

UNAPPROVED

CITY OF BLAINE
ANOKA COUNTY, MINNESOTA
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP
Thursday, February 16, 2017

6:30 p.m.
Cloverleaf Farm Room
10801 Town Square Drive

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ryan at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor Tom Ryan, Councilmembers Dave Clark, Andy Garvais, Wes Hovland, Julie Jeppson, Jason King, and Dick Swanson.

ABSENT: None.

Quorum Present.

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager Clark Arneson; Planning and Community Development Director Bryan Schafer; Finance Director Joe Huss; Police Chief/Safety Services Manager Chris Olson; Economic Development Coordinator Erik Thorvig; Public Services Manager Bob Therres; City Engineer Jean Keely; Assistant City Engineer Dan Schluender; Recreation Manager Jerome Krieger; Communications Technician Roark Haver; Senior Engineering Technician Al Thorp; and City Clerk Catherine Sorensen.

3.1 Discussion on Parking at Lakeside Commons Park (Beach).

Public Services Manager Therres stated last year the City received no parking requests from three different neighborhoods around Lakeside Commons Park. The common complaint was that people were parking in their neighborhoods and then walking to the park to use the beach. Staff reviewed a map showing the no parking requests.

Public Services Manager Therres explained one of the issues with placing parking restrictions is that it also affects the residents' ability to use on-street parking for family events like birthday parties and graduations during the times that parking restrictions are in place. In one neighborhood, the residents requested no parking from the City Council and after it was put in place, a portion of the original area signed another petition requesting the removal of no parking restrictions, citing conflicts with parties and graduations.

Public Services Manager Therres indicated other neighborhoods want signs posted that state "No Beach Parking"; however, these signs are very difficult to enforce and would require more time and effort on the Police Department to monitor. Another suggestion by residents living in the area is to cease charging non-residents for parking in the parking lot at Lakeside Commons Park. Currently the City allows residents with a parking permit to park in the lot for free. The permits are free to city residents; non-residents pay \$5.00 per day or \$25.00 per year to obtain a parking permit. The City nets about \$13,000 a year in revenue through parking fees.

Public Services Manager Therres commented that while no direct studies have been done, Park and Recreation Staff believe the existing parking lot does not fill up except for 2 or 3 days per season. The beach is open from when school is out in early June until Labor Day, from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm each day. The City Council forwarded the requests and the parking issues to the Park Commission for discussion. The Park Commission discussed this at their August Park Board meeting. The Park Board is recommending that more effort be put into advertising that parking at Lakeside Commons Park is free to residents and to consider removing the parking fee at Lakeside Commons Park.

Councilmember King asked how much of the traffic in the neighborhood was individuals just trying to avoid paying the entrance fee. Public Services Manager Therres estimated that 90% to 95% of the vehicles parking on the streets in these neighborhoods were avoiding the parking permit fee.

Councilmember Hovland questioned the status of the commercial lot adjacent to the park. Public Services Manager Therres reported all lots adjacent to the park had been developed and could not be used for additional parking.

Councilmember Clark discussed the potential of registering a family of cars versus a single car. He believed this would allow families greater flexibility when using the beach. He explained the beach was drawing people from outside the community and liked the idea of having the lot policed. He suggested the City offer a reduced rate for those that carpool to the beach and for college/high school students.

Councilmember Swanson agreed it was important to have an attendant at the parking lot for safety purposes.

Councilmember Hovland questioned if the open area within the park could be used for 20 additional parking spaces. Public Services Manager Therres indicated this area of the park was used for drainage and could not be used for parking.

Councilmember Jeppson stated she felt adding technology to the parking situation would only increase costs for the City. She supported "No Parking" signs being posted in the neighborhoods as requested. She explained she could support a reduced rate for college/high school students.

Councilmember Hovland recommended the fees remain the same and supported only a certain number of people be allowed at the beach given the limited number of parking spaces. Staff thanked the Council for their input on this topic.

3.2 Continued from Previous Workshop – Site Access Discussion for Commercial Parcel at 105th Avenue/Radisson Road NE.

Planning and Community Development Director Schafer explained this item was previous discussed by the City Council at their February 9th worksession meeting. He reviewed the location of the proposed left-in entrance and requested the Council provide staff with direction on how to proceed. It was noted representatives from Kwik Trip were in attendance.

Councilmember Clark asked how the north and south sides of 105th Avenue would be impacted. Planning and Community Development Director Schafer reviewed the proposed design plans for 105th Avenue.

Councilmember Clark questioned if a convenience use were to locate at this corner if they would also have access to Radisson Road. Planning and Community Development Director Schafer stated this could be a possibility.

Councilmember King inquired if the City was still considering purchasing the adjacent parcel to assist with improving access to this parcel. Planning and Community Development Director Schafer reported staff was still in conversation with the property owner and was exchanging numbers for a purchase price.

Further discussion ensued regarding access along 105th Avenue and how a potential hotel would impact traffic in this area.

Councilmember Clark expressed concern with how traffic backs up along 105th Avenue when soccer was in session. He feared how westbound traffic leaving Kwik Trip would add to this congestion.

Assistant City Engineer Schluender explained he has been working on this 105th Avenue project since it began. He provided further comment on the access points and roundabouts.

Councilmember Swanson questioned how the City would proceed if the State funding did not come through for this project. Assistant City Engineer Schluender stated it would be a waiting game until May when a decision was made. He explained staff was working with Finance Director Huss on a potential bonding project.

Councilmember Clark stated for the record that he could support the left-in for Kwik Trip.

Scott Tiegan, Kwik Trip representative, appreciated the Council's discussion. He stated this area of the City was underserved and he appreciated the Council's support. He described how the site would be accessed by fuel and grocery trucks. He explained he was very interested in cleaning up this corner of the City.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

The Workshop was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Tom Ryan, Mayor

ATTEST:

Catherine Sorensen, CMC, City Clerk
Submitted by TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.