Resolution 2015-166

Resolution to Approve the Design and Direct Staff to Implement the 2014 Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board Aquatic Invasive Species Work Group Recommendations to Install Seasonal Enclosed Information Booths for the AIS Inspection Program at the Lake Nokomis, Lake Harriet, and Lake Calhoun Boat Launches with Electricity to Provide Shelter, Safety, Storage and an Identifiable Hub for Visitors

Whereas, The mission of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) is to permanently preserve, protect, maintain, improve, and enhance its natural resources, parkland, and recreational opportunities for current and future generations;

Whereas, Protecting the MPRB's natural resources from Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) is critical for current and future generations of Minneapolis residents;

Whereas, The MPRB has developed and implemented a successful AIS inspection and education program;

Whereas, On March 19, 2014, the Board approved Resolution 2014-153 expanding the role of AIS Inspectors for the 2014 season to provide customer service and public information to park visitors;

Whereas, Resolution 2014-153 also authorized the installation of enclosed information booths for the AIS inspections program at the Lake Nokomis, Lake Harriet and Lake Calhoun boat launches;

Whereas, The information booths provide shelter, safety, storage and an identifiable hub for park visitors;

Whereas, The AIS Boat Inspectors documented more than 10,000 direct interactions with park patrons in 2014;

Whereas, The information booths are temporary in nature and can be removed from the boat launches at the end of each AIS inspection season; and

Whereas, This action is supported by Vision Theme 1: Urban Forests, Natural Areas, and Waters that Endure and Captivate as articulated in the MPRB 2007-2020 Comprehensive Plan;

RESOLVED, That the Board of Commissioners approve the design and direct staff to implement the 2014 Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board Aquatic Invasive Species work group recommendations to install seasonal enclosed information booths for the AIS inspection

program at the Lake Nokomis, Lake Harriet, and Lake Calhoun boat launches with electricity to provide shelter, safety, storage and an identifiable hub for visitors; and

RESOLVED, That the President and Secretary of the Board are authorized to take all necessary administrative actions to implement this resolution.

TO: Operations & Environment Committee

FROM: Justin Long, Assistant Superintendent for Environmental Steward

DATE: April 15, 2015

SUBJECT: Resolution to Approve the Design and Direct Staff to Implement the 2014 Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board Aquatic Invasive Species Work Group Recommendations to Install Seasonal Enclosed Information Booths for the AIS Inspection Program at the Lake Nokomis, Lake Harriet, and Lake Calhoun Boat Launches with Electricity to Provide Shelter, Safety, Storage and an Identifiable Hub for Visitors

BACKGROUND

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) have become a major threat to water bodies nationwide. In Minnesota, the Department of Natural Resources has identified preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species as a top priority. With the discovery of zebra mussels in Lake Minnetonka in July of 2010, the threat of aquatic invasive aquatic species infesting Minneapolis lakes has grown very high. Due to this threat and the threat of other aquatic invasive species invading Minneapolis lakes and streams, preventing the spread of AIS has become a top priority of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB).

AIS threaten native species and aquatic ecosystems and impair water recreation activities. They repress native species due to food competition. AIS can have serious detrimental impacts on lake, stream and river ecology and decrease the recreational appeal of water bodies. There are many significant concerns about the potential negative financial impacts of AIS from recreational, tourism and management perspectives.

Due to the impending threat of AIS, the MPRB took definitive actions in 2012 to delay the spread of aquatic invasive species. The Board passed an emergency resolution authorizing the Superintendent to enact emergency inspection rules requiring all water-related equipment using the public boat launches at Lakes Calhoun, Harriet and Nokomis to be inspected prior to launching a boat between July 13, 2012, through September 30, 2012.

In 2013, the Board passed a resolution authorizing the Superintendent to enact inspection rules requiring all water-related equipment using the public boat launches at Lakes Calhoun, Harriet and Nokomis to be inspected prior to launching a boat between April 15, 2013, through December 1, 2013. Boat launches were open 7 days a week from 6 am to 10 pm.

In 2014, the Board passed a resolution authorizing the Superintendent to enact inspection rules requiring all water-related equipment using the public boat launches at Lakes Calhoun, Harriet and Nokomis to be inspected prior to launching a boat between May 1, 2014, through December 1, 2014, and approving and directing staff to implement the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board Aquatic Invasive Species Work Group recommendations. The ten recommendations submitted by the interdepartmental AIS Work Group included:

(a) Expand the role of AIS inspectors for the 2014 season to provide customer service and public information to park visitors. Provide inspection staff with additional resources for increased customer service including applicable training and printed materials.

(b) Install seasonal enclosed information booths for the AIS inspections program at the Lake Nokomis, Lake Harriet and Lake Calhoun boat launches with electricity to provide shelter, safety, storage, and an identifiable hub for visitors.

During 2014 three information booths were designed and fabricated. They are ready to be deployed at the boat launches. The booths have a unified appearance with a curved roof, shades of blue from the MPRB's approved color palette, and super graphics that identify the MPRB, the lake, and the booth's function as an information hub. The information booth design has been reviewed and endorsed by MPRB Planning staff. The booths are temporary structures and can be removed each fall and stored off site until the following spring. Booth paint colors and super graphics may also be changed as needed. Images of the booths will be presented at the Board meeting.

The seasonal enclosed information booths serve as an identifiable hub for park visitors, protect AIS inspectors from inclement weather, support AIS education, and enable the MPRB to have a consistent staff presence within the regional park system. During the 2014 inspection season, AIS inspectors had more than 18,000 documented contacts with park patrons. Half of these interactions were AIS related and the other half were in regards to general park information.

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION

Resolution 2014 – 153	Approving the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board Aquatic Invasive Species 2014 Inspection Rules, Authorizing the Superintendent to Implement These Rules from May 1, 2014 to December 1, 2014, and Approving and Directing Staff to Implement the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board Aquatic Invasive Species Work Group Recommendations for 2014 Aquatic Invasive Species Preventions.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board of Commissioners approve the design and direct staff to implement the 2014 Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board Aquatic Invasive Species work group recommendations to install seasonal enclosed information booths for the AIS inspection program at the Lake Nokomis, Lake Harriet, and Lake Calhoun boat launches with electricity to provide shelter, safety, storage and an identifiable hub for visitors.

This action is consistent with the following 2007-2020 Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board Comprehensive Plan Vision and Goal:

Vision Theme 1:	Urban forests, natural areas, and waters that endure and captivate
Goal:	Sound management techniques provide healthy, diverse and sustainable natural resources.
Goal:	Knowledgeable stewards and partners generously support the system's natural resources.

HISTORY:

04/01/15	**Operations & Environment Committee**	**ADOPTED**

Prepared By: Lori Smiley, Office Support Specialst III, Environmental Operations
Review:

Debra Pilger	Completed	03/13/2015 10:25 AM
Justin Long	Completed	03/14/2015 8:36 AM
Jayne Miller	Completed	03/20/2015 9:54 AM
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board	Pending	04/15/2015 5:00 PM
Operations & Environment Committee	Completed	04/01/2015 5:10 PM