

Bruce Peterson

From: Bruce DeBlieck
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2014 10:24 PM
To: Bruce Peterson
Subject: Fwd: Archery

Email from O'Meara from public works agenda minutes

Bruce DeBlieck
Willmar City Council Ward 1

Begin forwarded message:

From: Dan O'Meara
Date: January 13, 2014 at 9:54:51 AM CST
To: Bruce DeBlieck <bdieblieck@willmarmn.gov>
Subject: RE: Archery

Bruce,

Thanks for following up on this. I fly for a local company, and am not sure what time I will be back from my trip tomorrow. If I cannot make it, can you pass on my concerns?

- We need a system that allows regular citizens to obtain a range certification without extensive costs, bureaucracies, etc. - The ability to have a range should not be so complex or expensive that people choose not to do it or cannot complete the process.

- We have to make certain assumptions about the people applying for and using private ranges:
- They have adequate safety training and a certain level of common sense.
- Any ethical archer understands his / her limits on target size and distance
- They are still subject to MN state laws concerning criminal damage to property, criminal discharge of a weapon, civil liabilities, etc.

- Some reasons why someone would choose to shoot at a private range: decrease the cost of the sport, decrease travel times, capitalize on short notice opportunities, shoot longer distances and more realistic conditions that indoor ranges do not offer, etc.

- Safety is obviously the priority, but we need to be reasonable with controls. The initial ordinance required a 16' x 10' backstop. This is about double what is really required depending on the person shooting and the distance. When I told one councilman about how my current 10' x 10' shed (backstop) would not meet the requirement, he suggested I use my house as the backstop - does this really meet the intent to increase safety?

- If it helps, here is my situation: I live in city limits, but right on the edge. I have a range where I can shoot up to 70 yards. All shooting is done in the opposite direction of any neighbors. I have 200+ acres of field alongside and behind my range with my house blocking the third side. I shoot at a 2' x 2' arrow stopper target, with a 4' x 4' foam stopper behind that. All this sits in front of a 10' x 10' shed with farm field behind. I am not a professional archer by any means, but I shoot an average of 100-150 arrows per week with 95% of the shots in the 2' x 2' block and the 4' x 4' block stopping the rest. If I have friends over to shoot, they often choose to shoot from

a shorter distance until they build a certain level of proficiency - as anyone should. I have completed the MN firearms safety course (This could easily be a requirement for all ranges) and the MN Advanced Hunter Education Course. I choose to shoot at my range for the convenience and cost savings. Like most people, I am very busy and often only have a short amount of time to shoot. If I can shoot at my range, I am able to take my kids out for 30 minutes or whatever we have available. If I had to load everything up and drive to another range, I would not be able to take my kids out 75% of the time. I also have friends that are residents of Willmar shoot at my range since their houses do not offer a safe place to shoot.

I am more than willing to explain more as needed. I would also be willing to use my range as a means to develop a reasonable process for others to follow. Thanks again for your efforts on this!

Dan O'Meara