

Minutes
Hazard Mitigation/ River Use Commission
Waverly Civic Center
7:00 pm, October 15, 2013

Attendance

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| Commissioners: Schloemer-Present Turnball –Present Jacks – Present Nielsen –Absent Engel –Absent Schroeder –Present Neuendorf –Present | Staff: C.E. Cherry –Present C.A. Jones –Present Liaison: C.C. Lieb –Present Mayor Brunkhorst –Absent | Guests: Steve Main Kip Ladage Brain Schoon Chris Triplitt Mike Bonser Richard Pursell Dan Britt Pete Lampe Fred Waldstein Duane Liddle Randy Tatroe Tim Bradford Mark Reinhardt Wil Kurtt Troy Miller John Campbell |
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Approve Agenda

Motioned - Turnball, seconded - Jacks

Approve Minutes:

Motioned - Schroeder, seconded - Jacks

Questions/ Comments

- Guests were present to speak about the proposed “no wake zone” and concerns about its impact. Notes from discussion are below in Unfinished Business.

Unfinished Business

- **“No Wake Zone”** – Guests shared their thoughts on a “no wake zone”. Waldstein started the conversation noting safety is a big concern with the increased number of canoe/kayak users on the river in the same area many motor boats frequent. Erosion is also a concern along the riverbank. Waldstein shared pictures with the group of his riverbank. He and other landowners along that stretch of river had proposed the idea of a “no wake zone”, wondering if that would help with erosion by cutting speeds of motor boats, while keeping paddlers safer, too. Campbell stated that he has spent many years enjoying the river. He feels bank erosion is up to property owners and should be addressed on an individual basis. Safety is also considered, as it always has been. Campbell feels that boaters have policed actions on the river on their own without issue. Kurtt stated some kayakers get out at the cul-de-sac for convenience, not only because of safety concerns like others had stated may be the case. Britt lives along the river and has noticed erosion as a result of high water events. He is not in favor of a “no wake zone” because it would discourage use of the river. He wants to encourage river use for all. He notices a lot of wildlife, even with motor boat traffic. Chief Pursell stated the Waverly Police Department does not get contacted very often about safety issues on the river. Mike Bonser answered questions about the DNR’s role in establishing a “no wake zone”. To apply to establish a “no wake zone”

the start and end would need to be indicated and reasons for the “no wake zone” would need to be stated. The DNR would then look at the application to see if the needs are addressed and compare the situation to other similar areas. In the 30 year history of enforcement on rivers, there has been a very low need to address issues, usually 1-2 per year. A “no wake zone” can be enforced by any officer in the state with jurisdiction in the area. Tatroe also lives along the river and is a member of the ski club. He feels that since 2008, the number of boaters is down. A “no wake zone” would deter users even more and bottle neck them into a shorter segment of river. Erosion is an issue but he feels landowners need to take initiative on prevention. Miller moved to the area for recreation on the river. He stated his family likes to congregate with others on the large sandbar just up river from the boat ramp at Waverly Light & Power. Lampe lives along the river on Cedar Lane. He knows erosion is an issue and it always will be. Lampe noted how well the dam worked in the high water events earlier this year. With the new dam, water stays within the banks longer but the velocity increases greatly. The Commission was engaged with all guests and their comments. A big question for everyone is how much erosion is caused by boat traffic and how much is due to high water. Safety on the river for all users is a big concern. Cherry talked about bank stabilization and noted individual landowners can get information from the city about ways to prevent erosion. The Commission feels it is more important to look at education for safe river use and erosion prevention practices rather than go forward with implementing a “no wake zone”.

New Business

- **Hazard Mitigation Plan Update** –Brian Schoon from INRCOG spoke about updating Waverly’s Hazard Mitigation Plan to be incorporated into Bremer County’s plan. Waverly’s plan will need updated in 2014. The plans are good for 5 years. Iowa has switched to multijurisdictional plans so Waverly can make amendments and ask to be included with the county plan. The city would then adopt the county plan. The county plan expires in 2017. After it expires, all jurisdictions included will gather and provide updates for resubmission. Schoon provided handouts of parts of the current plans for Waverly and the county. Turnball motioned that the commission send support to City Council to be part of the multijurisdictional plan of Bremer County. Neuendorf seconded, voted 5-0. INRCOG will set up work sessions and agendas.

Tabled Items – None

Project Status Report

- **Water Trail and Signage** – Cherry stated Kevin from INRCOG dropped off signs for bridge warning of the dam. A portage sign will go up on the left of the river near City Hall. Plans are in the works for the new access at the north end of Kohlmann Park.
- **Dry Run Creek Improvements** – Cherry said the formal application will be reviewed by Council. The Iowa Flood Mitigation Board will make some awards. The project has been broken into three phases. This could allow for better opportunities to receive funding and grant money in the future. Phase 1 is set for 2015 from 4th St SW to Bremer Ave. Phase 2 is set for 2020 going north of Bremer Ave. Phase 3 is set for 2025 and runs from 4th St SW to the river. Phase 3 will be the most expensive.
- **AmVets Riverbank Restoration Project** – This project is finished. With seven high water events earlier this year, no damage was sustained to the riverbank restoration.

- **Cedar River LOMR** – The letter of map revision has been submitted. In November, FEMA should be reviewing it. The new map will show the change in the flood plain and should remove 100-150 homes and businesses from the floodplain.

Subcommittees

- **River Use** – No report
- **Planning and Zoning** – No report
- **Soil and Water Conservation District** – No report
- **Community Action Plan** – No report

Group Discussion

- Main mentioned the Stormwater Workshop that is coming up in November. Jones and Lieb attended the workshop last year.
- Does the group want to try a winter festival activity this year?
- Do we want to do a river clean up? Wait until next year.
- There was a lot of feedback from the last meeting after an article was in the Waverly Newspaper about the “no wake zone”. It would be nice to update the public on the discussion and status of a “no wake zone”. At this point, we don’t feel like there is support for a “no wake zone” but more of a need for education on river use and safety.

Adjournment: Motioned – Turnball, seconded – Schloemer