

ROBBINSDALE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR WORK SESSION MINUTES

Tuesday, April 6 2021

Web-Ex Meeting following Regular Council Meeting

1. The work session was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Kline at 9:01 p.m.
2. Councilmembers Present: Kline, Webb, Selman, Backen, Mayor Blonigan
3. Staff Present: Marcia Glick, City Manager; Charnelle Dengnoue, Human Resources Specialist; Richard McCoy, Public Works Director; Rick Pearson, Community Development Coordinator.
4. Others Present:
Human Rights Commissioners: Rita Fox, Julie Ralston-Aoki, Kristyn DeGross, Molly Beahen, Holly Moberg
Metro BlueLine LRT Community Advisory Commissioners: Gene Montenez, Jason Greenberg

REPORT: UPDATE ON HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION PROJECTS AND REVIEW OF ADDITIONAL QUESTION FOR HRC COMMISSION APPLICATION SUPPLEMENT.

5. HRC Members DeGross and Beahen reported that they had been working to create a stronger community through deeper understanding of each other through community engagement. They had prepared sample proclamations for Pride Day and Juneteenth.
6. Council members shared support for the proclamations. It was determined that both would be prepared for council action at a May meeting-anticipating target of May 4. Council members were encouraged to review and provide feedback on any suggested changes.
7. HRC also suggested holding events in June, 2021. Feedback was that there was a very short planning window and patterning with another city's celebration. Webb pointed out that these are celebrations that you don't want to rush. Glick recommended checking in with the Community Outreach/Recreation staff to determine if there is time to plan something at a smaller scale. She noted that city events need to be processed through the city process and typically events are programmed months in advance ahead of time and the publication for summer programs has already gone out. Providing the respect that both events deserve a larger planning window is required for major events.

DISCUSSION: LETTER FROM ROBBINSDALE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION REGARDING MARCH 17, 2021 MEETING.

8. Glick noted that the letter had been included in the meeting agenda packet for City Council and CAC members.
9. Chair Fox indicated that as members of the Human Rights Commission it is their obligation to bring forward concerns and provide advice.
10. Council members thanked the commission for bringing the concerns forward and the professionalism and care taken in drafting the letter. Some noted that they disagreed with some of the statements.

11. A discussion followed regarding messaging seeming to connect criminal activity and transit riders seen in social media posts, the importance to move forward encouraging everyone to submit their feedback on the light rail proposal, and that differing viewpoints need to be shared.
12. Selman noted that he had requested that the special meeting be recorded and available. He noted that in his 16 years involved with the study of the light rail project a previous option going through Minneapolis and listening to countless listening sessions there were people from the community asking not to have the LRT route go through on the streets proposed. He worked hard to advocate for an alternative to assure that there were improved connections from the Minneapolis community to the previous light rail alignment.
13. Greenberg noted that as co-chair on the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) he has been focused at encouraging hearing opinions from everyone and his role is to listen. Getting feedback to the group via on-line survey or participating in listening sessions is critical to having the information to make appropriate decisions.
14. Glick noted that at the regular meeting it was noted that safety is a primary concern. It is important to be sure that everyone utilizing the public transportation feels safe. It is also important to be sure that the LRT passing through intersections and with pedestrian crossings is safe. The community needs to be able to brainstorm and put forward their concerns.
15. Montanez noted that when safety is raised as a concern, we need to figure out where it's coming from and what can be done to address it. As residents we need to find ways to engage and see what we can do.

ADDITIONAL QUESTION SUGGESTED OR HRC SUPPLEMENTARY APPLICATION

16. There was a robust discussion on how the supplementary information is utilized, the role of the HRC to oversee the application of the Minnesota Human Rights Act. Ultimately it was agreed that the additional question would be added- with consideration of a possible word switch from able to willing: "The Minnesota Human Rights Act prohibits discrimination based upon 13 protected classes, including race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, disability, public assistance, age, sexual orientation, familial status, and local human rights commission activity. Are you (able/willing) to advocate for and defend the human rights of all 13 protected classes?"

FOLLOW UP: LAKE REGULATIONS

17. Glick noted this is included to assure that council members have the information. There was a robust discussion. It was agreed that council members would review the information and there would be a special work session after the April 20th City Council meeting to establish the framework and timing of a public listening session.

MONTHLY UPDATE: PROBLEM PROPERTIES

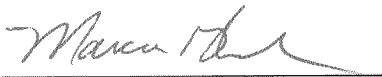
18. Pearson noted that several issues have been resolved. He expected the list to grow as the summer arrives

MONTHLY REVIEW OF GOALS:

19. Glick noted that in consideration of time she would touch on a few items quickly.
- City Mission Statement was established 2 decades ago. Council agreed that there should be a thoughtful review and consideration of update. This will be on a future meeting.
 - Energy Audit Update – McCoy indicated the review was conducted March 24th and a report is expected any day.
 - Green Step City Approach to Step 3 – A larger print copy will be distributed. If council wishes to make progress towards step 3, we need to identify next steps. This will come back to May 4th regular work session.
 - Staffing quarterly report – in 1st quarter 2021 one Latinx and one Asian staff person were added to the police community service positions.
 - Mayor Blonigan asked for an update on every area of equity and inclusion and whether there were results on the idea of offering an incentive to diverse candidates that had been suggested at the January goal session.
 - Glick indicated that staff is aware of the program at Brooklyn Park and that a report will be provided.
 - Mayor Blonigan asked if cash was being accepted for drop in participants at the Middle School.
 - Glick indicated that staff member Parks has been instructed to resolve this issue and she would need to get an update.
 - New Resident Letter – Council was asked to review the proposed letter. Some ideas were suggested including removal of the sentence about expected short term arrival of LRT. Suggestion to reduce the length of the letter and point people to resources available on-line. Council members were encouraged to drop off comments at the in person work session on April 13th and a draft letter(s) will be prepared for review at the April 20th work session.
 - Reminder that a park tour, public safety building tour, and public works facility tour are still to be scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT

20. Mayor Pro Tem Kline adjourned the meeting at 10:35 p.m.



Marcia Glick, Recorder



Tyler Kline, Mayor Pro Tem