

**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION**  
**March 4, 2020**  
**Council Chambers**  
**4100 Lakeview Avenue North**  
**Robbinsdale, Minnesota**  
**Following the 7:00 p.m. regular City Council Meeting**

**AGENDA**

1. CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION CALLED TO ORDER BY MAYOR PRO TEM
2. ROLL CALL: Blonigan, Rogan, Selman, Backen, Mayor Murphy
3. INFORMATION: Proposed picnic in the park including Graeser Park sponsored by Restore Lilac Way
4. UPDATE: Proposal for Classic Car Show along West Broadway
5. UPDATE: City Hall remodeling relocating the wall between DMV and Council Chambers
6. UPDATE: Water Treatment Plant
7. DISCUSSION: Potential update city requirements for outdoor liquor service
8. DISCUSSION: Information on winter parking regulation in other cities
9. UPDATE: Preparation for open houses for community building at Sanborn Park
10. UPDATE: Problem properties
11. UPDATE: Strategic goals
12. OTHER BUSINESS
13. ADJOURNMENT

### Item 3

#### **Proposed Restore Lilac Way Event in Graeser Park August 15th**

Restore Lilac Way is partnering with the Robbinsdale Lions to hold a "Picnic Like its 1939" event in Graeser Park on Saturday August 15<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This is a Bring Your Own Picnic (BYOP) event. The event is in conjunction with a total of three picnics in three historic Lilac Way parks built during the Great Depression.

Since Graeser Park is within MnDOT Right-of-Way, the City is being required by MnDOT to reserve the park by submitting a "Special Event" permit to the MnDOT at no cost. Staff will apply for the permit on behalf of Restore Lilac Way.



**KAREN LAUKKONEN** Lilac Way Enthusiast & [Website Designer](#)

[restorelilacway.com](http://restorelilacway.com) 952.929.1242 [karen@restorelilacway.com](mailto:karen@restorelilacway.com)



**DOCUMENTING** the history and seven historic parks of Lilac Way on Highway 100, from Robbinsdale to Edina

**SUPPORTING** restoration of Graeser Park and its rare beehive fireplace in Robbinsdale, MN

**ENCOURAGING** preservation of Rock Island area on Minnetonka Blvd. in St. Louis Park, MN

4.4.20. Lilac Way was a 12.5 mile 'showcase section' of lilac-lined Highway 100 and the Belt Line. Built as a WPA project during the Great Depression, it stretched from Robbinsdale to Edina. Seven roadside parks were designed to draw tourists to picnic with family and friends. These parks had handcrafted beehive fireplaces, stone picnic tables and water features.

Only two beehive fireplaces remain today—one has been restored in St. Louis Park, and there is a growing movement to restore the rare beehive fireplace in Robbinsdale.

## PICNIC LIKE IT'S 1939 - A RESTORE LILAC WAY EVENT SERIES

- Three picnics, three historic Lilac Way parks, develop as an annual series
- One picnic each summer month -
  - LILAC PARK, RESTORED 6.13.2020 Saturday, 10am-2pm (SLP, given OK per Rick Beane 2.10.20)
  - ROCK ISLAND 7.12.2020 Sunday, 10am-2pm (SLP, discussing with Council Member Margaret Rog)
  - **GRAESER PARK 8.15.2020 Saturday, 10am-2pm (Robbinsdale)**
- BYOP (Bring Your Own Picnic)
- I would be at event with Restore Lilac Way display, including posters, handouts, cards, before/after photos, etc.
- Stop at a local restaurant or grocery store to pack a picnic
- Encourage guests to bring their own tupperware/forks for low-waste event

### GOALS

- Create a low-effort, low-budget event (no grilling, food prep, music, etc.)
- Package three remaining historical Lilac Way parks together
- Raise awareness for restoration of Graeser Park and preservation of Rock Island
- Tie-in to original Lilac Way picnics in roadside parks
- Encourage people to visit restored Lilac Park during LRT construction, have their own picnics
- Promote community get-together, be part of a bigger picture, bring community together

### HOW THE CITY OF ROBBINSDALE COULD BENEFIT FROM THE GRAESER PARK PICNIC

- Raise awareness for potential restoration of Graeser Park
- Graeser Park event will have its own web page, so City can drive people to one page, will add City logo, etc.
- Create annual event, GPR&P can fund raise at future events after land has been transferred, built-in audience
- Laukkonen Design will promote through [restorelilacway.com](http://restorelilacway.com), [Facebook](#), Sun News, NextDoor, etc.

### GRAESER PARK EVENT

- Robbinsdale Lions agreed to co-host event with Restore Lilac Way
- Will also be asking Robbinsdale Historical Society to co-host
- I contacted MnDOT, said "I am planning to have community picnics in Robbinsdale's Graeser Park and SLP's Rock Island in summer 2020. Is there anything I need to know before I do this?" (Both owned by MnDOT)
- Jennie Bailey Matti at MnDOT Property Conveyance spoke with MnDOT's Permits, Legal and Right of Way offices about my request, she was very helpful
- Her response: The best way to handle this is to have the City (both of them) apply directly to MnDOT for a "Special Event" permit. They can go to this site: <https://dotapp7.dot.state.mn.us/OLPA/>
- Would the City of Robbinsdale request a MnDOT permit for the Graeser Park event



## Picnic like it's 1939.

Three picnics. Three historic Lilac Way parks, built during the Great Depression.

It's BYOP (bring your own picnic).

Bike, walk or drive to join your friends and neighbors for these unique events. And become a part of history.

Attend one, two or all three **Restore Lilac Way** community picnics.

### Quick Links

[Saturday June 13, 2020 - Lilac Park \(restored\), St. Louis Park, MN](#)

[Sunday July 12, 2020 - Rock Island, St. Louis Park, MN](#)

[Saturday August 15, 2020 - Graeser Park, Robbinsdale, MN](#)

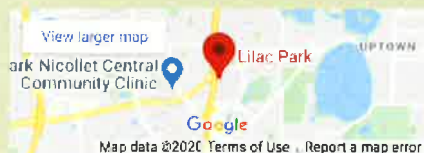
**LILAC PARK**  
**6.13.2020**  
Saturday, 10am-2pm



### Lilac Park, St. Louis Park

Beautifully restored by the City of SLP in 2009, the beehive fireplace and picnic tables are once again a destination on Highway 100.

[Lilac Park picnic details](#)



**ROCK ISLAND**  
**7.12.2020**  
Sunday, 10am-2pm



### Rock Island, St. Louis Park

This hidden gem is all that remains of the original Lilac Park. It has an oval pool, a 10' footbridge and handcrafted curved bench.

[Rock Island picnic details](#)



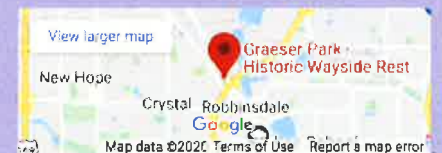
**GRAESER PARK**  
**8.15.2020**  
Saturday, 10am-2pm



### Graeser Park, Robbinsdale

See the rare beehive fireplace, one of only two in the US and the Rock Garden with its handcrafted stone benches, ponds and pathways.

[Graeser Park picnic details](#)





[History](#) [Beehive Fireplaces](#) [Parks](#) [Restoration](#) [Images](#) [About](#) [Stories](#) [Contact](#)

## Picnic Like it's 1939! Graeser Park, August 15th, 2020

Don't miss this unique Restore Lilac Way event. Join your community on Saturday, June 13th for a picnic in Lilac Way's historic Graeser Park in Robbinsdale, MN.

It's BYOP (Bring Your Own Picnic).

Stop by on Saturday, August 15th, 2020 between 10am-2pm.



Just pack some food, and go.

### Bring sandwiches, coffee, takeout—anything you like.

This picnic is BYOB – Bring Your Own Picnic. Pack food from home, or stop at a local restaurant or grocery store on your way.

Then bike, drive or walk to Graeser Park on Sat., August 15th, 2020, 10am – 2pm. Invite family and friends, all are welcome to this historic 1939 Lilac Way park.

### Help us make this a low-waste event.

We'll provide trash, recycling and compost for the picnic. But we encourage you to bring reusable plates and utensils so we can reduce our footprint for this event.



Meet your 'Picnic Like it's 1939' event hosts.



Proposed web page to promote Graeser Park picnic (partial page shown)

## Item 7: Requirements for Alcohol Service- Outdoor Seating

Staff has reviewed what other cities require for outdoor seating areas on private property adjacent to licensed establishments that sell alcohol. Currently, outdoor seating areas are allowed with a conditional use permit in DD-1, DD-2, B-3, B-4. In addition, the city has additional requirements for outdoor seating areas containing the consumption of alcohol adjacent to licensed businesses in section 1205.23.

### **Regulations for outside sale of alcohol adjacent to licensed businesses**

Of the cities looked at, Robbinsdale required the tallest fence height. At the time we had matched Waconia's ordinance and the CUP's approved. Waconia has reduced their required fence height to 3 feet. Currently, there are four businesses with conditional use permits for outdoor seating areas (Nonna Rosa's, Wicked Wort, El Toro, and Broadway Pizza). The smallest approved fence/barrier being El Toro at four (4) feet in 2010.

Examples of items discussed in other similar ordinances in metro communities:

- Allowance of fence/barrier alternatives. (Various Cities)
  - Waconia requires "an approved fence at least 36 inches in height or some other approved structure or barrier that has designated opening for ingress to egress,"
  - Edina requires "an approved fence at least 36 inches in height or some other approved structure or barrier"
  - Crystal requires "fencing and screening"
  - Mounds View requires..." improvements to the outside service area including safety barriers..."

Current CUP holders for outdoor seating:

Wicked Wort.

- Approved in 2016. 6-foot-high wrought-iron fence with locked gate on west side and gate entrance on east.

El Toro

- Approved in 2010. 4-foot-high brick wall with planter hangers adjacent to driving lane. Gate at east side with note saying "not an entrance."

Nonna Rosas (Previously Municipal Bar/13 Moons)

- Approved in 1999. 6-foot wrought iron fence. Locked gate at east end. Unlocked for dogs to enter.

Broadway Pizza

- Approved in 1997. Elevated seating with 4-foot high lattice fence to cover metal railing with planter boxes. Entrance on south side with locked gate on north end of patio.

## **Item 8:**

### **Snow Emergency Parking Enforcement Research**

At the February 4<sup>th</sup> work session, council requested staff gather information from similar “first-ring” communities about how they implement and enforce winter street parking regulations. Staff gathered information from the cities of Columbia Heights and Richfield.

Columbia Heights does not allow overnight street parking in the winter without a permit. Details of the permit:

- The permit is free of charge;
- An application is submitted to the police department and a CSO does a site visit to determine if a street parking permit is warranted. Rental properties are not eligible for parking permits;
- The permits are good from November 1<sup>st</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup>;
- The parking permits are voided if there is a snowfall of 3 inches or greater until the street has been plowed curb to curb;
- The parking permits are a contentious issue;
- Otherwise no overnight street parking is allowed from 2:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m.

Additional conditions of the permit:

- Permits in excess of five for a residence in any calendar month shall not be granted unless the Chief of Police determines that the applicant cannot park on the property upon which their residence is located without violating the zoning laws relating to permitted off-street parking areas or that the applicant cannot reasonably or legally drive the subject vehicle to any other place on the property where his residence is located without violating the zoning laws relating to off-street parking;
- The Chief of Police determines that the issuance of such permit will not impede the plowing or removal of any snow, ice or waste from such public road or parkway;
- The permit will only allow the parking of vehicles at such location as is designed by the Chief of Police;
- The permit may be revoked by the Chief of Police if the Chief of Police later discovers that the subject vehicle will impede the plowing or removal of snow, ice, or waste from the location of the vehicle; provided, however, that the Chief of Police shall give notice of such revocation by posting a notice to that effect on the subject vehicle for not less than two hours;
- No permit shall be valid unless clearly displayed upon the permitted vehicle;
- Any act of the designated representative of the Chief of Police shall be construed as the act of the Chief of Police for purposes of this division;
- All permits granted hereunder shall expire on March 31 of each year.

Richfield does not have a permit system, instead having a Snow Emergency ordinance similar to Robbinsdale. Police will start ticketing in different areas to more fairly distribute tickets. Couple ideas they are considering are:

- Opening up a couple park parking lots for snow emergency refuge parking.
- Asking churches to consider refuge parking.
- Evaluating allowing street parking even during snow emergencies on wide streets with multi-family buildings.

- Innovating for Quality Services and Efficiencies
- Promoting & Connecting
- Revitalizing the Community
- Investing for the Future

#### Innovating for Quality Services and Efficiencies

- Employer of Choice – retention, attraction, tools-software-resources
- Enhanced Services
  - ❖ technology enhancements
    - On-line water meter staff monitoring and user account access
    - On-line registration – programs & facility rental
    - On-line permits/licensing (fall 2020 software update)
    - Speed trailer & speed-radar signs
    - Transition to more electronic payments
  - ❖ Drinking water softening, water pressure improvement
  - ❖ Solid waste – organics
  - ❖ Way-finding – improved signage entryway, parking lots
  - ❖ Special Needs – Shared Mental Health Worker

#### Promoting & Connecting

- Communication to Inform Residents
  - ❖ Website update live
  - ❖ Social media outreach – smart use of videos, FB/Twitter/Instagram, Timed posts
  - ❖ Energy use awareness – reduce water waste incentive, energy saving tips Xcel/CPE
    - 5.5 worksession review Green Step Cities and heat map energy use from Xcel
  - ❖ Timely topics
    - New resident welcome letter
    - Snow emergency/Parking enforcement-discuss 3/4 work session
    - Census & Elections
    - Pedestrian Safety
- Engage/Involve Residents
  - ❖ Public Health: tobacco, heart-safe AED use outreach to Chamber members March newsletter
  - ❖ Special Events: Whiz Bang Days, Chamber events, Bike Rodeo, Car show
  - ❖ Park specials: movies, DJ, Pop-ups
  - ❖ On-line surveys: Annual survey, Input on programs/facilities
- PR Campaigns/Outreach
  - ❖ Coffee w/Cop & Lights-On
  - ❖ Community Open House: Public Safety, Station area exercises; Community Building
  - ❖ Infrastructure Plans: Pre-construction,
  - ❖ Construction Communication: website updates, e-notification
  - ❖ Fair Housing - information

#### Revitalizing the Community

- Redevelopment Downtown
  - ❖ Sidewalk/streetscape update and plaza extension – 2021/22. Update at 4.14 work session
  - ❖ Holding post LRT development sites as public parking
  - ❖ Outdoor liquor service requirements review/update – 3.4 work session
  - ❖ Pre-development LCDA Planning Grant
  - ❖ Reuse of Hubbard Marketplace – waiting from Met Council
  - ❖ Plans for future Park&Ride plus Wrap : periodic review of station area plans/expectations
  - ❖ Forgivable façade loan: working with Birdhouse.
- Redevelopment Outside of Downtown
  - ❖ Scattered site homes: 4217 Ewing, 3917 Vera Cruz, Robbins Beach, 3359 Halifax
  - ❖ Parker Station & Birdtown Flats
  - ❖ 4600 Lake Road
  - ❖ Other City properties: bunny store lot, beach south parking, DT shared parking
  - ❖ Point of Sale

### Investing for the Future

- Community Space/Meeting Room
  - ❖ Sanborn Park Building/Park Redevelopment – funding/timing. 3/18 & 21 open house; April survey.
  - ❖ Lower Level Public Safety
  - ❖ Historic Meeting Room – meeting with SHPO on 4.7.2020
  - ❖ LVT Pavilion
  - ❖ City Hall- report on DMV/Council wall shift 3.4 work session
- Asset Replacement & Maintenance
  - ❖ Master Plan Schedule for All Parks – 10 year CIP
    - Graeser Park (acquire as part of LRT)
    - Triangle
    - Lee expansion north
    - LVT center area and parking updates
    - Hollingsworth (on hold for complete plans)-connected with Brandon mid-February
  - ❖ Public Buildings- 10 year CIP
    - City Hall – Chambers update/DMV expansion; adding garage
    - Public Works Building/Garage
    - Public Safety
    - Community Gyms
    - Integrated security system (cameras/locks)
  - ❖ Street Projects – 10 year CIP
    - Chowen/Beard 2020-21
    - W Broadway N of 41<sup>st</sup> inc. street scape – 2022; 40-41 in 2021
  - ❖ Water infrastructure- 10 year CIP
    - Plant – 2020-22
    - Feeder lines to plant – 2021-22
    - Towers: North- 2021-22, South- \_\_\_\_
- Partnerships – Funding/Advocacy
  - ❖ Hennepin/State - Census outreach – 2020; Redistricting GIS – 2022
  - ❖ BlueLine Connect Now! – LRT
  - ❖ Metro Cities/LMC/NLC – legislative priorities/policies & advocacy
  - ❖ State bills for 2020: 4d tax expansion proposal; public meeting digital recording on-line
  - ❖ BYR Quad Communities – Active military family support
  - ❖ Three Rivers Parks – Sochacki JPA, regional trails & trail heads
  - ❖ Youth Sports Associations (fundraising)
  - ❖ NWCT-CCX
  - ❖ Shingle Creek/Basset Creek WMO – lake/stream quality and projects
    - Crystal Lake Alum - 2020
    - Ryan Creek Cleanup- 2020 – No one replied to RFP
  - ❖ DNR/Shingle Creek/State-Fed/Mpls – Crystal Lake water table
    - Add storm water extension north of CR9 to Ryan with movable pump
    - Minneapolis storm water improvement
      - What have they done since we last talked?
    - Storm water infiltration options
- Longer Range Financial Forecasting
  - ❖ 10-year operations budget – aligned with CIP
  - ❖ 2-year budget planning

### Other Projects

- Charter amendment – update Finance chapter
- REDA TIF 2020 and purchase agreements for 4217 Ewing & 3917 Vera Cruz
- Clean up grant submissions for PSF start 3.30.2020