

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
February 8, 2022
After the REDA Meeting that takes place at 7pm
Robbinsdale City Hall
4100 Lakeview Avenue North

AGENDA

1. CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION CALLED TO ORDER BY MAYOR PRO TEM
2. ROLL CALL: Kline, Webb, Selman, Backen, Mayor Blonigan
3. Presentation/Discussion: Review of Human Rights Commission Annual Goals
4. CIP Follow Up Items
 - Crosswalk CR9@Yates – remove project- location not safe for crossing
 - Trail at Sunset Park – review priority- path provides ADA access
5. Design Input- plaza at NW corner 36th/France –impacted by upcoming project.
6. Discuss: Snow removal questions
7. Discuss: Potential dates for 1-1 interviews of City Manager candidates
8. Update: Problem Properties (to be distributed at meeting)
9. Review: Project Updates (attached)
10. Other Business
11. ADJOURNMENT

<u>Strategic Direction – established 2017</u> • Investing for the Future • Innovating for Quality Services and Efficiencies • Promoting & Connecting • Revitalizing the Community	 City of Robbinsdale MISSION STATEMENT Robbinsdale... Our Hometown ❖ Our community of citizens and businesses – dedicated, proud and involved ❖ Our government – accessible, accountable, open and compassionate ❖ Our resources – prudently allocated and equitably provided
“What People? What Good? What Cost?”	

Investing for the Future – AA+ Bond Rating Confirmed

- Environmental Sustainability
 - Xcel Partners in Energy – **Front page outreach City newsletter going out in February**
 - Energy Usage Review Analysis – complete. Identified projects on maintenance schedule.
 - Green Step Cities – Step 2 – staff will continue to pursue opportunities – citizen volunteer?
 - Advocacy for Monarchs – pollinator areas
 - Promoted work in this area in summer ‘21 City newsletter – link on Council webpage Top Topics
- Creative finance – identified cost savings shift for fleet leasing and software packages
- Live up to ‘what people-what good-what cost’
- Park Facilities – Meeting spaces
 - Sanborn Park Building/Park Redevelopment
 - Lower Level Public Safety
 - Historic Meeting Room **On hold- requires State Historical Office Approval**
 - Lee park building retrofit **Grant has been approved – more details to follow**
- Park Facilities – Playgrounds & Fields
 - Triangle Park master plan; Graeser acquisition; North Lee Park expansion
 - Potential for ½ court Basketball/pickleball at Manor
 - Community Garden at “Bunny Store Site” - starting to build raised garden structures.
- Asset Replacement & Maintenance – Support the CIP
 - Master Plan Schedule for All Parks – 10 year CIP
 - Public Buildings- 10 year CIP **council chambers AV update & wall shift-** security update
 - Street Projects – 10 year CIP
 - Water infrastructure- 10 year CIP
- Partnerships – Funding/Advocacy
 - Hennepin/State -Infrastructure Grants/Funding
 - BlueLine Connect Now! – LRT
 - Metro Cities/LMC/NLC – legislative priorities/policies & advocacy
 - Communicate about Fiscal Disparities
 - BYR Quad Communities – Active military family support
 - Three Rivers Parks – Sochacki JPA, regional trails & trail head at South Twin Lake **Parks to People initiative**
 - Youth Sports Associations (fundraising)
 - NWCT-CCX
 - Shingle Creek/Basset Creek WMO – lake/stream quality and projects Ryan-South Twin cattails
 - DNR/Shingle Creek/State-Fed/Mpls – Crystal Lake water table

Innovating for Quality Services and Efficiencies

- Employer of Choice – retention, attraction, tools-software-resources
 - Inclusive hiring practices/focus on hiring diverse staff
 - Explore Affinity Groups
 - Educational contract for recruitment/retention
 - Staff training on implicit bias/equity/inclusion
- Enhanced Services
 - Technology enhancements –(meters/ BS&A-on line permits/payments/permit look up)
 - Drinking water softening, water pressure improvement
 - New Water Meters –encourage email provision for quicker leak detection contact.
 - Solid waste – Service issues/Liquidated Damages – Council report March 22 meeting
 - Special Needs – Shared Mental Health Worker – HC Mental Health Dispatch Specialist
- Staff-Council Relations – Department leads connect with Council at multiple meetings

Promoting & Connecting

- Communication to Inform Residents
 - Social media/Energy use awareness/tip411/pedestrian safety/COVID19
 - New Resident welcome letter
- Engage/Involve Residents
 - Expand Community Involvement
 - public health i.e. tobacco, Special events, movie in park/gym, on-line surveys, open houses
 - Increase Creative Equity for Parks/Recreation Programs
 - Reported to BIRD (scooters/bikes), Robbinsdale City Council not interested.
- PR Campaigns/Outreach
 - Consider PT Public Relations Position – Assistant to City Manager position 2022 budget
 - Enhanced public communication – share information on success
 - Community Outreach Positions

Revitalizing the Community

- Redevelopment Downtown
 - 2023-24 WB streetscape/sidewalks
 - Elim Lutheran Church Site –expecting update later in the month
 - Developer roundtables RE open development sites- Realistically wait on LRT LPA
- Redevelopment Outside of Downtown
 - 4600 Lake Road - “The Reeve Lakeside” reeve being French for dream per developer
 - Point of Sale – discussed in August 2021 – continue program without change
 - Interest in several potential redevelopment sites
- Support/Promote Local Businesses
 - Expanded outdoor service during COVID; return to zoning/license requirements 2022
- Engage the Chamber of Commerce in promotion efforts
 - *Promotion of City-County- technical and grant assistance- Elevate HC, Comcast RISE; Robbinsdale is open site; Chamber site; Business identification as BIPOC, Latinx, Military, women-owned*
- Promote opportunities to Developers. Define what we want
 - Developer roundtable Realistically wait on LRT LPA
- Update REDA signage - *no properties for sale at this time*

Robbinsdale Human Rights Commission Strategic Plan for 2022

On December, 9, 2021, the HRC met for a strategic planning meeting to discuss and decide our goals for 2022.

Question: What are the top three things for the HRC to accomplish in 2022?

Answer: In 2022, the HRC wishes to:

- 1) Connect with the community more and do more outreach to raise awareness about human rights issues and about the HRC
- 2) Learn about community needs and build relationships with city leaders and staff, business leaders, and schools to promote collaboration
- 3) Work towards equity for all in Robbinsdale.

The Process

First, the group reviewed the HRC list of goals and topics from 2018. We discussed that our core goals seem to still apply, but we want them to be informed by community feedback. Those core goals are:

1. Promote awareness and understanding of human rights across our community.
2. Increase access to the Commission.
3. Strengthen the Commission's relationship with the city administration.
4. Increase the Commission's capacity to promote awareness and understanding of human rights issues.

We reviewed the activities that the HRC planned or participated in during 2020 and 2021, and reflected on those activities, what we thought went well, and what felt unfinished. We then went on to brainstorm ideas for activities that we wanted the HRC to do in 2022.

We then clustered the ideas, first pairing ideas, and then putting ideas into larger clusters based on the group's collective wisdom on how the ideas related to each other. We then gave each cluster a name. Through this process, our ideas came together in three clusters, as listed below:

1. Public outreach

- Host educational events
- Partner with local orgs and businesses for Pride and Juneteenth
- Partner with other cities on Juneteenth
- Volunteer at community events
- Volunteer time in Robbinsdale (e.g., meals on wheels)
- Visit nursing homes/elderly homes
- Host a National Night Out site
- Participate in the Whiz Bang Parade and other events that the HRC typically participates in (park clean up, Meet and Greet)
- Participate in the tree lighting in December
- Participate in events with the public schools
- Pitch pieces to the press
- Engage with community via social media
- Publish HRC achievements
- Increase HRC membership to at least 9 members

2. Collaboration and research

- Coordinate with other city commissions,
- collaborate with Parks and Rec specifically
- Build relationships with Council
- Host regular community forums with respective ward reps
- Meet regularly with RPD staff
- Collaborate with school resources
- Coordinate with business leaders
- Research Robbinsdale community needs
- Research policing/public safety issues
- Research disability access in public spaces
- Get involved with elections and hiring
- Add a youth member to the HRC

3. Equity for all

- Participate in light rail talks with an equity lens
- Form a community task force
- Continue pushing for fair housing policies
- Center equality as driver in public policy
- Develop a racial equity plan for the city
- New survey on mobility/access issues [also relates to research]
- Host another community forum [also relates to public outreach and research]

The Outcome

For each of the three goals, the group then discussed what should be the immediate next steps:

1 **Public outreach**

- Create calendar of key meetings (commission meetings) and community events
- Make a list of potential partners/collaborators
- Assign responsibilities

2. **Collaboration and research**

- Get the contact information for each commission's liaison
- Reach out to city leaders about HRC plan, and setting up a regular schedule of communication

3. **Equity for all**

- Attend the January 18th public hearing about the amendments to the crime-free/drug free housing law and repeat nuisance service calls law
- Participate in the light rail update on 12/13 and other light rail meetings
- Kick the Racism-Is-a Public Health Crisis work into high gear

Properties with Chronic Code Enforcement Issues – February, 2022.

Owner occupied or non-rental property

3800 Vera Cruz Ave. N. *(Since the beginning – prior to 2018)*

No current property maintenance issues with the unregistered vehicle stored in the garage.

3947 Zenith Ave. N. *(May, 2021)*

Dog issues and citations for rubbish.

3415 Zenith Ave. N. *(On and off list since before 2018)*

The former owner is protesting the tax forfeiture of the property. Eventually, the house will probably go to auction.

3826 Noble Ave. N. *(March 2021)*

The dangerous dog has been seized. A new dog may have been acquired contrary to the statutory prohibition.

4100 West Broadway (Walgreen's) *(June 2020-most recently)*

Staff continues to monitor and provide warnings. Snow storage has been an issue.

5624 42nd Ave. N. *(Since June, 2021 – most recently)*

Warnings about vehicles blocking the sidewalk have been heeded. The occupant appeared at City Hall to get information about special assessments and utility balances.

Licensed Rental properties

2671-73 Meridian *(July 2021)*

Rubbish issues have resulted in citations. Concession trailer has been removed.

3834 Quail Ave. N. *(June 2021)*

Citations for at-large and unlicensed dog. No property maintenance code issues.

4162-64 Adair Ave. N. *(June 2021 – most recently)*

Rubbish issues being addressed. Transition in management.

Four properties were investigated last week as apparent unlicensed rental properties. Property ownership of record is checked against taxpayer, homestead and utility billing. Warnings are sent to the taxpayers of record and oftentimes, the inspector simply meets occupants with a “knock and talk” and finds out they are tenants.