

Maple Grove City Council Work Session

Meeting Minutes

May 3, 2021

Call to Order

Pursuant to call and notice thereof, a City Council Work Session was held at 5:45 p.m. on Monday, May 3, 2021 at the Maple Grove Government Center/Public Safety Facility, Hennepin County, Minnesota and online via WebEx. Present was Mayor Steffenson and Councilmembers Karen Jaeger, Phil Leith, Judy Hanson and Kristy Barnett. Present also was City Administrator Heidi Nelson, Director of Parks and Recreation Chuck Stifter, Public Works Director/City Engineer Ken Ashfeld, Community and Economic Director Joe Hogeboom, Planning Manager Peter Vickerman, Park Board Vice Chair John Ferm, and Park Board members Ken Helvey and Debbie Coss.

Attending remotely were Chief of Police Eric Werner, Finance Director Greg Sticha, Assistant City Engineer Jupe Hale, Superintendent of Recreation Aimee Peterson, Community Center Manager Lisa Jost, Program Specialist Tanya Huntley, and Park Board members Deb Syhre, Andy Mielke and Kelly Cunningham

Mayor Steffenson called the meeting to order at 5:47 p.m.

Joint Community Police Partnership

Chief of Police Eric Werner discussed with the City Council the police department's interest in enhancing the communication and understanding between the police department and multicultural residents of the city. In particular, the Joint Community Police Partnership (JCPP) through Hennepin County, was a program suggestion for building community/police relationships. The JCPP works collaboratively with the police and the community, specifically with immigrants, people of color, indigenous people, and faith communities to build community engagement. Chief of Police Werner introduced Don Ryan, Program Manager with Hennepin County, to present an overview of the JCPP.

Mr. Ryan noted that the JCPP is a program that has been operating for over 16 years, and the following cities partner with JCPP for the purpose of improving community/police relationships: Brooklyn Park, Brooklyn Center, Bloomington, Richfield, Crystal, and Hopkins. Mr. Ryan explained that through the program, Hennepin County hires a liaison to work with the community and the police department to foster positive relationships. Mr. Ryan stated that establishing communication and a relationship prior to a critical incident has helped significantly in other communities. He discussed a core component of the JCPP is the Multicultural Advisory Committee (MAC), which is comprised of an engaged group of volunteers who represent the diverse cultural backgrounds of a community. MAC members and the JCPP develop the program to meet specific community needs and meet regularly with police department personnel to address community concerns.

Police Chief Werner will bring this item back to the Council in the future, likely as part of the budget process.

Community Center Pre- Design Review

Director of Parks and Recreation Chuck Stifter provided an update on the Community Center and campus master planning building program and cost review for pre-design. He explained that this discussion is to prepare for a pre-design package for the bonding bill submittal in June. Since the City Council and Park Board met in a joint meeting in March, Director of Parks and Recreation Stifter had a few updates to share with regard to the building space that addresses two viable options with Lifetime Fitness and without Lifetime Fitness space. He discussed amenities that include a curling component, a theater and arts component, and a third sheet of ice. Director of Parks and Recreation Stifter also provided an update on the operational assumptions and performance scenarios relating to the building program concepts.

Director of Parks and Recreation Stifter introduced Victor Pechaty, HGA Senior Project Designer, to further discuss the project. Mr. Pechaty provided an overview of the 2019 community engagement survey results from outreach done in preparation of this project. He noted that expanding the senior center consistently ranked at, or near, the top as a priority in the community. Also of strong interest is programming to serve the arts, indoor and outdoor aquatics, fitness, and expanded event space. Mr. Pechaty discussed potential floor plans based on the various options and amenities that may be selected as well as the parking needs required with regard to the various options.

City Administrator Heidi Nelson discussed financial strategies for funding the project, and also provided a legislative update. She noted that this pre-design process is being done in preparation of the official bond submittal this June to be considered for the 2022 bonding year.

Director of Parks and Recreation Stifter wrapped up the discussion with an estimated timeline of the project. With much of the project dependent on financing, the focus is to finalize a master plan, and once financing options are more known, move forward with what the city decides it can afford to do with regard to the project.

Maple Grove Days

City Administrator Heidi Nelson outlined some of the challenges that the MGCO is facing as they are working on organizing this year's Maple Grove Day's event. She noted that one of the challenges is trying to plan an event not knowing what restrictions will be in place due to COVID come July. That unknown has resulted in a change to the parade to make it a drive-through model. Other challenges include the ability to get volunteers, as well as a loss in fundraising, which has resulted in the need for the MGCO organization to request a donation from the city to offset the fundraising shortfall.

Special Events Coordinator Tanya Huntley explained that she is a staff liaison and has participated in meetings of the MCGO. She advised there is a \$37,000 shortfall in money normally raised in fundraising for the event. This has an impact on fireworks, barricades, and tents. The change in parade style is a savings of approximately \$10,000.

The consensus of the City Council is to have a regular in-person parade as well as to offer a city contribution to help with this year's fundraising shortfall. Staff would research the use of charitable gambling funds for this request.

**Concert on the
Lawn**

City Administrator Heidi Nelson explained that the Maple Grove Lions are considering adding a Friday night show to the Concert on the Lawn event, which would require in-kind public safety and public works staff support. The Lions have requested the use of a public works generator, which would require public works staff to be onsite for setup and takedown.

Councilmember Phil Leith spoke to the fact that the Maple Grove Lions have secured their headliner act for Saturday, September 18 and are requesting the Friday night show to allow a local band an opportunity to perform. In addition, adding the second date allows for more ticket sales as well as an opportunity to work through a smaller event prior to the larger event to determine if changes need to occur.

The City Council was favorable to adding a Friday night event to the Concert on the Lawn.

**Maple Grove
High School
Video
Scoreboard**

City Administrator Heidi Nelson noted that the Maple Grove High School Football Booster Club is seeking financial support from the city to assist with the purchase of a new digital scoreboard at the high school stadium.

In general, the City Council indicated its reluctance to set a precedence in providing financial support to one sport's booster club.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Mayor Steffenson at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Nelson', written in a cursive style.

Heidi Nelson
City Administrator