

Maple Grove Citizens Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2011

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by CAC Co-Chair Bob Joiner at the Maple Grove Government Center.

Members Present

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| John Beacham | Leslie Bender | Linda Furst |
| Lorraine Gresser | Bob Joiner | Pam Larson |
| Steven Maas | Joe Piket | Don Skoglund |

Members Absent

Stephen Gill, Greg Hulne, Harry Kennedy, Tim Klevar, Joan Masberg, Kevin Rebman, Katie Rodriguez

Others Present

City Councilmember Phil Leith, City Administrator Al Madsen, CAC City Staff Liaison Mike Opatz, and three students—Anna, Megan and Rachel—who are attending as part of their Government class at Maple Grove Senior High, and a parent of one of the students.

Minutes

The minutes for the June 8, 2011 regular CAC meeting were approved.

Area Reports

- Enforcement of the sign ordinance and possible future review of ordinance for amendments was mentioned by a member specifically as it relates to his business. He has noticed similar businesses that have signs up when he thought they weren't allowed or are up for longer than ordinance permits.

The comment was made that most sign items are reviewed on a complaint basis. The Zoning Enforcement Officer, who reviews all matters relating to signs, cannot spend all her time looking for violations and primarily addresses them as they are brought to her attention or if she notices them when she is out on inspections.

It was also mentioned that data practices allows for the privacy of individuals who lodge a complaint.

- Request was made for an update on the Bass Lake Road project including the timeline for completion and the lighting as the levels seem too low. Al Madsen stated the majority of the work is to be done this year.
- Discussion took place on the delay of about a year in the roundabout at Zachary Lane and 101st Avenue due to Three Rivers Park District. In addition, the question was asked why the Zachary roundabouts were put in at an angle versus perpendicular to 610.

- The remark was made about 101st Avenue being in poor condition in the area before and after it spans I-94, and the question was asked when this segment is planned for upgrades.
- Mention was made about the Market Value Homestead Credit. Al Madsen stated there will be an impact on businesses and apartment complexes. He stated that most homeowners won't see much of a change. Mr. Madsen stated Maple Grove has a good commercial/industrial base and can handle the change. In addition, he said the 2012 proposed tax levy is .4%, and the 2012 budget does not have any new positions.
- A CAC member heard the City will now have two firefighters staffing each fire station 24-hours a day. The question was asked if that is accurate and, if so, is it paid staff and are the positions full-time.

Mr. Madsen stated the Police, not Fire, go on the medicals.

- Inquiry was made about the shopping area/housing development proposed for the southwest part of the City. Al Madsen stated that it is an 82-unit single-family development that will go in first. It is hoped that an application for a grocery store will come in spring 2012.

Welcome of Students

The students/parent in attendance introduced themselves and were welcomed by CAC to the meeting.

Work Plan Ideas

The statement was made that for the last few years there have been no major items to the Citizens Advisory Committee to address/review.

Since there has been no movement on a facility for the Osseo Maple Grove Basketball Association, it is felt there is no role for CAC at this time.

The request was made of Al Madsen for an overview of the community for the end of 2011 and 2012.

He provided the following:

- Foreclosures are down. Currently at 254; peaked at around 450-475. There are more buyers, and banks are getting more aggressive.
- Commercial/industrial is going well. The retail vacancy rate is 6.5%.
- Rodizio Steakhouse is going into the former Smith & Hawken location at The Shoppes at Arbor Lakes. Home Goods is moving into the old Circuit City space. Borders, Ultimate Electronics and World Market continue to be vacant.
- An 80,000 square foot expansion of the new Caterpillar (formerly Tennant) building is expected.

- Big Lots has moved into the old Target location at County Road 30 and Dunkirk. The area also will include a Discount Tire, White Castle, Leeann Chin, and an oil change facility.
- Construction should start next spring on an Aldi Grocery store by Cambria Suites.
- Upsher-Smith plans an expansion in the near future.
- There have been approximately 250 new housing permits for 2011, which indicates that single-family housing is picking up.
- Granville housing development is slated for the Gravel Mining area.
- Vacancy rate for rental housing is under 5%.
- Senior housing project is proposed for the southeast corner of Weaver Lake Road and Main Street.
- The new senior housing development on Arbor Lakes Parkway has 70-75% occupied.

Mr. Madsen was asked how the Citizens Advisory Committee can interact with and/or assist the City Council and were there any topics of interest/areas to explore.

The question was asked if there had been any discussion of a golf course in the Gravel Mining Area. Al Madsen stated the landowners felt it is not a good use of the site. They would prefer commercial/industrial development. In addition, there are concerns about fertilizer as the site sits on the City's aquifer.

Mr. Madsen stated he was not aware of any "hot" issues.

Mike Opatz stated there are a couple tours possible in the future. One being the sports dome for December 2011. The Public Works Facility should be completed near the end of February/March 2012 with a tour of the spring. An open house for the facility is planned for May 22nd. In addition, an open house will be held on October 8, 2011 for the expansion at Fire Station #1.

Discussion turned to communications/public relations for the sports dome. It was suggested the athletic associations involved need to share information and should have a meeting and invite City and ISD 279 officials. Discussion also included that there should be articles in the City newsletter, and ISD 279 should also provide information to the public to clear up any misunderstandings about the various parties involvement, financial obligations, etc.

Mr. Madsen suggested quarterly meetings, and if a topic comes up that CAC could address, then CAC could meet to review.

Discussion took place on the OMGBA facility and if there was a role the City/ISD 279 would play if it was felt the project had demand/need to pursue. The statement was made the building would possibly have uses

for other sports. If CAC were to be involved, then it would need to be at the direction of the City Council.

Regarding CAC input on the sports dome, the Committee looked at dome usage, facilities, and economics and brought that information and recommendation to the City Council. In addition, a CAC subcommittee did existing dome tours.

OMGBA is in a better financial position, has done better planning and saving ,and has money allocated. It was stated that for past projects (second sheet of ice and sports dome) the City did 80% funding with the Athletic Association(s) providing 20%. Athletic associations having the necessary funds can be/has been an issue. The statement was made the City is not willing to pay annual operating expenses.

Athletic Associations should look at other opportunities and be more creative in their marketing. They should look at hosting clinics/tournaments rather than selling coffee, trinkets, etc.

Motion made and seconded for the Citizens Advisory Committee to meet quarterly and address opportunities as they may arise.

Discussion took place on the motion. The statement was made the desire not to see the CAC disband/go away and continue to keep CAC as a vehicle for communication.

Discussion took place on updates/issues from other City committees. Mention was made of the past public forum that included all the committees. In addition, appointed CAC members attended other City committee meetings and provided updates to the CAC members, but that didn't go far.

The suggestion was made for CAC to meet monthly and decide the next meeting date at that time.

Motion passed with eight ayes and one nay.

**Other Business/
Updates**

Discussion took place on the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Community program. This is a program in which the City and other community organizations are supportive of the military families in their community.

Councilmembers LeAnn Sargent and Erik Johnson are co-chairs of the recently formed Beyond the Yellow Ribbon committee in Maple Grove. The City got the first meeting going, and then the committee takes over any next steps/action. Co-Chair Johnson has said they are hoping to put together a more formal meeting within 30 days. If anyone is interested in the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon committee, they should send an email to Councilmember Johnson or Councilmember Sargent.

There is a Pierre Bottineau Transitway meeting on September 15th. It was stated that Maple Grove's state elected officials are not as active/supportive in this project. Gravel Mining Area owners would be involved but do not appear to be very interested. There will be a presentation at the October City Council meeting about the transitway.

Southwest Maple Grove is the most active area for new housing development. The development of 610 was a factor in the City holding off on development in the northwest area.

Brief discussion took place on the Four Seasons development.

The question was asked as to whether Councilmember Leith would continue as the Council liaison to CAC. The City will look at Council reappointments in December/January. CAC hopes that Councilmember Leith will continue to be the liaison.

Al Madsen mentioned that on September 15th from 5:45 to 8:15 p.m. there would be a Housing For All bus tour. If anyone is interested, they should contact St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Morris
Minute Secretary