

**ROBBINSDALE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR WORK SESSION MINUTES**

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Following the REDA Meeting which starts at 7:00 p.m. Robbinsdale City Hall

1. The work session was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Webb at 7:12 p.m.
2. Councilmembers Present: Kline, Webb, Selman, Backen, Mayor Blonigan
Absent: None
3. Staff Present: Marcia Glick, City Manager; Richard McCoy, Public Works Director;
Rick Pearson, Community Development Coordinator

Presentation/Discussion: Review of Human Rights Commission Annual Goals

4. HRC Commissioners Rita Fox and Kristin DeGross distributed the HRC Strategic Plan for 2022 and highlighted that the goals are flexible and able to respond if new issues arise. Presentation highlights included increasing communication with council and how to communicate between meetings; equity and taking a closer look at police use of nuisance violations
5. Webb asked about Juneteenth and Pride plans. Commissioners responded that there hasn't been any outreach. Webb indicated that North Minneapolis does Juneteenth well and Golden Valley has a good Pride festival. The point is to bring people together and recommended collaborating with existing events vs. spreading people among many events.
6. Blonigan noted that the City Council is interested in further study of the crime-free ordinance. It should not be only HRC; it should be broader. He expected the project would be taken up later in the year.
7. Glick noted there is already a Fair Housing Policy that the City Council adopts annually. If updates are needed, suggestions could be brought to the City Council mid-year.
8. Commissioners clarified that the focus would be on the three areas at the end of the report and other items were brainstorming. Examples were given of questions that come up including no-knock warrants, accessibility for future LRT, and application of DWI to previous and updated code.

Capital Improvement Plan Clarification and Design Elements for NW plaza at 36th & France

9. McCoy discussed three projects and Council Members provided feedback:
 - Cross Walk across CR9 at Yates: Observed that busses block visibility when stopped; no reason for traffic to be naturally slowing/stopping in this area such as an upcoming semaphore or frequent turning movements. Noted that the police looked at pedestrian safety enforcement in this area, and it was deemed not to be a safe place for pedestrians to cross and not even a safe place to conduct an enforcement exercise. Next Step: McCoy will send letter to area noting that the crosswalk will be removed. The

cross walk provides a false sense of security and if people choose to cross, they need to be cautious.

- Trail at Sunset Park: McCoy noted issues with the current path location (curb cut at a low point so storm water tends to flow on the path instead of through the storm sewer where the water goes through treatment, steepness/ADA compliance addressed through flat spot and bench at steepest slope). Council consensus was to move forward with the path project which addresses storm water and ADA concerns.
- Plaza at NW Corner of 36th & France: McCoy reviewed current elements and the fact that when the utilities are replaced, everything will need to be removed. Backen supported keeping a flagpole, path and the entry barrier; Possibly adding a way-finding sign to downtown and preference for grasses instead of pavers. Other council members agreed.

Discuss Snow Removal Questions

10. Glick shared a map showing areas cars were towed from during the two snow emergencies in January. Noted that more cars were towed from West Broadway than other areas and that getting good snow removal is very important as cars parallel park in these spots.
11. McCoy noted a complaint on east side of Noble Avenue related to the new design and narrowing of the snow storage; street width was also narrowed slightly. City snow machine clears the path on the west side, not the sidewalk on the east side. Council members confirmed the complaint had only come from one person.
12. Glick noted that updates had been made to an old Snow Emergency pdf document on the website. The old snow emergency line will be phased out as a determination of start of snow emergency and replaced with a more helpful static message including using the tip411 App. She had learned from tip411 tech support that the mobile app is the preferred method for people to get alerts. Those who chose to use only text or email should consider signing up for more than one email or phone in case a particular carrier is having issues. She noted that snow emergency notices sent to the media are not reliably shared and some just point to the City website for information- emphasizing the need to use the web banner for alerts.

Date for 1-1 Interviews with City Manager Candidates

13. Consensus for March 23.

Problem Properties

14. Pearson provided an overview of the report, which was distributed at the meeting and attached to the agenda. There was a discussion on enforcement of expired vehicle registration (currently a zoning violation). Glick will follow up on the status of traffic stops for expired tabs.

Project Updates

15. Glick highlighted that the Partners In Energy outreach would be on the front page of the city-wide newsletter going out in February. She also noted the addition of Three Rivers Parks "parks to people" initiative;

Other Business

16. Glick shared an update on the Land Acknowledgement project Mayor Blonigan and Member Webb were looking at and a new recourse recommended by the Native Governance Center.
17. McCoy shared that only 2 people came to the information session on reconstruction of Regent Avenue north of 42nd. McCoy also noted an opportunity to get additional funding for water efficiency rebates that would include low water use dishwashers and irrigation controls. Council supported staff making the grant application.

ADJOURNMENT

18. Mayor Pro Tem Webb adjourned the meeting at 8:34 p.m.



Marcia Glick, Recorder



Sheila Webb, Mayor Pro Tem