

Maple Grove City Council work session

meeting minutes

January 18, 2022

Call to order

Pursuant to call and notice thereof, a City Council work session was held at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at the Maple Grove Government Center/Public Safety Facility, Hennepin County, Minnesota. Present was Mayor Steffenson and Councilmembers Karen Jaeger, Phil Leith, Judy Hanson, and Kristy Barnett. Present also was City Administrator Heidi Nelson, Finance Director Greg Sticha, Director of Public Works/City Engineer Ken Ashfeld, Parks and Recreation Director Chuck Stifter, Superintendent of Recreation Aimee Peterson, Community Center Manager Lisa Jost, Park Board Members Bill Lewis, Debbie Coss, Ken Helvey, and Andy Mielke, Transit Administrator Mike Opatz and City Attorney Justin Templin.

Mayor Steffenson called the meeting to order at 5:09 p.m.

Review of Community Center project planning, communications plan for local option sales tax and Community Center working group (joint City Council and Park Board discussion)

Parks and Recreation Director Chuck Stifter provided the City Council and Park Board Members with a brief recap of the master plan of the Community Center renovation and expansion project. He noted that the cost estimate of the plan is \$116M and includes new swimming pools, more space for senior programs, expanded event and banquet space, space for the arts, historical society display space, a walking track, a fitness center, and a third sheet of ice.

Parks and Recreation Director Chuck Stifter noted that a minimum investment project is also being developed should the local option sales tax funding not be approved. The outcome of the local option sales tax will be unknown until voters make the decision regarding that ballot question in November 2022. Parks and Recreation Director Chuck Stifter stated the minimum investment project cost is \$59M and would provide improvements to the existing building with no expansion beyond the current footprint. Improvements would focus on mechanical systems, infrastructure repairs, roof replacement, electrical and technical upgrades, energy efficient windows and other renovations throughout the facility. The minimum investment plan would not include a third sheet of ice, but would still move forward with the acquisition and renovation of Lifetime Fitness.

Councilmember Leith questioned whether the new banquet room would be larger than the current banquet room in the minimum investment project option. Parks and Recreation Director Chuck Stifter indicated that it would be larger.

City Administrator Heidi Nelson stated the City Attorney and Rapp Strategies would be discussing the communications plan for the local option sales tax. City Attorney Justin Templin advised the Council of state statute with regard to the role of elected and appointed officials in a local option sales tax referendum. He noted that there could be communication of facts and data, but no opinion statements could be made, nor could there be any promotion regarding how to spend funds. Discussion ensued regarding the type of communication allowed.

Todd Stone, Senior Director at Rapp Strategies, Inc. provided a preview of the

website created to provide residents with information on the Community Center project. The microsite introduces the project and provides an overview of the needs, the plan, the process, and the costs and funding sources. The communication plan would begin the last week in January with social media and local media outreach. The microsite would go live by the end of January and Mr. Stone noted that the site is compatible with smart phones.

City Administrator Heidi Nelson presented the outline of a Community Center working group (CCWG) that would help guide the project design and communication plan. She reviewed the role and purpose of the CCWG noting they would meet on a quarterly basis and hold additional meetings as needed. She provided membership suggestions for the working group. Park Board Chair Lewis suggested that meetings may need to be more frequent.

Councilmember Barnett suggested a nomination process for selecting various members for CCWG representation.

**Discuss CAC
Historical
Society report
with Maple
Grove
Historical
Society**

Transit Administrator Mike Opatz, serving as CAC staff liaison, stated that at the November 1, 2021 City Council work session, staff presented a report related to research regarding other local historical societies. Information gathered included organizational structure, size, staffing, budgets, facilities, and efforts to maintain and grow these organizations. He noted that City Council requested this report due to the Maple Grove Historical Preservation Society (MGHPS) seeking a physical expansion of their current space and the MGHPS asking for city funding and management of the construction project. At the November 1, 2021 work session, the Council requested that members of the MGHPS be invited to a future work session to discuss the report. With members of the MGHPS in attendance, Transportation Administrator Mike Opatz provided a brief overview of the report that was originally discussed on November 1, 2021.

Al Madsen, President of the MGHPS, noted that the MGHPS would like to expand their space at the current history museum, located at 9030 Forestview Lane N in Maple Grove. He stated that if the city did not wish to expand the current space, the MGHPS would be happy to have display areas at the Community Center as part of that expansion project. He would like to maintain the current history museum and storage area.

Councilmember Jaeger asked how long the MGHPS has had their current space and if membership were to increase, where would the MGHPS meet. Mr. Madsen indicated they have been in the space for eight years. The MGHPS would continue to meet in its current location even if membership increased. He noted that many of the tables in the space could be folded up and put away to allow adequate space for meetings.

Discussion continued regarding the best approach for the MGHPS's expansion needs. The consensus of the Council and MGHPS was for historical artifact display space to be made part of the Community Center expansion project and to keep the existing history museum and storage space in its current location. It was suggested that sign placards be utilized at the Community Center where MGHPS displays would be located to help draw attention to the existence of the history museum and promote additional artifact display availability at the museum.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Mayor Steffenson at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Nelson
City Administrator