

June 15, 2009 Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

Present: Deb Anderson, Kelly Fleissner, Christine Penney, Brian Allen, Margi Preus

Absent: Ethan Perry, Jim Larson, Rick Gitar

Meeting called to order

April minutes approved

Meeting was not called to order in May; there were no minutes taken at the May meeting and there was not a quorum.

Reviewed the discussion from the May meeting about language in ordinance and questions about portions being recommended for ordinance, policy or specification

Forester's Report - Kelly

- budget cuts—unknown at this time
- Friends of the Park, potential for tree pruning help etc.
- Kelly will contact city attorney for an update on what's going on w/ordinance

Sky Harbor Airport

- discussion about the alternatives laid out as presented by Jim Larson who is our rep on the Sky Harbor Airport committee. (copied from Jim's email below)

I. I have the final scoping document for the Sky Harbor Airport/Pines issue. Most of the alternatives dealing with rotating the runway in various ways have been eliminated as the sediment soundings indicated unstable subsoil. If they try to reconstruct the runway over dredge fill it will likely slump in time.

The alternatives that will be considered in the EA are as follows:

1. No action which would result in loss of airport license and closure of runway. Only sea plane base could remain.
2. Reduced runway length to 2,600 feet and extend to NW. This would only impact about 7 trees within the SNA but would impact 528 trees within the airport (city) property nearest the runway approach. This is the preferred alternative.
3. Same as above but runway would be rotated within existing high ground. This reduces impact to only 2 trees within the SNA and 161 within the airport (city) property. The added expense here would be in reconstructing the runway configuration in addition to extending it to the NW.

- Kelly suggests that a field trip be set up so people can actually see the impact
- question about why the runway can't be built on dredge when the supposition is that the current runway was built on dredge spoils in the first place.

EAB discussion

- Kelly reported that the EAB found in St. Paul may be a best case scenario—limited area, discovered early, 59 trees removed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50.

next meeting July 21