

**MINUTES
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

OCTOBER 6, 2015

Mayor Jeff Thompson called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. Council members present were Kay McDaniel, Jean Soine, Neil Herzberg, and Donovan Mayer. Others present were Renee Eckerly, City Administrator; Ron Mergen, Public Works Director; Jennifer Welling, Administrative Assistant/Zoning Specialist; Chuck DeWolf, Bolton & Menk, Inc.; Ellarry Prentice, Press; JoLyn Lindquist, Social Media Specialist; Dick Johnson, John Liestman, and Kevin Farnum.

STARRY STONEWORT INFESTATION/AIS – VETERANS PARK LAKE ACCESS

Eckerly reported that both she and Mergen were confronted regarding the closing of the Roy Cromwell access (Veteran's Park access) as the Regional Park access is not handicapped accessible. Tom's landing is not a good landing and Paynesville Township has recessed their meeting to further discuss this and for the City Council to re-consider their previous motion on closing the Veteran's Park access. If the Veteran's Park access would be re-opened; improvements would not be made to the Regional Park, but rather money used at the Veteran's Park access including the cost of a porta toilet and extension to the landing. DNR is scheduled to close the Hwy. 55 access tonight or tomorrow morning with Veteran's Park to follow. The City has concerns with the infestation getting into the beach area. Paynesville Township has committed to help financially if it reaches the beach. If Veteran's Park access re-opens all other access would be closed until the water freezes and will re-open in the spring.

Farnum stated that the Koronis Lake Association (KLA) would financially help the City repair the Veteran's Park launch. Mergen estimated the Veteran's Park repairs to be about \$2,500.00.

There was some discussion on the decision the Council made last week and to reverse it or not. To minimize the use of the lake; as it's an inconvenience to the people and may create a hardship, but may be the right decision to prevent the spread of AIS. It's the City's job to protect the beach; once it's gone the City can't get it back.

There was some discussion regarding the treatment and what it would do to the plant and fish life.

Farnum state that the Koronis Lake Association wants an access that all can use and only one access. DNR could have closed the lake, but did not. This is the DNR's first time ever to take this type of action.

The Council further discussed their responsibility to protect its natural resources; including Veterans Park and the beach. Handicapped individuals can find others to help them. AIS is terrible and any amount of money will not get it removed once the beach is infested. The City does not want it at the beach in the first place. There has to be other ways to solve the problem.

Liestman commented that it's not just getting boats off the lake. Persons also want to use the lake for fishing. If there is one access there is more control. If there are 2 accesses we have nothing.

Motion was made by Thompson to rescind the decision to close the landing at Veterans Park. Seconded by Soine.

Farnum stated that the Township made three motions:

1. One launch remain open at Veterans Park; close all others
2. If Veterans Park closes; keep Tim Adams landing open and park on the road
3. Keep Regional Park & Tim Adams landing both open

There was some discussion on changing the hours for AIS inspections at the lake.

The motion passed 3:2 (Thompson, yes; Soine, yes; Herzberg, yes; Mayer, no; and McDaniel, no).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:49 p.m.

Renee Eckerly, City Administrator