

AGENDA

1. CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION CALLED TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL: Parisian, Wagner, Murphy, Mayor Blonigan
3. DISCUSSION
 - A. Human Rights Commission Updates - Parks Naming Policy, Committee to Review Nuisance Code
4. STAFF UPDATES
 - A. Metropolitan Council Water Efficiency Grant Program
 - B. 2024 Legislative Updates
 - C. Hollingsworth Park Donation Update
 - D. Other items
5. COUNCIL UPDATES
 - A. City Hall Drapery
6. ADJOURNMENT



City of Robbinsdale

TO: Mayor and City Council

PREPARED BY: Tim Sandvik, City Manager

APPROVED BY: Tim Sandvik, City Manager

DATE: March 12, 2024

RE: Human Rights Commission Updates - Parks Naming Policy, Committee to Review Nuisance Code

Background:

At the October 2023 City Council Work Session, members of the Human Rights Commission presented updates to Council. Topics included the renaming of Sanborn Park and a presentation on data reviewed regarding Crime Free/Drug Free and Nuisance ordinances during the period of January 2018 - January 2022.

Analysis:

Parks Naming Policy

Following the October 2023 Council Work Session, HRC members got to work on a Parks Naming Policy. That item is attached. HRC members will present the policy at the meeting.

Upon review, staff recommends that Council consider the following:

- Under definition, consider adding REDA owned property
- b i - consider the naming of assets of living persons
- B 3 - consider addressing language that might limit donations to amenities
- B 5 - consider language. eg does this require the renaming of Hollingsworth Park or Scanlon Field
- Procedure - involve the Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Commission
- Consider language for "priorities" in reviewing/considering naming
- Consider language limiting annual submissions - eg: *The dedication of City facilities or amenities shall normally be limited to no more than two per year to maintain the stature of the facility dedication honor. Any un-dedicated City recreational facility may be nominated for dedication using the criteria of this policy*
- Consider language addressing costs of process - eg: *The nominating person(s) shall be entirely responsible for all costs associated with the dedication including application and background check fees, recognition, and memorial plaques. The size, style, text and location of the memorial plaque shall be subject to review and approval of the Recreation Services Director and the Nominating Committee.*
- Should nominated individuals be subject to a background check?
- Should there be language that identifies timeline requirements? 60, 90, etc... days?
- Should there be a requirement that those submitting nominations be formally notified?
- Should there be a provision that considers revocations? eg: *dedications may be revoked by the City Council should information later come to light that runs counter to the substance and spirit of this policy.*

- Any other considerations that Council might bring forward

Nuisance Code Discussion

The Human Rights Commission continues to examine and consider City Code related to Nuisance violations. Following the October 2023 City Council Work Session, an idea to form a Committee was suggested - while no formal (written or otherwise) recommendations have been conveyed, HRC members would like to entertain a conversation with Council regarding next steps.

Two recent examples of Nuisance code violation/enforcement include addresses on Halifax and Zenith. As you will recall, last week Council was addressed by a neighbor of a nuisance property, that highlighted concerns related to quality of life. This property is owner occupied, which is different than the Halifax Property (rental property) considered by Council last summer. Quick summary:

- April 2023 - Council was made aware of ongoing nuisance calls to a property. Between August 2022 and March of 2023, calls included: loud music, loud music, disorderly conduct/obstructing with force, parking (blocking driveways)/disturbance, disturbance, and sexual assault. No calls listed were in the same night.
- Property owner, landlord, and residents received notices via USPS in February, March, and April to update the process (including the requesting of an action plan).
- April 2023 - letter shared that the City Council would hold a public hearing in May to consider the rental license. No response provided
- May 2023 - letter to property owner and landlord shared that the rental license was suspended, and Council would host another hearing in June. No response provided
- June 2023 - Council continued suspension of the rental license, another hearing would occur in July. No response provided
- July 2023 - Council revoked the rental license. No response provided
- Fall of 2023 - City staff was contacted by landlord and owners after receiving notification that the fines would be subject assessments. Landlords shared that tenants abruptly moved out, and they were attempting to sell the property.

Recommendation:

NA

Attachments:

1. _Park Naming Policy Recommendations

Robbinsdale HRC Park Naming Policy Recommendations:

Purpose: To review other cities' park naming policies in order to give recommendations to the city council on what an appropriate, inclusive naming policy would be for the city of Robbinsdale.

We reviewed the policies from the city of Alexandria, Crookston, Chaska, Elk River, Lino Lakes and St. Paul while using research presented by Julie, Carlos and Jennifer on the themes and considerations from cities around Minnesota, including:

- Community Involvement
- Historical and Cultural Significance
- Inclusivity and Representation
- Accessibility and Universal Appeal
- Environmental Considerations
- Local heroes and Role Models
- Avoiding Controversy
- Mental Health Considerations
- Legal and Administrative Considerations

Principles that Robbinsdale City Council should be guided by:

- No derogatory or offensive names or connotations by contemporary standards
- Names may be changed by Robbinsdale City Council if the character or integrity of a city asset or facility name is not in best interest of the community
- Naming rights carry no power pertaining to city matters of appointment or policy

Robbinsdale Parks and Facilities Naming Policy

The purpose of this policy is to establish a systematic and consistent approach for the official naming/renaming of the city of Robbinsdale assets and facilities.

Objectives

- Ensure city assets and facilities are easily identified and located.
- Ensure public participation in the naming of city assets.
- Ensure that names given to city assets reflect the culture and diversity of the city and the communities the city serves by including names that honor various genders, ethnicities, races, tribes, and socioeconomic backgrounds, ensuring representation of various demographic groups.

Definition

City of Robbinsdale assets include all property under the city's ownership and/or under the control of the city department of Parks and Recreation including but not limited to buildings (including rooms), structures, open space, public parks, natural areas, wetlands, land, lakes, ponds, trails, nature reserves, environmental habitat, community gardens, neighborhoods, and streets.

Criteria

Naming of City of Robbinsdale Assets and Facilities

A. In considering naming or renaming a city asset, the Robbinsdale City Council should consider the following criteria:

1. Individuals who have made a significant contribution to the city of Robbinsdale and communities it serves can be considered. These can include but are not limited to:
 - a. Honor community leaders and inspiring figures who have contributed outstanding civic service and or engender a strong sense of civic responsibility or social/economic justice that inspire future generations and promote positive values.
 - b. Someone who has made a significant contribution to the protection of the city's natural or cultural resources or has enhanced the quality of life for residents.
 - i. All such honored individuals, as indicated in a. and b. above, must be deceased for at least one year.
2. Natural and geographic features that reflect the area's natural elements, landscape, flora or fauna.
3. Names that provoke positive themes fostering a sense of unity and inclusiveness (e.g. Unity Park).

4. Names that reflect the connections to indigenous communities from the area.
- B. In considering naming or renaming city assets, the Robbinsdale City Council shall be guided by the following principles:
1. At least one of the above stated criteria is met.
 2. Names with connotations that by contemporary standards are derogatory or profane will not be considered, and any assets named for such shall be renamed.
 3. Donated or purchased assets carry no power of direction, or implied power of direction, to the city on matters of appointment, policy, or any other government process.
 4. Aim for a name that is inclusive and ensures that various demographics are represented throughout the city's assets, so all individuals are welcomed and represented.
 5. Previously elected or appointed Robbinsdale city officials and city employees are not eligible.
 6. The proposed name shall not be considered if it is a duplication of adjacent cities' parks and facilities to minimize confusion amongst the public and emergency response teams.

Procedure

- C. The Robbinsdale City Council shall set forth the following procedures for naming or renaming Robbinsdale assets and facilities:
1. A request for naming of a city asset shall be submitted to the City Manager and/or the Robbinsdale City Council. The city shall develop a form to solicit suggestions for names of city assets from organizations, neighborhood residents, individuals and the media. All suggestions, solicited or not, shall be acknowledged and recorded for consideration.
 2. The submission must be consistent with the criteria stated in this policy.
 3. The city of Robbinsdale shall notify the community of a public hearing at least 10 days prior in communication methods the city typically uses to provide an opportunity for public comment on name considerations.
 4. The city of Robbinsdale will also provide opportunities for community members to make suggestions electronically and through other means (e.g. The Birdtown Brief).
 5. The Robbinsdale City Council shall make the final naming decision, taking into consideration the preferences indicated by community members.

6. Robbinsdale assets and facilities shall be identified by the established name, and signs shall be maintained as a source of identity and civic pride.

This policy is being applied proactively as of _____.



City of Robbinsdale

TO: Mayor and City Council
PREPARED BY: Tim Sandvik, City Manager
APPROVED BY: Tim Sandvik, City Manager
DATE: March 12, 2024
RE: 2024 Legislative Updates

Background:

As the legislative session is in full swing, staff wanted to provide some updates.

Analysis:

HF 4009 - SF 3964 - "Missing Middle Housing"

There have been a number of iterations of legislative text, reaching various stages, addressing housing shortages. Staff provided updates in January and February about these potential bills, but the two current bills that seem to have the most momentum are House File 4009 and Senate File 3964. Reviewing these proposals, staff has serious concerns, including but not limited to:

- Mandates base level of density between 2-4 units on all residential lots
- Limits minimum lot size requirements
- Multifamily buildings in commercial areas as tall as the tallest structure within 1/4 mile, up to 150 feet
- Authorizes accessory dwelling units
- Limits parking requirements
- Limits aesthetic mandates
- At this time, it is unclear whether or not a mixed use requirement (recently approved code updates) would be permitted
- Requires administrative review, but **prohibits** public hearings for most development
- Broadly pre-empts cities on material and design requirements

We all recognize the shortage of housing, in the metro and broader Minnesota, but land use, planning, and zoning remain a local control issue. It is the opinion that what works in Robbinsdale may not work in Two Harbors, and vice versa. Beyond philosophical concerns, there are capacity (infrastructure) issues.

Council Member Wagner submitted a letter of support (attached) for Committee review on March 7th.

Staff will lead a discussion on the topic, and look for Council guidance on the item.

Legislation Regarding North Memorial

Legislation we are waiting to hear more on...

- Cannibas
- LGA/Fiscal Disparities
- Public Safety Duty Disability
- Water (including PFAS) updates
- SROs
- Clarity on Employment Issues, including ESST

Recommendation:

NA

Attachments:

1. Wagner_Middle_Housing_Letter.docx (1)

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to ask you support HF4009. As a city Councilmember in Robbinsdale I see firsthand how lack of affordable housing can hold back communities. Robbinsdale is considered “fully developed”, so it is incredibly difficult to increase housing without intervention from the city. This bill will make it easier for neighborhoods like mine to grow and welcome more new residents.

Minnesotans work hard and shouldn't have to make the choice between moving or having their entire paycheck go towards housing. Some people don't even have that choice and are forced to leave their community when it becomes too expensive to live there. We need statewide rules that increase the amount of affordable housing throughout Minnesota. We should make it easier for everyone to live in the city that they want to live in. This bill will do that.

The effects of climate change and its causes have made it clear that more sprawling suburban development centered on single family homes is not the answer. Denser housing has a measurable positive impact on green house gas emissions. It is often the first step towards expanded public transit, new business growth, and creating more walkable communities. If our state seriously wants to reach its climate goals we need to pass this bill.

Robbinsdale is doing what it can to address the challenges of housing affordability and of climate change. However, we can't do it alone. I strongly urge you to implement this legislation to alleviate a financial burden faced by every working class Minnesotan. They are the ones that make our state great and, as such, have the right to live where they so choose. They also deserve a healthy environment and by limiting sprawl we can literally save green spaces and hopefully create more.

Thank you for your work on this.

Aaron Wagner
Robbinsdale Councilmember Ward 4
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