

ROBBINSDALE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR WORK SESSION MINUTES

Tuesday, June 8, 2021

Web-Ex Meeting following Regular REDA Meeting

1. The work session was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Kline at 7:30 p.m.
2. Councilmembers Present: Kline, Webb, Selman, Backen, Mayor Blonigan
3. Staff Present: Marcia Glick, City Manager; Charnelle Dengnoue, Human Resources Specialist; Rick Pearson, Community Development Coordinator; Patrick Foley, Police Chief.
4. Other's Present: Rita Fox, HRC Chair

HRC QUESTION: PARK NAMING POLICY

5. Dengnoue explained that the Human Rights Commission had discussed the possibility of naming a park for Philandro Castille as he had been a resident of Robbinsdale for some time.
6. Mayor Blonigan indicated that while he isn't opposed to renaming a park, he didn't think that Mr. Castille had a close connection to Robbinsdale.
7. Glick referenced the park naming policy including both recognition of significant involvement and also a financial contribution.
8. Member Webb asked to hear from the HRC Chair Fox on the commission's reasoning.
9. HRC Chair Fox said that the HRC had been brainstorming and noted that St. Anthony was renaming some streets and noting that Mr. Castille had lived in Robbinsdale, perhaps he should be recognized in a place where he lived. His family lived in Robbinsdale 11 years, he lived here for some time. He had a positive impact on kids he worked with and had meant an untimely death.
10. The City Council clarified that Mr. Castille's work with students was in St Paul. They discussed some ideas including option to create a scholarship or recognition during a future Juneteenth event in relation to social justice.
11. Webb and Blonigan suggested it would be helpful if the HRC could come up with some ideas, not including naming of a park. Glick noted that the question of whether the community would have a 2022 Juneteenth event was scheduled for the next work session. Webb clarified that brainstorming should not be constrained to a future Juneteenth recognition. Glick suggested a biography would be helpful in determining the connection to Robbinsdale.

DISCUSSION: MEMORIALS REGULATION/POLICY

12. Glick noted that a memorial that a family was maintaining on a residential boulevard and that the people who lived on the street, having no connection to the person who died, were enduring a constant reminder that someone was killed by their homes.
13. Selman indicated that the memorial had been there over 6 months and the celebration of a loved one's memory was more appropriate at a cemetery or other location. He noted in the city attorney's report, the existing city code does not permit this type of boulevard use.

14. There was a general discussion with a consensus that while sympathizing with the family and providing a small window to allow the family to visit the site was acceptable, a continuing memorial was not. No additional policy is needed. The memorial should be removed and the paint on the sidewalk and street should be cleaned.
15. Council Member Selman suggested that he would be willing to meet with the family.
16. Glick shared that police staff had reached out to the family and suggested that they contact the city's contracted social worker.

DISCUSSION: SCHEDULE FOR POLICE, FIRE, PUBLIC WORKS, PARK TOURS

17. Glick reviewed the staff memo.
18. Council consensus was start with Park tour since best in summer, public works next. Assure sufficient time to complete the tour – potentially start at 2 or 3pm. Need to check with both City Council and PRF Commissioners to see when they have availability. Glick suggested if a later start is needed, perhaps a two-phase tour.

MONTHLY UPDATE: PROBLEM PROPERTIES

19. Pearson reviewed the report noting a correction on one of the addresses. He noted that the home at 4154 Beard would be posted as unfit for human habitation until essential heating, plumbing work was repaired.
20. There was significant discussion on the property at 5624 – 42nd Ave N. City Council requested enforcement on parking too close to CR9 on Welcome.

DISCUSS: MISSION STATEMENT – CITY COUNCIL PRIORITIES

21. It was agreed that the Mission Statement should be updated with the assistance of a consultant and this could be a separate consultation separate from the annual goals session.
22. Glick noted that the priorities list was extraordinarily long, is not prioritized, and in trying to focus on all of the items, there is risk of missing obligations and opportunities for the on-going core business of the city.

PROJECT UPDATES

23. Highlights

- July work session will include a review of the preliminary concept for the community building at Sanborn Park as well as information on other existing and potential community meeting spaces.
- Community Garden location at 3606 Lake Drive may still be needed for the Chowen construction staging.
- July work session will include discussion of concept to expand the Deputy Registrar space into the unused portion of the city council chambers.
- The city website was just updated in 2020 and the focus is to provide an easy portal for residents to locate city information. It does not function as a bulletin board for highlighting upcoming events or recognizing monthly highlights – i.e. pride month.

- Staff will circle back to setting up developer roundtables for potential redevelopment sites. There are people indicating preliminary interest – however construction prices are pointing towards little happening this year.
24. Council Member Backen voiced concern that the development sites available are most likely to see interest from multi-family housing developers. There was a discussion on how to connect with those in rental properties and assuring they feel welcome to participate in community events. Glick indicated this could be a task force to hear from/connect to renters.
25. Glick noted that a majority of the City Council has come up strongly against the proposed CR81 alignment related to doubt that it would fit within that alignment. She noted that the CAC members were holding another listening session June 9; council members will also be holding “driveway” discussion routes. Blonigan indicated disappointment that the Federal representatives are not responding to the concerns being raised about the change from BNSF.
26. Glick noted that the July work session would include discussion of how events are sponsored or provided thorough partnerships with the Chamber or partner cities.

OTHER BUSINESS

27. Glick and Dengnoue briefly shared information on training being scheduled for staff pertaining to implicit bias.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro Tem Kline adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.



Marcia Glick, Recorder



Tyler Kline, Mayor Pro Tem