

ROBBINSDALE CITY COUNCIL
WORKSESSION MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2017.
COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM
CITY HALL

1. The worksession was called to order by Mayor Pro-Tem Blonigan at 7:44 pm.
2. Councilmembers Present: Rogan, Selman, Backen, Mayor Murphy, Mayor Pro-Tem Blonigan;
Staff Present: City Manager Glick, Public Works Director McCoy, Community Development Coordinator Pearson.
Bottineau Project Office Staff: Dan Solar, Alicia Vap, Dan Green, David Davies,
Hennepin County Staff: Kevin Dockery, Patricia Fitzgerald,
Special Guest: Josh Opheim, Robbinsdale Public Works.

DISCUSSION: Robbinsdale Park & Ride LRT

3. Dan Solar of the Bottineau Project Office reviewed the objectives for the parking ramp:
 - Pedestrians and bicyclists coming to the ramp to get on the LRT;
 - Park and riders driving to the ramp;
 - People making bus connections. 67% of the riders are expected to be making connections with busses based upon the modeling.He also noted the main principals in the municipal consent agreement:
 - The park and ride must fit in the character and context of downtown Robbinsdale
 - It won't be successful if it is a parking structure only – must include development.Questions city is asking based on recent work session:
 - How many parking spaces do we *really* need?
 - What is the other development component that will be successful at this location?
 - What is the structure appearance?Solar noted that the project scope approved by the CMC and included Federal ranking assumes 550 park and ride spaces in Robbinsdale, some of the spaces are for bus and some for LRT, 67% of the riders are coming on bus connections.
4. Councilmember Rogan expressed concerns that the ramp design works for transit and busses but does not work for Robbinsdale. The Council questions the number of parking spaces needed and generally feel that the ramp with an excess of 500 spaces is too much and overwhelms Robbinsdale with no discernable benefit. He noted that what is left after the park and ride geometry isn't usable.
5. Alternative ideas were discussed included:
 - Option for an underground level in the parking ramp;
 - A second parking ramp near McDonald's for replacement downtown parking and/or bus portion of the transit function.
 - Splitting park and ride spaces to two locations.
 - Adding some of the park and ride spaces at a different station.

6. Conflicts with busses is a primary concern. Six bus spaces on either side of the two-lane aisle is two large and looks like there is space for twelve busses.
7. The Development Wrap was discussed including concerns raised in the market analysis and preference for other commercial developments which hid the parking lot behind buildings.
8. Solar offered to review the modeling for the needed parking spaces in the ramp. There is a concern about scoring by the FTA. He is also started looking at the bus foot.

DISCUSSION: Pianos On Parade

9. Mayor Murphy explained the information on the handout included in the agenda packet. The potential location would be on the plaza. Council members indicated preference for one piano where the artist would get direction on the design. Funding may be available via REDA sales proceeds required to be used on downtown projects. Glick will check on funding; Murphy will follow up on other questions.

REVIEW: Problem Properties

10. Pearson provided updates on the properties with a list distributed to add to the agenda packet. Next steps – 1) citations to be issued for the property on Josephine Lane; 2) illegal use at 3900 36th Ave. N. to be given a citation in addition to the property owner who has already been cited.

REVIEW: 2017-18 Goals

11. This review will be added to a work session following the February 21st meeting which is expected to have a light agenda. Glick noted that a work plan for additional staff help related to the LRT planning would be started prior to a request for assistance. Glick will be in contact with Elise Durban, currently at Hennepin County, but who had been involved with the southwest LRT planning preparations.

OTHER BUSINESS:

12. Councilmember Backen updated the group on the West Broadway Transit Alternatives Study. The Street Car option was recommended 6-5. There is no funding source identified.
13. Mayor pro-tem Blonigan adjourned the work session at 9:53 pm.


Rick Pearson, Recorder


William A. Blonigan, Mayor Pro Tem