

ROBBINSDALE CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MINUTES
TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 2017
COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM
CITY HALL

1. The work session was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Blonigan 7:40 p.m.
2. Councilmembers Present: Rogan, Selman, Backen, Mayor Murphy, Mayor Pro Tem Blonigan
Staff Present: City Manager Glick, Director of Administrative and Recreation Services Marshall, Public Works Director McCoy, Assistant to City Manager Tingley.

DISCUSSION: Tobacco License Options – Hennepin County Health

3. Gretchen Garmin from the Hennepin County Public Health Department, Emily Anderson from the Association of Non-Smokers Minnesota and Kate Richardson, 3965 West Broadway Avenue North Robbinsdale, presented to Council on possible measures the Council can make regarding Tobacco. Kate Richardson displayed a display board of tobacco product wrappers found in her yard. She estimates roughly 50 wrappers a day end up in her yard.
4. Garmin, going through handout, explained that in 2016, interns performed assessment of tobacco sales in Robbinsdale and other cities. 11 retailers in Robbinsdale sell tobacco products. They found, among other things, that advertising was visible near children toys with menthol and flavored tobacco.
5. Member Rogan asked about minimum Cigar price. Anderson said that recently a number of cities created a minimum cigar price of \$2.60 per cigar. Anderson also discussed the possibility of restricting the sale of flavored products. St. Paul saw the number of retailer selling flavored tobacco products drop from 97% to 8% in a short amount of time. Raising the legal age to buy from 18 to 21 is also option she noted, alluding to Edina recently passing the first Tobacco 21 ordinance in Minnesota. Garmin stated that in fact, Hennepin County is contacting all cities to do a preliminary assessment of raising the age to purchase tobacco to 21.
6. Council indicated some support in considering the three policy recommendations provided by Anderson (increase individual unit pricing for tobacco, require flavored tobacco to only be sold in 21+ stores, and changing legal age from 18 to 21.) Public and retailer input must be had before further consideration. Council suggested holding a listening session with retailers before a future Council meeting and then hold a public hearing during the second City Council meeting on September 26.

UPDATE: Twin Lake Channel Rip-Rap Channel Progress

7. Public Works Director McCoy reviewed the handout provided to Council regarding options for replacing the Rip-Rap. The current Rip-Rap was designed and installed by MnDOT with City agreeing to on-going maintenance in exchange for pedestrian connections. MNDOT stated they will not provide funds toward a new one.
8. Consensus that the original design was flawed and showed signs of failure in less than 10 years.
9. Member Blonigan stated his belief that the Rip-Rap is worth the investment, especially compared to the amount the City has invested into Crystal Lake.
10. It was decided that a letter will be crafted to be signed by the Mayor and sent to State Rep. Freiberg, State Sen. Rest and MnDOT.

DISCUSSION: Community Survey Update

11. Council received an updated draft and agreed to move on to the next step of the process.
12. Council agreed to add questions about shopping in Downtown Robbinsdale and the possible Light Rail station.
13. Staff will now reach out to a contractor to enter into a contract for Council approval.

INFORMATION: National Fitness Campaign

14. Council indicated interest for a project like this but not at Triangle Park or at this time.

UPDATE: Blue Line LRT

15. Council reviewed the latest update for the proposed Park and Ride; 95 of the parking stalls would be underground. Discussion on potential for additional underground parking for the development and Hubbard Marketplace as well as replacement downtown parking. Council expressed concern for adding a residential wrap on the Hubbard Marketplace building intensifying the wall effect between the station and downtown.

MONTHLY UPDATE: Problem Properties

16. Glick provided updates on the properties with a list distributed to add to the agenda packet. Council indicated that the West Broadway parking can be removed from the list.

MONTHLY UPDATE: 2017-18 Goals

17. Glick distributed a handout to add to the agenda packet. The next new resident welcoming event is scheduled for August 16th. An RSVP will go out to all new residents. Council indicated that they do not want to switch to 2 year commission positions; the City Manager's state of the city presentation to the Chamber replaced the Mayor's address project; Work on additional outreach events would be on hold until survey results are in and staff will focus on the 125th birthday events for 2018.

OTHER BUSINESS:

18. The City Forester was contacted regarding emails about Kelly Park trees received by Member Selman.
19. County is checking on Railvolution scholarships to help pay for the cost of the conference.
20. Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) is moving forward with dissolution. Hennepin County is preparing to raise its transit sales tax to 0.5% in wake of the dissolution to help with the project and operating costs of the Blue and Green Line extensions.
21. Council indicated they are looking for donations of games for use in the Downtown Plaza.

ADJOURNMENT

22. Mayor Pro Tem Blonigan adjourned the work session at 10:19 p.m.


John Tingley, Recorder
William A. Blonigan, Mayor Pro Tem