

ROBBINSDALE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR WORK SESSION MINUTES

TUESDAY, February 2, 2021

Web-Ex Meeting

1. The work session was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Kline at 7:55 p.m.
2. Councilmembers Present: Kline, Webb, Selman, Backen, Mayor Blonigan
3. Staff Present: Andrew Biggerstaff, City Attorney; Richard McCoy, Public Works Director; Rick Pearson, Community Development Coordinator; Dustin Leslie, City Clerk; Marcia Glick, City Manager

Review Crime-Free Housing Next Steps

4. City Attorney Biggerstaff reviewed changes that Golden Valley recently adopted to their city code; the Golden Valley code was the template for Robbinsdale's original language.
5. Council discussed merits and drawbacks to Crime Free Housing policies. Concerns raised included equity, city's ability to work with landlords on problem renters.
6. Glick noted that the suggestion was for the City to remove the lease language requirements and leave the lease language up to property owners. Attorney Biggerstaff noted that ordinances such as Robbinsdale's came about through negligent absentee property and the tool was created to take away rental licenses from property owners who were not managing their properties.
7. Kline noted that as a renter, there's uncertainty about whether an unintentional action could result in his family looking for a different home.
8. Selman noted that there are also rights of the neighbors who are terrorized by out of control rental properties.
9. Backen noted that there have been cases where out of control properties resulted in others moving away.
10. Glick noted that the discussion would continue at next month's work session. The moratorium is on the Crime-Free Housing language, not the repeat nuisance regulations which apply to all residential properties.
11. Glick noted she will upload more information on the City's website so it is accessible to council members.

Report from City's Watershed Commissioner Wayne Sicora

12. Commissioner Sicora introduced himself to council and staff giving his background and the work of the being done by both city watershed commissions: Shingle Creek Watershed and Basset Creek Watershed. Sicora has served as the city representative for

both Commissions for a number of years; he is a civil engineer and does a lot on water resources as well as site developments, light rail, and other civil projects. His background in water resources helps to make him a knowledgeable representative for the city.

13. The watersheds meet monthly. Projects coming up for Crystal Lake include a recent management plan in addition to the alum treatment plan. An alum application is planned this year to help cap pollutants at the bottom of the lake and also a carp removal plan for 2021. These actions while clearing the water will also result in more vegetation growing and the need to monitor invasive species. The Twin-Ryan flow is being modeled to see how storms flow through; working on some implementation plans. On the south side in Basset Creek watershed includes Sohacki Park and its pond systems, with an assessment of the water bodies, public interaction, and developing a plan for the system.
14. There was discussion on the Minneapolis run-off into Crystal Lake and restricted pumping out of Crystal Lake. Sicora was aware of both Robbinsdale's issue and the problems Minneapolis has in flooding in their area. The Ryan Lake connection and study of hydrology of the water flow is something Robbinsdale can control. Should Minneapolis be required to take more flow their system lacks capacity. The possibility of State funding to help increase the holding capacity in Minneapolis was discussed; Sicora noted that there are a lot of choke points in the Minneapolis storm sewer system. Sicora noted it's easier to effect water flow in lakes/creeks than in storm sewer systems.
15. Selman noted 30% of the water that comes into Crystal Lake comes from Minneapolis; looking for Minneapolis to help reduce the flow from that direction. Sicora shared that Minneapolis is working on developing water detention areas and improving the water quality of the flow.
16. Glick inquired on whether there was an opportunity for the Shingle Creek watershed to look at the issue of cattails flowing from one area downstream and channel maintenance. Sicora noted a sub-watershed analysis could be identified as having a need for more aggressive maintenance and the possibility of grant money.

Cattail removal project on Twin-Ryan Lake connection

17. McCoy pointed out that the cattail grown not only affects Robbinsdale, but other surrounding communities are impacted by the water storage capacity impacts. McCoy noted that Glick's interview in the Star Tribune garnered attention from organizations all over the country and that Robbinsdale is receiving suggestions of how this problem could be addressed.

Information on the City's efforts on Environmental Stewardship

18. McCoy summarized a spreadsheet included in the packet outlining steps implemented over the past 20 years to improve the City's environmental stewardship. Backen and Blonigan remarked on how well the city is doing and recommended publicizing environmental accomplishments.
19. Blonigan indicated he would still like to have a firm that does a free energy audit come in to see if there are more measures the city can take to reduce energy use. McCoy had

spoken with Apple Valley, which recently undertook an audit, and found that Robbinsdale had already completed many of the suggested measures. Glick stated that the city has made several improvements, and while a lot has been done, staff will find a firm that offers this free energy use review for the City Hall and Public Safety buildings.

Monthly Problem Properties Update

20. Pearson reviewed the handout and discussed problem properties. The Council focused on Walgreens and discussed options for getting the business into compliance.
21. Pearson noted that he had seen an increase in inquiries about creating duplexes throughout the city. It was noted that two-family dwellings on small lots often had issues with lack of off-street parking.

Discuss Goal Session on January 23, 2021

22. Glick reported that the consultant had provided rough notes from the session. Glick will clean up the report and distribute to the City Council. Anticipate that at the March 2nd work session there would be discussion on next steps related to the 31 priorities identified.

Other Business

23. Backen announced he will be logging in remotely while out of town. Selman will be following up on any constituent contacts during this time.
24. Glick raised the prospect of plexiglass dividers for council members as observed being used in the City of Crystal's council chambers. Council members indicated their space is ok and concern is ample space for distancing between audience members.
25. Blonigan noted that Glick is the only City Manager he could recall that did not have an Assistant City Manager. Glick reviewed the history and pointed out that the job tasks have been split up among other employees but the issue can be looked at in the future.
26. Kline noted he had been contacted about a "No Wake" issue on Twin Lake. Glick confirmed that the Park, Recreation and Forestry Commission would be conducting city-wide listening sessions on recreational water uses.
27. Glick noted there would be a press release from Police Chief Foley regarding a self-inflicted incident at Sanborn Park.

ADJOURNMENT

28. Mayor Pro Tem Kline adjourned the work session at 8:06 p.m.



Dustin Leslie, City Clerk



Tyler Kline, Mayor Pro Tem