

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
October 12, 2021
After the Robbinsdale EDA Meeting that takes place at 7pm
Robbinsdale City Hall
4100 Lakeview Avenue North

AGENDA

1. CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION CALLED TO ORDER BY MAYOR PRO TEM
2. ROLL CALL: Kline, Webb, Selman, Backen, Mayor Blonigan
3. Quick Update: Lake Regulation Update – 1st reading on October 19 agenda followed by DNR process (attached letter sent to hearing participants)
4. Discuss: Organic Recycling – Rates (attachment)
5. Discuss: Partners In Energy Program & others – Mayor Update – (attachment)
6. Discuss: Special Assessment Policy (attachment)
7. Discuss: Options for Consultant for City Manager Search 2022 (attachment)
8. Update: Problem Properties (to be distributed at the meeting)
9. Review: Project Updates (attached)
10. Other Business
 - Touch Base on Follow up Work Session with Lilligren – 11/9 and 11/16@pm
 - Opioid Settlement Next Steps
 - Water tower 2 potential for ARPA funding
11. ADJOURNMENT



City of Robbinsdale

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10/1/2021

Lake Regulations Public Comment Update

Dear Resident,

You are receiving this letter because you were involved in the public comment process for the consideration of updating lake regulations in the City of Robbinsdale. After considering comments from the public and discussing options, the Robbinsdale City Council came to the following conclusions:

- South Twin Lake (also known as Lower Twin Lake) is a good candidate to become a Fulltime No Wake Lake. The City must work with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to obtain authorization. The process for this proposal is outlined below.
- Ryan Lake has specific regulations in City Code- however special regulations for Ryan Lake would also have to involve all other cities adjacent to the lake and neither Minneapolis nor Brooklyn Center have special regulations. Therefore, City code will be amended to note that Ryan Lake is subject to DNR regulations.
- No changes are being considered to Crystal Lake regulations.

As noted above, the City of Robbinsdale will be recommending a change to the regulations for South Twin Lake via ordinance. If adopted it would then be sent to the DNR for approval. Once the DNR receives the approved ordinance language, they will notify the City of Robbinsdale within 120 days if the request is approved or denied. The City of Robbinsdale will notify residents living on the lake of the decision made by the DNR. First reading of the ordinance changing regulations on Crystal Lake is scheduled for the October 19th City Council meeting. If approved, the ordinance procedure would be completed in late December at which point the submission would be made to the DNR. The 120 day review process would be complete at the end of April.

Thank you for your involvement in the lake regulations review process.

City of Robbinsdale

Organic Recycling

Special SCORE grant funds are based on the number of organic recycling customers in Robbinsdale compared to the number of all organic recycling customers in the county. The 2021 SCORE grant for organics was \$9,178.40 based on the 398 participating households.

The Hennepin County Residential Recycling Funding Policy states that the City can use the Organics portion of SCORE grant funds for the following program expenses:

- *Discount to new customers*
- *Discount to existing customers*
- Referral Incentives
- City contract costs
- Education and outreach
- Compostable bags
- Kitchen containers
- Carts
- Organics drop-off sites

Monthly contract cost per customer starting April 2022 is \$12.50. Staff recommended option to set the 2022 fee at \$10.75/month (currently \$11.50/month) to try to increase participation.

General Solid Waste Rates

Staff will be sending out proposed 2022 utility rates as part of the November utility bill mailings. It will include notice of that the public hearing for rate adjustments will be held December 7, 2022.

Garbage / Recycling / Yard Waste

	New WM Rates Yr2 (2021)	New WM Rates Yr3 (2022)	% Increase
32 Gallon Garbage	9.27	9.64	3.99%
64 Gallon Garbage	11.26	11.71	4.00%
96 Gallon Garbage	13.22	13.75	4.01%
Yardwaste	6.68	6.94	3.89%
Recycling	4.06	4.22	3.94%

Notes: As per the graph above, Waste Management's rates are going up roughly 4% effective April 5, 2022.

In the past, the City has increased resident utility bill costs for solid waste service (garbage, recycling, yard waste) - 3% (2019), 5% (2020), and 4% (2021)

Liquidated damages YTD 2021 - \$4,250.00

Estimated Waste Management bills for 2022 - \$1.47mil

Mayor Blonigan update on Initiatives/Options–

- Setting up meeting with Xcel to explore Partners In Energy – apply January 2022
- Information on MN Green Corps – application March 2022
- Potential Climate Emergency Declaration – target January 2022

XCEL Partners In Energy (PIE)

Who: CEE & Xcel Energy

What: 2 year collaboration- possible task force. Applications for commitment

Staff commitment: 30 min call every 2 weeks + workshops. 60 hours staff time.

Develop the plan 4-6 mo - 5 workshops

Implement 18-20 mo – after City Council adopts

Community Engagement is a big piece- community develops goals for community

Samples of other cities Golden Valley, Fridley, Wayzata, St Louis Park, Minnetonka

Energy planning – community workshops

Electric vehicle planning

Project management; marketing collateral, outreach, strategy development, ideas

Data – measure progress

Applications due January 15, 2022

Before applying – identify interest

Potential stakeholders: Residents. Rental property managers. Small business owners.

Schools. Chamber. Students

MPCA – Minnesota Green Corps – see attached

Climate Emergency Declarations – see attached

**The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is accepting host site applications
for the 2021 – 2022 Minnesota GreenCorps program year!**

Applications from eligible organizations interested in hosting Minnesota GreenCorps members are **due by 5:00 pm CDT on Tuesday, March 16, 2021.**

For more information and to apply, visit the [Minnesota GreenCorps website](https://mngreencorps.pca.state.mn.us)



Minnesota GreenCorps is an environmentally focused AmeriCorps program. The program places members with organizations throughout Minnesota to spend a year of service addressing critical environmental issues while gaining experience and job skills.

The MPCA plans to place up to 48 full-time members at host site organizations. Members serve 40 hours a week from September 2021 - August 2022.

Eligible host site organizations include public entities (local, regional, state, tribal), school districts, institutions of higher education, and 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organizations. Organizations may apply for Minnesota GreenCorps members to serve on projects in the areas of Air Pollutant Reduction; Green Infrastructure Improvements; Community Readiness and Outreach; or Waste Reduction, Recycling, and Organics Management.

Please direct questions to mngreencorps.pca@state.mn.us.

Climate Emergency Declarations **DRAFT**

Minnesota Coordinated Effort

"The time is now to come together as a united force, to insure a livable future for us, for your children, for your grandchildren, and for the generations to come. The time is now to create a sustainable future."

- From then high school junior Sophia Skinner before St. Louis Park City Council

What we're doing:

- Local governments of all sizes, and in all regions of Minnesota will join in declaring a Climate Emergency, and sounding a call to immediate action at all levels of government to address the climate crisis. A simultaneous action by governments across the State will have an amplified impact in prompting local, state and perhaps even federal action.

Why declare a Climate Emergency?

- **The dramatically evident shift in our climate IS an emergency!** It's here now; it's going to get worse; and it's impacting all regions of our state, country, and world.
 - The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change recently declared (August 21) that world leaders at all levels must take immediate action to reduce greenhouse emissions to prevent catastrophic impacts.
- **It's impacting Minnesota now!** Unanticipated occurrences of drought, higher annual temperatures and sustained heat waves, dangerous air quality, repeated incidences of "hundred year" floods, and forest fires of unprecedented size - are all happening now in Minnesota.
- **Opportunity to mobilize and magnify:** Declaring an emergency will call attention to the issue and can mobilize people to action. Working together we can magnify our impacts on our own communities and on Minnesota.
 - Acting together will increase our visibility and leverage for *state and federal assistance*
 - This conspicuous action will provide bold local leadership in a way that connects to a larger statewide effort. People are empowered when they feel what they do matters and when they are part of something larger than themselves.

The **Climate Emergency declaration** customizable template includes local, state, and global impacts, a commitment to local action, and a call for state and federal support.

Background on "Climate Emergency"

- Started in U.S. by The Climate Mobilization organization
- Calling for a mobilization of government and society to make significant progress on climate change by 2030
- 2,012 jurisdictions in 34 countries have declared a Climate Emergency, including three leaders in MN (Crystal Bay Township and Minneapolis in 2019, Duluth earlier this year)

Special Assessment Policy

Below is the excerpt from the current Special Assessment Policy regarding Deferral of Assessments. This was discussed at the 10/5/2022 City Council Meeting and council asked for the section to be discussed at this work session.

Section X Deferral of Assessments

The City of Robbinsdale has established a policy on deferring special assessments for senior citizens for whom it would be a hardship to make payments. Deferral of special assessments is available for project related assessments, but may not be applied to assessments for abatement of nuisances or for delinquent utility bills. Special assessments may be deferred, for those that qualify, until such time as:

1. The property or any part thereof is sold, transferred, or subdivided.
2. Death of the owner and the spouse not otherwise eligible for deferment.
3. The property loses its homestead status.
4. The owner is no longer determined to be in a hardship category.

Eligibility requirements are that the owner must be 65 years of age or older on January 1st of the payment year, that the property to be assessed is homesteaded and that the annual principle and interest on the assessment is in excess of 1½ percent of the owner's annual income. For example if the principle and interest is \$100 annually, then an owner whose income is less than \$6,667 would qualify to have the assessments deferred (i.e. $\$6,667 \times 0.015 = \100). Interest would be added annually to the deferred amount based on the interest rate specified in the resolution approving the assessments.

Applicants who wish to apply for deferment of assessments for next year must submit the following information no later than October 15th to the City Clerks office, 4100 Lakeview Avenue North.

1. Financial disclosure Statement, including a copy of your proof of income.
2. A copy of your birth certificate.
3. Four notarized copies of form HC 227 -Application for deferral of Special Assessments.

After an application had been received and reviewed, the request will be forwarded to the City Council for approval. After council approval the City Clerk will authorize the deferral and forward the request to the Hennepin County Auditor and recorded in the Registrar of Deeds Office.

City Manager Search Options

Staff requested and received 2 proposals:

- Craig Waldron – consultant who worked with City Council in January 2020.
- DDA Human Resources Inc. – full service project team that conduct many searches for City Managers and other key staff.

At this point – while not submitting a formal resignation, the City Manager has indicated her preference that the City Council identify a new City Manager to take over city management roll by end of May 2022.

Marcia will go through the proposals with the city council and get preference on how to proceed.

<u>Strategic Direction – established 2017</u> • Investing for the Future • Innovating for Quality Services and Efficiencies • Promoting & Connecting • Revitalizing the Community	City of Robbinsdale MISSION STATEMENT Robbinsdale... Our Hometown ❖ Our community of citizens and businesses – dedicated, proud and involved ❖ Our government – accessible, accountable, open and compassionate ❖ Our resources – prudently allocated and equitably provided
“What People? What Good? What Cost?”	

Investing for the Future – AA+ Bond Rating Confirmed

- Environmental Sustainability
 - Xcel Partners in Energy – **Mayor update on this and other initiatives 10/12 work session**
 - Energy Usage Review Analysis – complete. Identified projects on maintenance schedule.
 - Green Step Cities – Step 2 – staff will continue to pursue opportunities – citizen volunteer offer
 - Advocacy for Monarchs – pollinator areas
 - Promoted work in this area in last City-wide newsletter – link on Council webpage Top Topics
- Creative finance – identified cost savings shift for fleet leasing and software packages
- Live up to ‘what people-what good-what cost’
- Park Facilities – Meeting spaces – **Capital Improvement Budget Discussion**
 - Sanborn Park Building/Park Redevelopment
 - Lower Level Public Safety
 - Historic Meeting Room
 - Lee park building retrofit
- Park Facilities – Playgrounds & Fields
 - Triangle Park master plan; Graeser acquisition; North Lee Park expansion
 - Potential for ½ court Basketball/pickleball at Manor – **Capital Improvement Budget Discussion**
 - Community Garden at “Bunny Store Site” -3606 Lake Drive Possible for 2022 - in budget
- Asset Replacement & Maintenance – Support the CIP
 - Master Plan Schedule for All Parks – 10 year CIP
 - Public Buildings- 10 year CIP **council chambers AV update & wall shift-** security update
 - Street Projects – 10 year CIP
 - Water infrastructure- 10 year CIP
- Partnerships – Funding/Advocacy
 - Hennepin/State -Infrastructure Grants/Funding
 - BlueLine Connect Now! – LRT
 - Metro Cities/LMC/NLC – legislative priorities/policies & advocacy
 - Communicate about Fiscal Disparities
 - BYR Quad Communities – Active military family support
 - Three Rivers Parks – Sochacki JPA, regional trails & trail head at South Twin Lake
 - Youth Sports Associations (fundraising)
 - NWCT-CCX
 - Shingle Creek/Basset Creek WMO – lake/stream quality and projects Ryan-South Twin cattails
 - DNR/Shingle Creek/State-Fed/Mpls – Crystal Lake water table

Innovating for Quality Services and Efficiencies

- Employer of Choice – retention, attraction, tools-software-resources
 - Inclusive hiring practices/focus on hiring diverse staff
 - Explore Affinity Groups
 - Educational contract for recruitment/retention – **potential cadet identified**
 - **Staff training on implicit bias/equity/inclusion- Update 11/2 work session**
- Enhanced Services
 - technology enhancements –(meters/ BS&A-on line permits/payments/permit look up)
 - Drinking water softening, water pressure improvement
 - New Water Meters add quick report of change in water usage (leak detection) – **ability for customer look-up/monitoring of water usage not pursued based on cost/benefit**
 - Solid waste –_Service issues/Liquidated Damages
 - Special Needs – Shared Mental Health Worker – HC Mental Health Dispatch Specialist
- Staff-Council Relations – Department leads connect with Council at multiple meetings

Promoting & Connecting

- Communication to Inform Residents
 - Social media/Energy use awareness/tip411/pedestrian safety/COVID19
 - New Resident welcome letter **Next letters will go out in October**
- Engage/Involve Residents
 - Expand Community Involvement
 - public health i.e. tobacco, Special events, movie in park/gym, on-line surveys, open houses
 - Increase Creative Equity for Parks/Recreation Programs
- PR Campaigns/Outreach
 - Consider PT Public Relations Position – **Assistant to City Manager position 2022 budget**
 - Enhanced public communication – share information on success
 - Community Outreach Positions

Revitalizing the Community

- Redevelopment Downtown
 - 2022-23 WB streetscape/sidewalks
 - Developer roundtables RE open development sites- **Realistically wait on LRT LPA**
- Redevelopment Outside of Downtown
 - 4600 Lake Road - **under construction**
 - Point of Sale – discussed in August 2021 – continue program without change
 - Interest in several potential redevelopment sites
- Support/Promote Local Businesses
 - Expanded outdoor service during COVID- **Reminder going out on license renewals**
- Engage the Chamber of Commerce in promotion efforts
 - *Promotion of City-County- technical and grant assistance- Elevate HC, Comcast RISE; Robbinsdale is open site; Chamber site; Business identification as BIPOC, Latinx, Military, women-owned*
- Promote opportunities to Developers. Define what we want
 - Developer roundtable **Realistically wait on LRT LPA**
- Update REDA signage - *no properties for sale at this time*