting Zone on the Mississippi River at Kings Island during the waterfowl hunting season. In addition, the City has issued special permits for waterfowl hunting in the Anoka Nature Preserve as part of the Waterfowl for Warriors hunting project for Veterans sponsored by local law enforcement. Special hunts on the golf course using an experienced organization may be a viable option.
4. Landscaping. Waterfowl avoid using areas where plants obstruct their view of the surrounding area. An unmowed shoreline buffer of native grasses and wild flowers that grow 20-30 inches tall in a strip 20-30 feet wide, a hedge 30" tall, or dense strip of trees and shrubs along the shoreline can discourage goose visits. Native grasses generally remain standing

even after winter snows have compacted most other grasses. Use of a S-shaped footpath (3-4 feet wide) to provide access from the yard to the shoreline keeps sight lines blocked.

5. Nest Management.
    a. Destruction. Were feasible, Canada Goose nests are to be destroyed by egg addling. This technique is used at the golf course under special permit from the MN Department of Natural Resources.
    b. Trapping and Removal. Capture and removal of flightless, mixed age groups of geese from the golf course during the peak use time. The use of contractors or trained staff to capture, remove and dispose of geese from the golf course is an option. Such removal requires a permit from the MN Department of Natural Resources.
    c. Goose Harvest. Selective and occasional lethal removal of individual geese from the golf course is an effective complement to pyrotechnic shells and other redistribution or hazing methods. Lethal removal of geese by means of shooting geese on an occasional basis is a management option. Such removal would need to be detailed as part of a removal permit application through the DNR Fish & Wildlife Division, and goose removal and disposition would need to be conducted according to the specific permit conditions. Such conditions would include the number of individuals and the specific information about the methods to be used in their harvest and disposition.

Public Information

The waterfowl management policy will be available to the public on the City of Anoka website and upon request. When feasible and practical, advance notice will be provided to citizens for activities that might be considered alarming if prior notice and explanation is not provided.

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

AGENDA ITEMS

5.b

ANOKA STATION PARK UPDATE

CITY OF ANOKA PARKS & REC

STAFF REPORT

ITEM – 5. B. Anoka Station Park Update

BACKGROUND – After the March Park Board meeting staff met with Kimley-Horn to review the concept and has made the following changes to the preferred plan. Changes include:

- Redesign of the parking lot to accommodate snow storage. This location will continue to be the snow storage location for removals from downtown. The new design provides better access for litter removal once the snow has melted but also achieves the parking needs, accommodating canoe/kayak trailer parking and traffic circulation.
- Relocation of the playground to an area outside of the conservation easement and in closer proximity to potential development and current VOA facility, as well as providing better pedestrian access for the Grant/6th Ave neighborhood.
- Bathroom Facility/shelter proposed next to playground
- Removal of secondary trails shown on the plan

Staff will be meeting with representatives from the DNR, Army Corps of Engineers, and Kimley-Horn on Tuesday April 19 to review the concept. I will be able to provide you with a status update from the meeting Tuesday evening

SUMMARY – Next step will be to determine permitting needs, funding and possible phasing plan for future construction.