

ITEM # 4a.
DATE: December 9, 2004

COMMISSION ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: Ada Hayden Heritage Park: Ice Fishing Regulations

BACKGROUND:

The State of Iowa allows ice fishing on all public bodies of water in Iowa; which Hayden Park is now included. Parks and Recreation staff, in conjunction with the City's Attorney and Risk Manager, drafted the below rules to govern ice fishing at Hayden Park.

It should be remembered that the lake at Hayden Park is unique as it serves the community as a secondary water supply during droughts. As Commissioners are aware no boat motors, fueled by petroleum, are allowed on the site. Staff's recommended ice fishing rules also reflect the prohibition of any petroleum product on the lake. Therefore, gas powered augers/equipment would not be allowed at the site. Liquid petroleum (LP) canisters used to fuel lights, small cooking stoves, etc would be allowed. In the event an LP canister ruptures the liquid turns to gas and evaporates. Experienced anglers estimate it takes approximately 8 to 10 minutes to manually core through 12 to 16 inches of ice.

It should also be understood that anglers assume sole responsibility for determining the thickness/safety of the ice, for fishing. The City will not post signage indicating when it is safe to ice fish.

PROPOSED RULES:

- Anglers assume sole responsibility for their safety related to ice fishing ✓
- Any equipment/tool powered by petroleum (augers, generators, etc) is not allowed. Equipment/tool powered by liquid propane is allowed.
- Huts may not be left overnight .
- Fishing Ordinances: Bass is catch and release only, crappie limit of 5 per person/day; Bluegill/Sunfish limit of 10 per person/day.
- State of Iowa fishing regulations apply at the site ✓
- Vehicles are not allowed on the ice – foot traffic only ✓
- Snowmobiles and All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) are not allowed on park premises (except by the City to groom ski trails)
- Park hours: 6 AM to 10:30 PM ✓
- All other park rules and ordinances governing this site remain in effect

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Adopt the above listed rules to govern ice fishing at Ada Hayden Heritage Park.
2. Revise the above listed rules to govern ice fishing at Ada Hayden Heritage Park.
3. Refer back to staff

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Staff recommends Alternative 1; adopt the rules, as presented, to govern ice fishing at Ada Hayden Heritage Park.

Approved
12/9/2004