

Date: April 9, 2008

Subject: Urban Wildlife Committee Meeting

In attendance were Jim Good (Chairman), Jeff Richardt, Jeff Pansch, Roxy Hunter, Pat Traut, and Art Smith. Also present were John Kanta, Shirley Frederick, and Jeri Taton.

Next meeting: **Tuesday, May 6, 2008 at 10:00 am.**

Chairman Jim Good called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

The minutes of March 25, 2008, were approved as presented.

Chairman Good presented a copy of Wildlife Professional magazine which contains an article regarding managing golf courses as wildlife habitat. Discussion ensued about urban wildlife conflicts and the fact that they are happening around the world. This is a global issue, not isolated to specific areas. Questions were raised about what should be done with diseased birds. Good noted that there are veterinarians who will take a look at them. Pansch noted that staff can remove diseased waterfowl at any time. Discussion continued on how the City should proceed to remove the waterfowl from the Canyon Lake and Storybook Island areas.

Smith noted that the Mayor indicated we need to proceed with a public education campaign before we do anything further on this issue.

When the time comes to remove the waterfowl, the easiest time to catch them is when they can't fly. A good time for this is when the adult waterfowl begin the incubation period. When the waterfowl are captured, they should be taken off-site in an enclosed vehicle for disposal. Kanta suggested that a public meeting be held on this issue before we do any removal of the waterfowl. He added that when the waterfowl are removed, maimed or injured birds should also be removed. Also, the Game, Fish & Parks Department does have trailers and other equipment that the City may be able to use when the removal process is done. Questions were asked about relocating the waterfowl to another location. Smith stated that studies have shown that adult birds that are relocated typically come back to the area they are used to. Smith encouraged the City to develop a management plan for ducks and geese, similar to the plan that was developed for deer herd management. This plan would layout the problems created by the waterfowl and provide solutions, both short and long term. He suggested that many communities already have these plans and perhaps we could use them as a starting point. Racine, Wisconsin, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Milwaukee, Denver, and Portland were suggested places to start. We should also get an estimated cost to process the meat from waterbirds. Also, a time line should be developed for this process.

Good asked who should be doing these things. Smith suggested that we get a group of people together so that we can ask the questions. Have a list of information that we need to know in

order to continue with this project. Good stated that he would work with staff from the Parks and Recreation Department to see how some of these things should be handled.

John Kanta suggested that a press release be developed explaining where we are with the issue and what we are planning to do. Discussion continued on where the feeding brochures should be distributed and the following suggestions were made:

- Places that sell bird food
- Pet stores
- Hotels near the lakes
- Veterinarian offices

Kanta suggested that someone go to the various organizations and talk about what we are trying to do. Good concurred noting that we should establish a list of organizations to approach with this issue. Traut and Frederick offered to begin work on a press release which they will send to everyone for their input and review.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:40.