

# Maple Grove Citizens Advisory Committee

## Meeting Minutes

June 16, 2021

<b>Call to Order</b>	The June 16, 2021, Citizens Advisory Committee meeting was held online. Co-Chair Harry Kennedy called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.
<b>Members Present</b>	Leslie Bender                      Harry Kennedy                      Ted Lyons Lee Newman                      Karen Nickolauson                      Don Skoglund
<b>Members Absent</b>	Lorraine Gresser, Bob Joiner, Steven Maas, Stephanie Walvatne
<b>Others Present</b>	Councilmember Kristy Barnett, CAC Staff Liaison Mike Opatz
<b>Minutes</b>	Motion made and seconded to approve the minutes from the February 10, 2021, regular meeting; the minutes from the March 10, 2021, regular meeting; and the minutes from the April 14, 2021, regular meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee. Motion passed.
<b>Area Reports</b>	<p>Don Skoglund inquired about the city negotiating with LifeTime and asked if the city unilaterally change its agreement with LifeTime as it pertains to the acquisition of the LifeTime building.</p> <p>Councilmember Barnett said the city is in discussion with LifeTime. The City Council will be going into a closed meeting on Monday, June 18, after the council meeting to discuss.</p>
<b>Historical Societies Discussion</b>	<p>Members of the CAC historical society subcommittee presented their research and survey findings regarding other local historical societies. Copies of the completed surveys for the historical societies for Brooklyn Park, Eden Prairie, Golden Valley, Maple Grove, and Plymouth were provided to CAC members in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>Mike Opatz stated that four other cities were assigned to CAC members Lyons and Walvatne and waiting to hear from them on the status. Councilmember Barnett said it would be good to hear a summary of where the group is at on the surveys and then determine what is left to do.</p> <p>Eden Prairie – CAC member Lee Newman shared some general observations regarding the survey work he did. He spoke with Ann Higgins who is the curator of the artifacts for the Eden Prairie Historical Society.</p> <p>CAC member Kennedy inquired about the purpose/reasoning for question 4a in the survey regarding cultural appreciation vs. cultural appropriation. Mike Opatz explained that stemmed from an inquiry that</p>

arose at the city regarding a proposed display. Mike suggested that CAC members on their own review appreciation vs. appropriation. It was stated that question should not be asked if there is not a sound understanding of what it means.

Brooklyn Park – Lee stated he felt shutdown in trying to gain information about the Brooklyn Park Historical Society, and it appears it is not active at this time. Received an email address for a further inquiry but that was undeliverable. Councilmember Barnett stated she would reach out to a couple of Brooklyn Park councilmembers and the former mayor to see if she can garner any information.

Maple Grove—Lee summarized his visit with Al Madsen, president of the Maple Grove Historical Preservation Society. The biggest concern is the future of and the leadership for the organization.

Plymouth—CAC member Don Skoglund stated the organization is transitioning to being part of City of Plymouth. Don stated he was impressed with website and items catalogued and can be viewed on website also had an interactive, engaging historical map online. Major funding comes from the city.

Plymouth and Golden Valley state they have not done a very good job of representing the Native American culture and need to do a better job of addressing. Both are also struggling in engaging the public. Both have CCX “Our Town” features.

Golden Valley—Don stated the city is funding the historical society. Two buildings—one being a church used for events and a facility for artifacts. A number of items are online with much more to be done.

It was stated the committee should decide where to go from here. Don and Lee felt through their observations are that historical societies are going to struggle if cities don’t take an active role in operations. Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center appear to have made the decision not to support the societies there; possibly Councilmember Barnett can get more insights into that dynamic.

For the Maple Grove organization, it was stated that changing of displays is very labor intensive. Also, it seems that accepting items that may not pertain to Maple Grove may be part of the problem.

For Maple Grove, maybe get a history major from the U of M and have a part-time position/internship to set up systems/cataloging and create programming for school age kids. It needs some young blood. Possibly

also engage students from the high school. Putting items online for school children could be useful.

More space is not needed but just look at different ways of doing things, look at overall mission, and find people who would want to be involved. Continuity is needed to keep the society moving forward. Would like to see it be volunteer-based. Maybe a paid, part-time position initially to get things up and running. Plymouth was very strong on having an identified staff to bring continuity.

What the council is looking at a) Expand the current location? b) Use the current location as storage and then find space for MGHPs in the Community Center expansion? Doesn't seem that larger space is necessary. Focus any funds on curating artifacts and possible staff/assistance.

MGHPs does not have very much visibility in its current location. A smaller space in the Community Center might be a better fit and is more visible in a high traffic facility.

The city needs to determine its level of involvement.

Four other historical societies were going to be reviewed by CAC member Lyons and Walvatne, but do not have a status report on where they are at in their review. CAC member Walvatne was going to contact Anoka County and Woodbury and CAC member Lyons doing White Bear and Wayzata.

Probably need to review a few more cities before creating a summary/report. Councilmember Barnett will reach out to Brooklyn Park. The group reviewed other historical societies that could be contacted. CAC member Harry Kennedy will reach out Hopkins and St. Louis Park. Don Skoglund said that Cokato was highly recommended. He stated we do not want to see our historical society disband.

Maybe there is a grant out there the city could apply for. Harry mentioned the legacy grants—cultural heritage. Both Golden Valley and Plymouth have taken advantage of those and stated they have been critical to their organizations. The suggestion was made to include the legacy grant recommendation when a summary report is created.

Once the additional societies are contacted, that feedback will be collected by Mike Opatz. Review of 8 to 10 societies was the initial recommendation to get solid responses and feedback.

Goal is to get the feedback to Mike before the July 14 CAC meeting.

Don Skoglund suggested meeting in person. There are some technical issues with a hybrid meeting but could individually FaceTime or do a conference call with CAC member Skoglund to have him included in the meeting.

Any additional historical society reports should be sent to Mike Opatz on or before July 13. CAC member Nickolauson stated she is not available to assist with this project due to another volunteer commitment with the Maple Grove Community Organization.

Brief discussion took place on the Maple Grove Days parade.

CAC member Lyons will get his historical society information to Mike Opatz.

The recommendation was made to cancel July CAC meeting; the next meeting will be Wednesday, August 11.

**Other Business  
and Updates**

Councilmember Barnett stated that, once the historical society review is completed, the group will be moving onto the citizen survey process.

**Adjournment**

Motion made and seconded to adjourn the June 16, 2021, Citizens Advisory Committee. The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Morris  
Minute Secretary