

AGENDA

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

The City Council is meeting as a legislative body to conduct the business of the City according to the RULES OF PROCEDURE AND DECORUM OF THE CITY COUNCIL. Unless so ordered by the Mayor, citizen participation is limited to the following times and always within the prescribed rules of conduct for public input at meetings.

- A. PUBLIC HEARINGS: Public hearings are conducted so that the public affected by a proposal may have input into the decision. During hearings, all affected residents will be given an opportunity to speak pursuant to the RULES OF PROCEDURE AND DECORUM OF THE CITY COUNCIL.
- B. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Any member of the public may speak at this time on any item NOT on the agenda. In consideration for the public attending the meeting for specific items on the agenda, this portion of the meeting will be limited to fifteen (15) minutes. Individuals are requested to limit their comments to four (4) minutes or less. If the majority of the Council determines that additional time on a specific issue is warranted, then discussion on that issue shall be continued under Other Business at the end of the agenda. Before addressing the City Council, members of the public are asked to step up to the microphone, give their name, address and state the subject to be discussed. All remarks shall be addressed to the Council as a whole and not to any member thereof. No person other than members of the Council and the person having the floor shall be permitted to enter into any discussion without permission of the presiding officer.

Your participation, as prescribed by the Council's RULES, is welcomed and your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

1. CITY COUNCIL MEETING CALLED TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL: Murphy, Parisian, Wagner, Mayor Blonigan
3. MICROPHONE CHECK: Parisian, Wagner, Murphy, Mayor Blonigan
4. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA
5. APPROVAL OF THE MAY 21, 2024 MEETING AGENDA
6. CONSENT AGENDA: Pursuant to Council rules, one motion, non- debatable, will approve the recommendation noted. Any member of the Council may ask for an item to be taken from the Consent Agenda for discussion and separate action. Such items removed from the Consent Agenda shall be considered immediately following approval of the balance of the Consent Agenda:

- A. Approve City Council meeting minutes from April 2, 2024
- B. Approve City Council meeting minutes from April 16, 2024
- C. Diggers Garden Club Event
- D. Entertainment License for Marna's Eatery & Lounge
- E. Approval of Licenses
- F. Hennepin County All-Hazard Mitigation Plan

7. PRESENTATIONS

- A. Police Officer Swearing In
- B. University of Minnesota Climate Action Planning Student Presentation

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. None

9. OLD BUSINESS

- A. None

10. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Approve Submission of a Minnesota Department of Commerce Solar on Public Buildings Grant Application
- B. Authorize Contract with CivicPlus for new City Website
- C. Authorize Limited Use Agreement
- D. Resolution Recognizing Rick Pearson Years of Service

11. OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Voucher Requests Pending Approval for Disbursement
- B. Cancel July 2, 2024, City Council Meeting
- C. City Manager Annual Performance Review

12. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

13. COUNCIL GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS

14. ADJOURNMENT



City of Robbinsdale

MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Mayor Blonigan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Parisian, Wagner, Murphy, Mayor Blonigan
Absent: None
Staff: Tim Sandvik, City Manager; Chase Peterson-Em, City Clerk; Richard McCoy Public Works Director/City Engineer; Rick Pearson, Community Development Director; Stephan Papiz, City Forester/Natural Resources Specialist; Jenna Wolf, Water Resources Specialist

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Miles Toth, 4318 West Broadway, stated the lights on the water tower are incredibly bright. He noted he can't sit in the backyard and see stars and that even with blackout shades it is very bright. He also mentioned other people in the neighborhood are expressing similar concerns.

Bob Rausch, 3815 Crystal Lake Blvd., stated one of the greatest assets is Crystal Lake, and noted his concern about the health of the lake. He stated Minneapolis has an excess amount of storm water drainage and there is so much trash that comes with it and is asking how the city will deal with it. He noted time and money is being wasted, but nothing is helping the situation.

Sandvik noted it's been a few weeks since the water tower lights have been on, and we are working towards figuring this out. McCoy noted they are hopeful they can dim the lights down during a certain time of night. He also stated the Council did approve exactly what is being displayed, and they may have been a bit brighter than expected. Mayor Blonigan asked about displaying different colors. McCoy stated there is a large manual (644 pages) and he will need to have a tutorial on all the features that are available. Member Murphy asked if there is someone else who could help us figure this out. McCoy stated he has been in contact to do this. Murphy asked about them being on during the day as well. McCoy stated they are aware of this, and it will be looked into.

Miles Toth asked if there is a way the lights could be turned off until this is figured out. McCoy stated he will look into this.

McCoy addressed the trash coming into Crystal Lake. He noted he has recently been in contact with Minneapolis and Hennepin County and that Minneapolis is seeking grant money to fix any flooding issues that may be increasing water flow into Crystal Lake. He noted Minneapolis is looking into underground storage tanks, which could help with the amount and quality of water going into Crystal Lake and that Robbinsdale continues to work with Minneapolis and the Park Board to come up with a solution to this.

APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 2, 2024 MEETING AGENDA

Peterson-Etem noted two items that were being updated. The first is an updated resolution for Consent Item G and the second is the inclusion of the voucher disbursement report for Other Business Item A. He noted the Council also received these items earlier in the day.

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Wagner to approve the April 2, 2024, meeting agenda. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

CONSENT AGENDA

Member Murphy removed Consent Item J for further consideration.

Member Wagner MOVED, seconded by Murphy to approve the Consent Agenda. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

- A. Approve City Council meeting minutes of March 6, 2024
- B. Approve City Council Work Session minutes from March 12, 2024
- C. Receive Planning Commission meeting minutes from December 21, 2023
- D. Approval of Licenses
- E. Deputy Registrar's Monthly Financial Statements
- F. Robbinsdale Wine & Spirits' Monthly Financial Statements
- G. Adopt Resolution Amending the 2023 General Fund Budget
- H. Establishment of the 2025-2026 Budget Calendar
- I. Approval of 2024 Fiber Route
- J. Removed for further consideration

REMOVED CONSENT AGENDA

- J. Vapor Bunker THC Sales License

Member Murphy stated he is curious if the City is going to look into having a municipal license to sell THC, once the state sets those regulations, similar to the liquor store. He stated he doesn't want to keep approving these licenses if the Council decides to have a municipal cannabis store. Sandvik noted these licenses cover low potency THC and not a full-scale operation. He continued that the state is still working on regulations around existing legislation for a licensing process and staff would be happy to bring this back to Council once more is known.

Member Murphy MOVED, seconded by Parisian to approve the THC sales license submitted by Vapor Bunker, subject to a background investigation. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

PRESENTATIONS

- A. Hennepin County Commissioner Lunde - Updates from the County

Commissioner Lunde provided an overview of the things he and his staff are working on and focused on the areas of public safety, working with youth, and transit.

Member Wagner asked about North Memorial Hospital and what the future looks like. Commissioner Lunde noted they continue to talk with North Memorial and that the County Board did support their bid to get a higher level of reimbursement.

Member Murphy thanked Commissioner Lunde for presenting and asked what Robbinsdale could do to help advocate for North Memorial.

Member Parisian also thanked Commissioner Lunde and asked if this was the first Safe Community Summit. Commissioner Lunde stated yes.

Mayor Blonigan noted folks can reach out to Commissioner Lunde and his staff, as they are very accessible. Mayor Blonigan also mentioned safety in regard to the Light Rail and hoped they are focused on this at Hennepin County.

B. Robbinsdale Forestry/Natural Resources Annual Report

Papiz provided an overview of the annual forestry report and covered the many programs that are being used to maintain healthy natural resources in Robbinsdale.

Mayor Blonigan asked about a food forest and if that was being pursued. Papiz stated he is open to the idea, and it can be looked into further if the Council wants. He also noted there could be many challenges to this, including the limited space in Robbinsdale.

Member Murphy noted the success of our Emerald Ash Borer program and thanked Papiz for his work on this and for the city.

Member Parisian also thanked Papiz for his presentation tonight and the work he does throughout the year. She asked about resources for residents that suspect they have a diseased tree on their property. Papiz noted the city website has information about this, but more information could be added.

Member Wagner also thanked Papiz for his work.

C. National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II Annual Report

Wolf provided an overview of the annual report and discussed the requirements for our Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan. These include public education and outreach, public participation, illicit discharge detection and elimination, construction site stormwater runoff control, post-construction stormwater management, and pollution prevention and good housekeeping. She also provided information related to the Flocculation plant and focus areas for 2024.

Mayor Blonigan asked about the requirements for inspecting oil tanks and what systems are in place to protect against spills. Wolf stated the city doesn't have an inspection process for these types of businesses. McCoy noted the city isn't involved in the structural integrity of containment units and property owners would need to work with other agencies on this. He noted property owners would be responsible to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and they would regulate this.

Member Wagner asked if the city receives any reporting from the MPCA on oil spill issues, or if they provide a list of facilities that contain materials like this. McCoy stated there are inspection schedules the PCA follows, and the city is also required to report hazardous material spills to the PCA. Member Wagner asked if agencies like the PCA help to formulate mitigation plans. McCoy stated taking immediate action when something hazardous is suspected is something the city does to help with mitigation and noted the City has purchased a response trailer to help in these situations. Member Wagner asked when the city is required to report an event. Wolf stated the city must report to the PCA any time a spill is over 5 gallons.

Member Parisian noted the report a problem tool on the city website and wondered if there could be additions to this, like reporting when there is excess salt in places.

Member Murphy asked about the Flocculation Plant and why there was less phosphorus being removed. Wolf stated that there isn't as much phosphorus that needs to be removed because the Flocculation plant has been doing its job, so the lower number is a good thing and means the lake is healthier.

Mayor Blonigan reiterated that winter salting education should continue as he sees oversalting. He also noted the funding for Sochacki Park and thanked Representative Omar and her team for securing that funding.

Mayor Blonigan invited anyone from the public to comment on this report.

Bob Rausch, 3815 Crystal Lake Blvd., noted there is already an algae bloom on Crystal Lake.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. None

OLD BUSINESS

A. None

NEW BUSINESS

A. First Reading of an Ordinance adopting the Crystal Airport Zoning Ordinance

Pearson provided an overview and noted new legislation changed ordinance standards for airports, and particularly this affected the runway at Crystal Airport. He provided information on land use and height restrictions, noting updated development restrictions for Robbinsdale. He stated the new water tower was well within the height restrictions of this ordinance and that the planning commission reviewed this ordinance and is recommending approval.

Member Murphy MOVED, seconded by Wagner to Approve First Reading of an Ordinance Adopting The Crystal Airport Zoning Ordinance.

A roll call was taken.

Ayes: Parisian, Murphy, Wagner, Mayor Blonigan.

Nays: None.

The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

B. 2024 Street Improvement Program Feasibility Report – 41st Avenue

McCoy presented the feasibility report and noted this project will allow increased water main sizes that will connect with the water tower and downtown area and that underground stormwater basins will also be installed. He noted infrastructure that would be added or replaced, funding sources, and a timeline of the project.

Member Parisian asked if there are any future plans for connecting sidewalks and also connecting to Triangle Park. McCoy stated that connection isn't included in the scope of this work but could potentially be a stand-alone project.

Member Murphy asked about aprons and if they would be replaced as well as if people could have their driveway resurfaced at their expense, if they wanted. McCoy stated yes, the aprons would be replaced and that folks would have to work with the contractor if they wanted their driveways done at the same time.

Member Murphy asked about a half block of sidewalk on the south side and if that would be replaced. McCoy stated he didn't believe that would be replaced. Member Murphy also asked about curbs and gutters on the south corner. McCoy stated he would look into it.

Mayor Blonigan asked if adding connecting sidewalks could be part of the bid. McCoy stated yes, but he will need to investigate it.

Mayor Blonigan stated the road itself seemed to be in fair condition and wondered why this needs to be replaced now. McCoy stated underground infrastructure needs to be replaced and is a main factor when deciding which parts of the city need to be done.

Member Wagner MOVED, seconded by Parisian to Approve 2024 Street Improvement Program Feasibility Report – 41St Avenue. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

A. Voucher Requests Pending Approval for Disbursement

Member Wagner MOVED, seconded by Murphy to Approve Voucher Requests Pending Approval For Disbursement. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Peterson-Etem noted early voting for the Ward 2 Special Primary Election started last week and Ward 2 residents can come to city hall to vote early. He stated the Ward 2 candidate forum is also scheduled for April 24 at 7 p.m. at city hall. Mayor Blonigan asked if any of the 5 people who filed withdrew their candidacy. Peterson-Etem stated no and outlined upcoming elections for the year.

Sandvik thanked the people who attended the Eggstravaganza hosted by the Robbinsdale Chamber of Commerce and noted that about 350 children attended. He noted summer programming is open for many recreation opportunities and that the city is also accepting applications for seasonal job opportunities both in recreation and doing field work. He stated the Hennepin County Assessor's office is hosting several meetings for people to appeal property valuations and those would be taking place from April 15 through April 25. He noted we continue to work with our Legislators on upcoming legislative changes, including the Broadband for All Bill that the Council discussed. He mentioned full-time job opportunities in the city and directed people to the website for more information. He stated that proposals for the Public Works Facility Space Needs Analysis and the Parks Master Plan are moving forward. He noted that next Tuesday, April 9, there is an LRT open house at Elim Church at 5:30 p.m., as well as the Robbinsdale Economic Development Authority meeting and Council Work Session. Lastly, he thanked the Council for their support and allowing staff to make investments in the future of the city.

COUNCIL GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS

Member Wagner thanked the staff for their presentations tonight and the work they do in the city. He also thanked the residents for sharing photos of the new water tower.

Member Murphy also mentioned the water tower and appreciates staff looking into the lighting issues with it.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Murphy MOVED, seconded by Parisian to adjourn the meeting at 9:34 p.m. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

Chase Peterson-Etem, City Clerk

William A. Blonigan, Mayor



City of Robbinsdale

MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Mayor Blonigan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Parisian, Wagner, Murphy, Mayor Blonigan

Absent:

Staff: Tim Sandvik, City Manager; Matt Bazyk, Recreation Services Manager

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Andrea Whitmer thanked the city for the opportunity of serving as CCX (camera AV operator) for 22.5 years and shared best wishes.

Miles Toth, 4318 West Broadway, appeared at the City Council meeting two weeks ago, shared thanks for shutting off the water tower lights. He advocated for basketball hoops/lights at Manor Park and noted putting this kind of feedback in writing would be beneficial.

Jonathan Hansen, 3927 Noble Ave N., shared appreciation for No-Mow-May some years ago, and advocates that the Council consider this an annual tradition.

APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 16, 2024 MEETING AGENDA

Sandvik noted the addition of the voucher disbursement report for Other Business Item A.

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Murphy to approve the April 16, 2024, meeting agenda. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

CONSENT AGENDA

Member Murphy MOVED, seconded by Parisian to approve the consent agenda. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

- A. Approve City Council Special Work Session meeting minutes of March 19, 2024
- B. Approve City Council Work Session meeting minutes of April 9, 2024
- C. Receive Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commission meeting minutes from January 23, 2024
- D. Resolution appointing Election Judges for the Ward 2 Special Primary Election
- E. Approval of Licenses

PRESENTATIONS

A. Annual Parks Presentation

Bazyk provided an overview and noted changes that happened in 2023, including programming, registrations, and new staff members. He also provided details related to rentals, the community gardens and gym, and grants and donations that were received.

Mayor Blonigan asked about facilities for Yoga and Zumba and if they could use space at the community center. Bazyk stated the community center already has programming scheduled at the same time as Yoga and Zumba, so the community center is not available.

Member Murphy thanked Bazyk for the overview and stated he is happy to see him with the city and in this role.

Member Parisian thanked Bazyk and noted increased energy around recreation and contributed that enthusiasm to Bazyk. She also asked about upcoming events happening this spring. Bazyk noted several upcoming events and stated he is still locking down dates for others.

Sandvik recognized Bazyk for his good work and noted the recreation team also collaborates with several other agencies to expand the reach of our services. He stated there has been an increased effort to look at programming through an equity lens and he appreciates the work being done with this.

Mayor Blonigan agreed with the other Council Members' sentiments and noted he appreciated the Goals and Objectives Session that was included in the January Park, Recreation, and Forestry Commission meeting.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. None

OLD BUSINESS

A. None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Consider Parks Naming Policy

Sandvik gave a brief overview and noted that last October members of the Human Rights Commission (HRC) attended a Work Session which led to a decision to create a Parks Naming Policy. He mentioned further review of a draft policy was discussed in March and April and the Council is being asked to consider a resolution to implement the Parks Naming Policy.

Mayor Blonigan noted that most of the time, commissions advise the council, and it is the Council that takes action on those items. He stated the city has not had a Parks Naming Policy in the past, but the Council has been involved in approving previous park names. He thanked the HRC for working with staff to develop this policy and appreciated the guidelines that reflect the culture and diversity of the city.

Member Murphy offered suggestions on the current form that would be submitted to name a park and noted some redundancies that could be eliminated.

Member Wagner also thanked the HRC, Park, Recreation, and Forestry Commission, and staff for their work on the policy. He commended the community's involvement in this process and is happy with the outcome.

Member Parisian recognized the collaborative effort between groups and recognized the importance of having community input while naming city assets. She also stated that she wants to make sure there is a question related to equity and inclusion on the Park Naming Policy Form.

Sandvik noted we are asking the Council to pass a resolution implementing the Policy and noted the application/form could be updated later.

Member Wagner MOVED, seconded by Parisian to adopt Resolution No. 8099 "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A PARKS NAMING POLICY FOR THE CITY OF ROBBINSDALE." The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

B. Approve Submission of a Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Local Climate Action Grant Application

Sandvik presented the item and noted that in 2023 the Minnesota Legislature set aside funding for local climate action grants to help communities prepare for climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. He noted that with the addition of our Sustainability Coordinator, the city now has more opportunity to submit grant applications for this type of work and stated sustainability has been an initiative of the Council. He noted staff is asking the Council to approve the submission of an MPCA LCA grant application.

Mayor Blonigan stated the city could potentially receive up to \$50,000 for this grant, depending on the review process. He also inquired about a potential grant for solar panels.

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Wagner to Approve Submission of a Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Local Climate Action Grant Application. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

A. Voucher Requests Pending Approval for Disbursement

Member Murphy MOVED, seconded by Wagner to Approve Voucher Requests Pending Approval for Disbursement. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Sandvik provided several updates:

- He thanked members of the community for coming to the LRT open house at Elim Church last Tuesday.
- On Saturday, April 27, at 9:30 a.m., the city will host an Arbor Day event.
- On Friday, May 3, the Human Rights Commission is hosting a Shelley Day Event, and more details will be available soon.
- The Sustainability Coordinator submitted a formal request for proposals for solar panels on the Water Treatment Plant.
- There are several open positions, including the role of our Community Development Director, as well as seasonal and temporary positions.

COUNCIL GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS

Member Parisian noted she testified in support of the senate file number 4719 which helps establish the Blue Line Light Rail Anti-Displacement Community Prosperity Program and was joined by others who also testified in support. She noted the Renewable Robbinsdale Challenge that was highlighted in the most recent newsletter and encouraged people to join. She mentioned the Step-to-it-Challenge and noted it only takes a few minutes to sign up and encouraged community members to join. Lastly, she congratulated Community Development Director Rick Pearson on his upcoming retirement and wished him well.

Member Wagner also congratulated Rick Pearson on his retirement and is looking forward to wishing him well in person. He mentioned No-Mow-May and that he would support doing this in the future. He thanked election judges who will be working in the upcoming Ward 2 Special Election and also thanked Matt Bazyk for his presentation tonight.

Member Murphy asked if the Council could have an update on the water tower lights and if there has been any progress regarding whether they can be dimmed or not. Sandvik noted staff would have a formal set of feedback for the next meeting. Member Murphy stated it's sometimes hard to tell how bright lights will be on a rendering, and he appreciated staff looking into fixing this.

Mayor Blonigan noted he would appreciate having an option for the lights on the water tower to be dimmed. He stated he and Councilmember Wagner were at the Corridor Management Committee meeting and there was a lot of discussion around anti-displacement. It was noted that the anti-displacement work being done for the Blue Line Extension is groundbreaking compared to what has been done for other light rail tracks around the country. Mayor Blonigan reiterated he wants to make sure Robbinsdale is provided with the anti-displacement resources that other cities on the line will be receiving. He stated he would like to see the solar panels installed before he leaves the Council and that there is funding for non-profits to also install solar.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Murphy MOVED, seconded by Parisian to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

Chase Peterson-Etem, City Clerk

William A. Blonigan, Mayor



City of Robbinsdale

TO: Mayor and City Council
PREPARED BY: Sherry O'Donnell, Admin Support/Deputy City Clerk
APPROVED BY: Tim Sandvik, City Manager
DATE: May 21, 2024
RE: Diggers Garden Club Event

Background:

The Diggers Garden Club of Robbinsdale submitted an event application to have its annual Plant Sale on Saturday, June 1, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on the lawn behind the Robbinsdale Historic Library building (4915 42nd Ave N). No street closures requested. The group asked for two parking spaces to be available on Railroad Avenue for easier drop off and pick up of some visitors. The club will provide signage, and/or safety cones to mark the area.

This is a fundraising event for the garden club. Plants are donated by resident gardeners and are sold to raise funds for educational scholarships and community garden projects. Garden decorations, like fountains and wreaths, will be available for purchase also. The event will be open to the public and no entrance fee will be charged. No food or beverages will be sold.

There will be recorded music playing. Noise levels should not impact adjacent residences. The Robbinsdale Historical Society and Robbin Gallery will be open also.

Set up will occur on Friday, May 31, 2024, beginning at 2:00 p.m. They hope to have volunteers overnight to make sure nothing disappears.

Since this is a City-owned building, it is prudent that the Council is made aware of any functions and approves such events.

Analysis:

None.

Recommendation:

By motion, approve the Diggers Garden Club of Robbinsdale's annual plant sale event on Saturday, June 1, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Attachments:

None



City of Robbinsdale

TO: Mayor and City Council
PREPARED BY: Sherry O'Donnell, Admin Support/Deputy City Clerk
APPROVED BY: Tim Sandvik, City Manager
DATE: May 21, 2024
RE: Entertainment License for Marna's Eatery & Lounge

Background:

Rolando Diaz, Marna's Eatery and Lounge, 4154 West Broadway, submitted an application for an entertainment license, which would include indoor and outdoor entertainment.

Analysis:

Staff reviewed the application.

Planning/zoning approves, but a fence post must be moved, as well as the furnishings behind it, to ensure the handicap access ramp remains clear.

Police and Fire approve as long as passageways and exits remain clear.

The Building Official inspected and requires that accessibility remains clear, which includes moving two planters and eliminating one chair that encroaches the access path. The fence is acceptable.

There are no WAC charges due, but the SAC fee due is \$2,485.00.

The property owner granted permission.

A certificate of insurance has been received that shows coverage for outdoor entertainment.

Recommendation:

Consider approval of the entertainment license submitted by Marna's Eatery and Lounge, 4154 West Broadway, with conditions adhered to as noted by staff, and payment of the SAC \$2,485.00 SAC fee. The license would be valid through 12/31/24.

Attachments:

None



City of Robbinsdale

TO: Mayor and City Council
PREPARED BY: Chase Peterson-Etem, City Clerk/Assistant to City Manager
APPROVED BY: Tim Sandvik, City Manager
DATE: May 21, 2024
RE: Approval of Licenses

Background:

As required by City Code, contractor and business licenses issued in the City of Robbinsdale must be approved by the City Council. Attached is a list of applicants requesting a license or license renewal to operate within the City. All appropriate fees have been paid and certificates of insurance and bonds, if required, have been filed with the City Clerk.

Analysis:

Not applicable.

Recommendation:

By motion, approve issuance of licenses dated 5/21/2024.

Attachments:

1. Licenses

Contractor Licenses for Council Approval

<u>Name</u>	<u>Licensee Type</u>	<u>Fee Amount</u>
AIR COMFORT HEATING & A/C INC	Mechanical Contractor	\$50.00
ALL CLIMATE MECHANICAL LLC	Mechanical Contractor	\$50.00
GOOD NEWS HEATING & AIR INC	Mechanical Contractor	\$50.00
GOOD NEWS HEATING & AIR INC	Plumbing Contractor	\$50.00
SJM CONCRETE & MASONRY	Masonry	\$50.00
SODERLIN PLUMBING & HEATING INC	Plumbing Contractor	\$50.00
STEINKRAUS PLUMBING INC	Plumbing Contractor	\$50.00
STEWARD CONSTRUCTION LLC	Concrete	\$50.00
THOSE GUYS PLUMBING HEATING & AIR LLC	Plumbing Contractor	\$50.00
TIM'S QUALITY PLUMBING	Plumbing Contractor	\$50.00
TRUE PLUMBING SOLUTIONS MN	Plumbing Contractor	\$50.00

Number of Licenses Requesting Council Approval:

11

BUSINESS LICENSES FOR COUNCIL APPROVAL

05/10/2024

License Type	Applicant	License Fee
Tree/Lawn Fertilizer	VAN DOREN TREE CARE LLC	50.00

BUSINESS LICENSES FOR COUNCIL APPROVAL

05/21/2024

License Type	Applicant	License Fee
Transient Merchant - Food Truck	L&D BBQ	25.00
Massage Therapy - Individual	NEW ORIENTAL MASSAGE, LLC	125.00



City of Robbinsdale

TO: Mayor and City Council
PREPARED BY: Tim Sandvik, City Manager
APPROVED BY: Tim Sandvik, City Manager
DATE: May 21, 2024
RE: Hennepin County All-Hazard Mitigation Plan

Background:

The City of Robbinsdale has continued to work with Hennepin County and other jurisdictions to update and maintain the Hennepin County All-Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Analysis:

In an ongoing fashion, the Hennepin County Emergency Management personnel have continued to work with local jurisdictions since the implementation of the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. The participatory process helps localities like the City of Robbinsdale, and its personnel, to better prepare for a variety of scenarios.

The attached resolution provides core tenants of the All-Hazard Mitigation Plan, and indicates the importance for departments like the Robbinsdale Fire Department, Robbinsdale Police Department, and Robbinsdale Public Works team to participate.

Recommendation:

By motion, approve a resolution adopting the Hennepin County All Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Attachments:

1. Resolution - A resolution adopting the Hennepin County All Hazard Mitigation Plan

Member _____ moved and Member _____ seconded a motion that the following resolution be read and adopted this 21st day of May, 2024.

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE HENNEPIN COUNTY ALL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

WHEREAS, the City of Robbinsdale has participated in the hazard mitigation planning process as established under the federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000; and

WHEREAS, the Act establishes a framework for the development of a County Hazard Mitigation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Act as requires public involvement and local coordination among neighboring local units of government and businesses in the assessment and planning process; and

WHEREAS, the Hennepin County Plan includes a risk assessment including county disaster history, an inventory of hazards that threaten the County, an estimate of infrastructure at risk, a general description of population, land use and development trends; and

WHEREAS, the Hennepin County Plan includes a mitigation strategy including goals, objectives, an action plan identifying specific mitigation projects and costs that will reduce disaster impacts; and

WHEREAS, the Hennepin County Plan includes a maintenance or implementation process including plan updates, integration of the plan into other planning documents and how Hennepin County will maintain public participation and coordination; and

WHEREAS, the Plan has been shared with the Minnesota Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency for review and comment; and

WHEREAS, this Hennepin County All-Hazard Mitigation Plan is multi-jurisdictional in scope and that the City of Robbinsdale participated in the planning process to adopt the County Plan and be eligible to apply for federal mitigation grants.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Robbinsdale, Minnesota: The Robbinsdale City Council supports the hazard mitigation planning effort and wishes to adopt the Hennepin County All-Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The question was on adoption of the resolution and upon a vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof:

And the following voted against the same:

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL THIS 21st DAY OF MAY, 2024.

William A. Blonigan, Mayor

ATTEST:

Chase Peterson-Etem, City Clerk



City of Robbinsdale

TO: Mayor and City Council
PREPARED BY: Patrick Foley, Police Chief
APPROVED BY: Tim Sandvik, City Manager
DATE: May 21, 2024
RE: Police Officer Swearing In

Background:

Police officers to be sworn in:

- Nick Fasching
- Zachary Angel
- Lana Boskovic

Analysis:

None.

Recommendation:

None.

Attachments:

1. Swearing In

I, Nicholas Fasching, do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and of the State of Minnesota, and faithfully discharge the duties of the office of Police Officer of the City of Robbinsdale, in the County of Hennepin, and State of Minnesota, to the best of my judgement and ability.

I, Zachary Angel, do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and of the State of Minnesota, and faithfully discharge the duties of the office of Police Officer of the City of Robbinsdale, in the County of Hennepin, and State of Minnesota, to the best of my judgement and ability.

I, Lana Boskovic, do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and of the State of Minnesota, and faithfully discharge the duties of the office of Police Officer of the City of Robbinsdale, in the County of Hennepin, and State of Minnesota, to the best of my judgement and ability.



City of Robbinsdale

TO: Mayor and City Council

PREPARED BY: Kayla Kirtz, Sustainability Coordinator

APPROVED BY: Tim Sandvik, City Manager

DATE: May 21, 2024

RE: University of Minnesota Climate Action Planning Student Presentation

Background:

In January of 2024 the City was invited to partner with the University of Minnesota Humphrey School of Public Affairs on a Climate Action Planning course during the spring semester. The course is for upper level undergrads, most of whom are in the Institute on the Environment Energy Leaders Cohort. As part of the course, students have the opportunity to work with Minnesota cities actively participating in climate work. The City was paired with a group of five students who sought to explore initial steps for developing a climate action plan for the City of Robbinsdale. They utilized the Minnesota Climate Action Framework and the GreenStep Cities' Gold Leaf Challenge to guide their work. As a project partner, City staff provided guidance to the students, met on a bi-weekly basis with the students throughout the duration of the project, and provided additional background information on current City operations, goals, and contacts. The students commit to providing a final presentation, a final policy plan and short policy brief, as well as any other deliverables as determined by the project partner and students. The students will present their analysis, including potential climate action opportunities for the City to explore, to the City Council.

Analysis:

None.

Recommendation:

None.

Attachments:

1. University of Minnesota City Council Presentation



City of Robbinsdale, MN

Recommendations for a Climate Action Framework

May 21, 2024



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1

Executive Summary

1. Robbinsdale is **considering a formal Climate Action Plan (CAP)**.
1. A CAP **provides a multi-year focus that unifies city departments and residents** to meet city and climate needs.
1. We recommend using **Minnesota's Climate Action Framework**.
1. Robbinsdale's **current climate activities** align with Framework goals and already demonstrate success.
1. **Specific action steps proposed**, based on sister-city analysis and deeper-dive research into partnerships, sustainable actions, community outreach, Minnesota Green Step Cities and Gold Leaf Challenge Programs.

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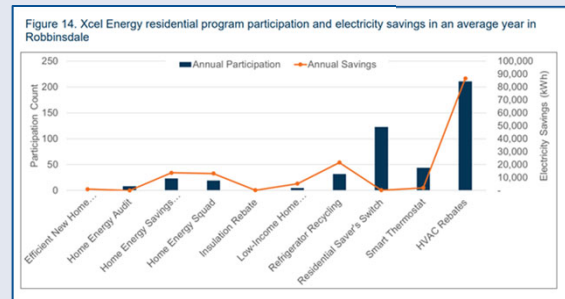
Requested Framework for Climate Action Planning

- **Build** from city's Energy Action Plan, Green Step city membership, and the Gold Leaf Challenge Program
- **Learn** from nearby "sister" cities
- **Expand** planning scope to recognize adaptation actions and ensure equity



Primary Focuses:

- Community Engagement
- Building Energy Efficiency
- Climate Equity
- EV Fleet and Infrastructure
- Gold Leaf Actions



— Robbinsdale Energy Action Plan

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3

Benefits of Formalizing a Climate Action Plan



Broadly addresses adaptation goals



Unifies strategies across residents, departments and the city



Aligns language and objectives with state



Offers near and long term strategies to examine yearly progress towards goals



Justifies awarding city incentives and changing policy/regulation

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Benefits of Gold Leaf Challenge Participation



"The Gold Leaf Challenge focuses on pathways for communities to take local climate action"

-Gold Leaf Challenge: MN GreenStep Cities

- Contributes to **continuous improvement** for taking climate action
- Provides **high-impact climate actions**
- **Public recognition** of climate work
- Serves as a **baseline** for climate resilience and action
- Opportunities for "peer learning, partnerships, and grant collaboration"

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The Minnesota Climate Action Framework

Shared Vision



Carbon-neutral by 2050 by reducing emissions and increasing carbon storage



Community Resiliency to endure expected weather and climate changes



Equitable distribution of costs and benefits across Minnesota's population

Six Strategic Goals

1

Clean Transportation

2

Climate-Smart Natural and Working Lands

3

Resilient Communities

4

Clean Energy and Efficient Buildings

5

Healthy Lives and Communities

6

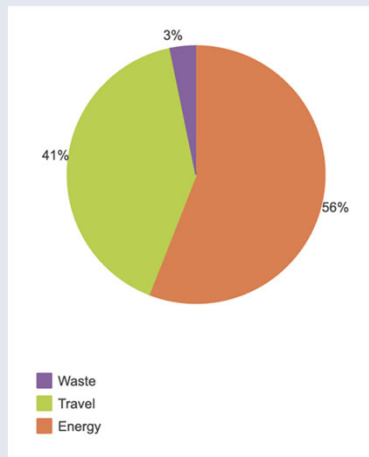
Clean Economy

— Minnesota Climate Action Framework

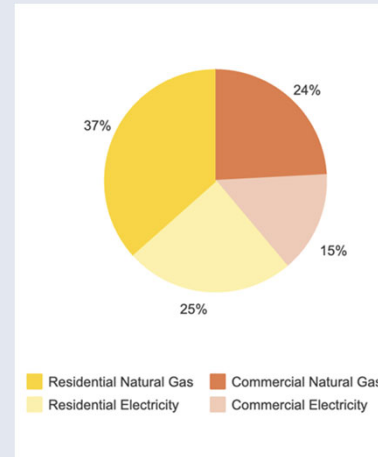
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Greenhouse Gas Emissions Sources (2017)



Total



Energy

-Regional Indicators Initiative 7

7

Robbinsdale's Current Climate Initiatives

- **Clean Transportation:** Complete Streets Policy and current city planning to extend Blue Line transit
- **Climate-Smart Natural & Working Lands:** Reforestation and tree canopy improvement: planting bareroot trees every fall
- **Resilient Communities:** Recent Stormwater chambers installation and centralized water treatment plant increasing resiliency
- **Clean Energy & Efficient Buildings:** Energy Action Plan enacted in August 2023, which will reduce energy burden and increase energy efficiency
- **Healthy Lives and Communities:** Goal to create a business recognition program, which promotes increasing energy efficiency for buildings

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Sister-cities: Progress for Each Goal

Hopkins

- **Clean Energy:** Successful **Solar energy systems installed; LED lighting**, high-efficiency rooftop air conditioning units, soft start motors in water distribution
- **Healthy Lives and Communities:** 2022 **Heat Vulnerability study** provides community sourced recommendations

Golden Valley

- **Resilient Communities:** City-drawn **Environmental Justice map** to drive equitable treatment
- **Healthy Lives and Communities:** **Energy action plan targets 30% reduction** in greenhouse gas emissions by 2040

St. Louis Park

- **Clean Transportation:** **Implemented EV chargers** and changing city fleet
- **Resilient Communities:** **Depave SLP Program**
- **Clean Energy & Efficient Buildings:** **Green Building Policy** drives efficiency and renewables; **Efficient Building Benchmark Ordinance** reports city buildings energy and water use

Columbia Heights

- **Resilient Communities:** Created **HeightsNext**, a community resiliency organization
- **Clean Energy and Efficient Buildings:** **Partnered with Xcel Energy** to promote energy efficiency and business incentives

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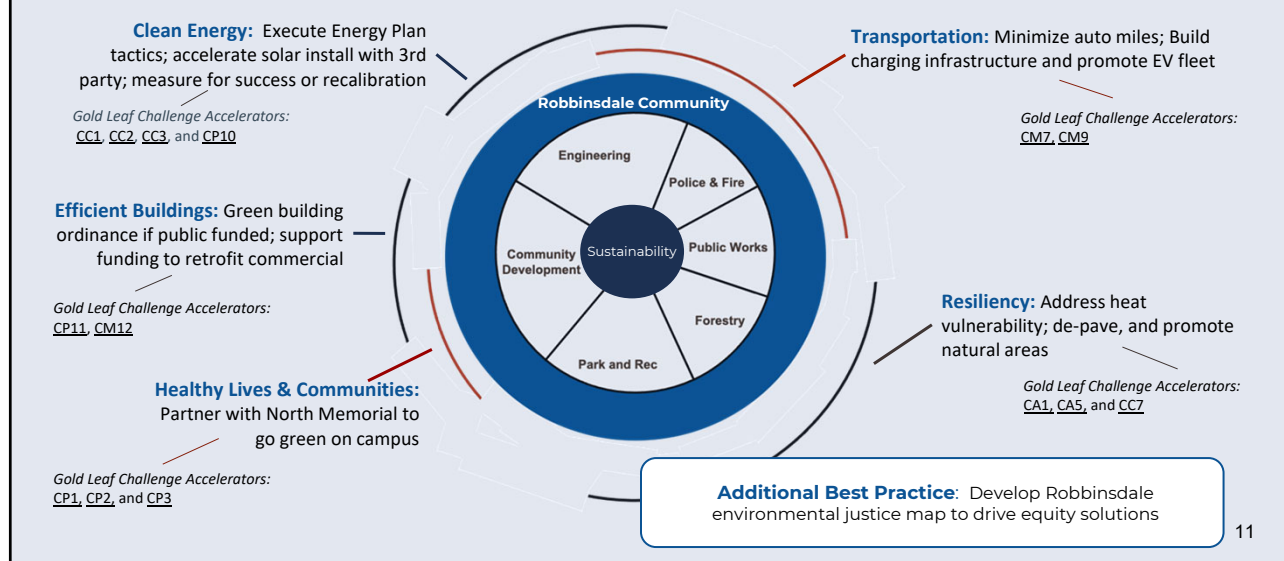
Sister Cities: Key Recommendations

- **Develop a Heat Vulnerability and/or Environmental Justice Map**
 - Helpful to identify priority areas for outreach and assistance when implementing CAP
- **Create incentive program for residents and commercial property owners similar to Depave SLP**
 - Encourages the removal of excess pavement and replacement with native plants, trees, rain gardens, pollinator habitats or permeable pavers
 - Improves stormwater management and reduces urban heat island effect
- **Participate in SolSmart and/or ChargingSmart**
 - Assist the city's renewable energy transition and help to adopt a clean transportation fleet

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Recommendation: Minnesota Framework with Key City Departments



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Climate Actions Recommended For Robbinsdale

Goal	Recommended Climate Action
1 Clean Transportation	1.1 Implement EV charging stations near city hall. 1.2 Replace city fleet of vehicles with hybrid or EV models.
2 Climate-Smart Natural and Working Lands	2.1 Establish a stormwater management incentive program for residents. 2.2 Develop a Sustainable Landscaping Plan for public green spaces.
3 Resilient Communities	3.1 Develop a climate justice/equity map to be featured on the city website. 3.2 Participate in Hennepin County Community Action Planning .
4 Clean Energy and Efficient Buildings	4.1 Partner with SolSmart for engaging residential solar installations. 4.2 Implement an ordinance which provides a benchmark for building efficiency
5 Healthy Lives and Communities	5.1 North Memorial hospital partnership with Practice Greenhealth . 5.2 Enroll in the FEMA Community Rating system to encourage community floodplain management.
6 Clean Economy	6.1 Develop Sustainable Business Recognition Program. 6.2 Elevate current purchasing practices and purchase products from USDA's Biopreferred Program .

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Action 2.2

Develop a Sustainable Landscaping Plan for public green spaces

Sustainable landscaping: designing green spaces that are responsive to environmental changes and enhance attributes of a healthy community.

Resilient design can promote:

- Biodiversity
- Carbon sequestration
- Clean air & water
- Energy efficiency
- Decreased water, fertilizer, and pesticide usage

Refer to Hennepin County's [Sustainable Landscape Guidelines](#)

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Action 4.2

Implement a Building Efficiency Benchmarking Ordinance

Building upon Strategy 10 of Robbinsdale's Energy Action Plan, "Update City policies around licensing for businesses"

An ordinance can be implemented which requires commercial or residential buildings over (set amount) Square Feet to report their annual energy & water usage.

Benefits of implementation:

- City-wide energy & water usage comparison
- Pinpoint areas of improvement for energy & water conservation
- Potential identification of utility cost savings

Refer to St. Louis Park's Efficient Building Benchmarking [Ordinance](#)

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Additional Benefits

Each recommended action, if implemented, can align with/provide a foundation for GreenStep Cities best practice actions

Sustainable Landscaping: Actions [10.1](#), [10.4](#), [10.5](#), [10.6](#), [10.7](#)

Benchmarking Ordinance: Actions [1.6](#), [2.3](#), [3.3](#), [4.1](#), [4.6](#)

Replace City Fleet with EV/Hybrid: Actions [13.2](#), [13.3](#), [13.6](#)

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Best Practices for Community Outreach

- **Communication Medium:** Newspapers and electronic newsletter
- **Community Tabling:** Being present at community events **fosters connections and raises awareness about sustainability**
- **Incentive-Based Approach:** Monetary incentives engage the community
- **Partnership with Local Organizations:** Partnering **brings opportunities** for events and programs

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Saving Energy Saves you Money!

Replacing old appliances with energy efficient models **can help you save on your next energy bill**. It also helps the environment by reducing air and water pollution!
Here are some more tips for saving energy and money:

Energy Saving Tips:

- Replace your old water heater with an electric heat pump.
- When shopping for new appliances, make sure that they are ENERGY STAR rated.
- Having high quality insulation ensures that cold or warm air doesn't go to waste.
- Install low-flow water faucets. They can help reduce heated water consumption.

Want more help with energy efficiency?

More information is available at the Robbinsdale website: robbinsdalemn.com/energy. Along with more energy saving tips, an Energy Assistance Program offered by Hennepin County is available for Robbinsdale residents. To learn more about this program, please visit caphennepin.org or call 952-930-3541.

Priorities

In relation to project goals:

- Formalize achievable actions
- Create a timeline for CAP completion
- Community involvement
- Expand sustainability resources

In relation to recommended actions:

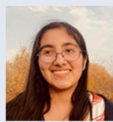
- Energy efficiency
- Climate equity

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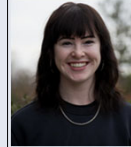


Thank you!



**Karina
Herrera-Cavazos**

- Sophomore, majoring in Art focused on illustration and animation, with minor in Interdisciplinary Design



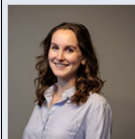
Aray

- Junior, majoring in Environmental Science, Policy and Management
- Aspiring PhD. student
- Studying environmental science in Bhutan next semester



Katie Nesheim

- Senior, majoring in Sustainable Systems Management and minor in Environmental Science, Policy and Management



Mya Schultz

- Junior, majoring in Environmental Science, Policy and Management with minor in Corporate Environmental Management



Rebecca Svatek

- Returning student to the Humphrey School of Public Affairs since retirement
- Prior Strategic Planning Director, Wells Fargo



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Appendix

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Additional Recommended Actions

- Organize a group that reviews city code to identify areas that can include energy efficiency
 - Refer to the City of Burnsville's [Code Review Task Force](#)
 - This action aligns with strategy 8A in Robbinsdale's Energy Action Plan
- Implement [SB2030](#) energy standard into new building construction
 - This would complete GreenStep Cities best practice actions: ...
- Leverage St. Louis Park provided contact at Health Partners & Health Partners Climate Resilience Plan to model North Memorial actions
 - Like North Memorial, Park Nicollet/Health Partners have a large presence and they are considered leaders in climate action planning

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Additional Recommended Actions

- Develop economic justice map for Robbinsdale
 - Best-practice shared by Golden Valley: now drives both development and prioritization of City's climate action. Ensures all residents remain healthy and safe in the face of climate change, especially those that are most vulnerable
- Promote [Energy Fit Homes](#)
 - Developed an energy fitness score which allows homeowners to see the efficiency of their home and know how to improve it
 - Could be advertised in utility bill inserts
- Promote MN [Weatherization Assistance Program](#)
 - Income-eligible residents can receive free home energy upgrades
 - Could be advertised in utility bill inserts

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Gold Leaf Challenge Mapping Summary

- **CC1, CC2, CC3, CC10:** Gold Leaf Challenge actions assist with, and recognize formation of a “formal” Green Team including city staff and citizens (**CC1**), with the option to include Youth representation (**CC2**), and then a relationship with School Clubs (**CC3**). An additional internship by Robbinsdale is supported by **CC10**. Moving forward with these action steps aligns with team enablement tasks identified in the current Energy Plan, as well as provides needed resource capacity within the Robbinsdale team to support and/or lead many of the outreach tactics outlined in the Energy Plan – school district outreach to students/parents, social media campaigns, utility bill inserts, website updates, housing efficiency guides, and the business recognition program.

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Gold Leaf Challenge Mapping Summary

- **CP11:** Additional work outlined in the Energy Plan that seeks to include an inspection checklist for energy audits and/or property review at re-licensure aligns with Gold Leaf action item CP11. CP11 could also assist with design/development of a sustainable building ordinance which could be employed when public funds are used (similar approach has been done in St. Paul and is highlighted in CP11).
- **CM11, CM12:** **CM11, and CM12** can provide a jump-start work plan for Energy Plan action items related to renewable energy, namely development of a city purchase program (CM11), or public/private partnerships (CM12) for solar installations.

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	Hopkins	Columbia Heights	Golden Valley	St. Louis Park
Clean Transportation	Exploring budget request to electrify city's fleet and install EV charger in public works facility	Covers increasing pedestrian and bicycle accessibility , thus decreasing vehicle dependency	Residence electrification events promoting EV vehicles	EV chargers implemented at city hall, a year long fleet analysis was conducted by Xcel energy to see which vehicles could be replaced by EVs
Climate-Smart Natural & Working Lands	Continuing to remove trees infested with EAB and replant new trees	Soil preparation requirements in place for construction projects in order to promote good root growth	Updated stormwater runoff storage sites in city parks and focused wetland recovery	Rainwater Rewards Programs
Resilient Communities	Planning to increase access to cooling centers (ex. libraries, splash pads)	Created HeightsNext , a community resiliency organization	Active green-space management as part of City's National Resource Plan	Depave SLP , property owners who remove pavement and fill in the space with native plants, trees, rain gardens, pollinator habitat or permeable pavers may be eligible for partial city reimbursement
Clean Energy & Efficient Buildings	Solar energy systems installed on public works facility, Hopkins Pavilion, and fire station Replaced equipment in all city facilities including LED lighting, high-efficiency rooftop air conditioning units, soft start motors in water distribution facilities as of 2021	Partnership with Xcel Energy to promote energy efficiency, includes business incentives and design assistance	Active efficiency programs for residential and commercial businesses promoting energy audits and building improvements; Partnering with SolSmart for residential solar installation	"Green Building Policy" ensures all new buildings will be built with energy efficiency and renewable energy in mind "Efficient Building Benchmark Ordinance" requires city buildings to report energy and water use
Healthy Lives and Communities	Completed Heat Vulnerability study in 2022 to document current conditions and provide community sourced recommendations	Goal outlined in 2040 Comp plan to "Preserve and protect natural features and resources in existing parks and when planning and redeveloping park and recreational facilities."	Ratified Energy Plan targets 30% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2040	Transitioning to clean energy for back up generators in critical infrastructure and emergency response facilities
Clean Economy	No initiatives currently in progress	Business Incentive for new and existing commercial and industrial users	Ongoing efforts to engage with businesses operating with GV have been unsuccessful so far	Engage local business associations to develop strategies for small to mid-sized business energy efficiency programs

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Hopkins



Population: 18,269
Median Household Income: \$70,058
City Size: 4.06 sq miles
City Designation: Urban Center

Sustainability Team and Charter

- 1 designated sustainability specialist under the engineering/public works division
- Sustainability team gives bi-annual updates on ongoing initiatives and new projects
- Currently working on Energy Action Plan to be implemented in 2025
- Involved in numerous climate action certification programs including GreenStep Cities, SolSmart, EV Smart Communities, and Tree City USA
- Very robust sustainability dedicated webpage including their initiatives

Scope of Current Climate Work

- Replaced equipment in all city facilities including LED lighting, high-efficiency rooftop air conditioning units, soft start motors in water distribution facilities in 2021
- The City purchases over 3,033,000 kWhrs per year from MN solar gardens, equating about 56% of the City's annual energy demand
- Implemented solar projects on public works building, Hopkins Pavilion, and fire station in 2020 providing 97%, 34%, and 29% of energy consumed per year respectively
- Achieved SolSmart Silver certification in May of 2023 for ongoing efforts to help property owners implement solar energy projects
- City staff and contractor Heritage Shade Tree gave residents a presentation on caring for trees and had a free tree giveaway
- Completed assessment of the City's current fleet and recommended several alternative vehicles, staff will explore a budget request for an EV charger at public works to help begin this transition
- Completed Heat Vulnerability study in 2022 to document current conditions, provide community sourced recommendations, and show solutions used by similar communities experiencing the same conditions
- Developed Hopkins Climate Solutions Fund in 2023, an equity centered program that focuses on providing incentives for items which are likely to have the greatest impact on resiliency

Successes

- \$150,000 invested in residential and commercial weatherization, energy efficiency and electrification, clean energy and storage, and sustainable transportation projects through Hopkins Climate Solutions Fund

Challenges

- Staff capacity and organizational knowledge
- Applying for grants to fund planning and implementation
- Prioritization of projects

Successes

- Energy Action Plan planning and implementation

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Golden Valley



Population: 22,500
Median Household Income: \$98,100
City Size: 10.5 sq miles
City Designation: Urban

Sustainability Team and Charter

- 3 Sustainability staff members reporting to Planning Department
- Environmental Commission includes residents and city staff
- Youth position currently not filled
- Energy Action Plan as of Aug 2030
- Climate Section in 2040 City Comprehensive Plan
- Resiliency Plan adopted 2017

Scope of Current Climate Work

- Ratified Energy Plan targets 30% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2040
- Active efficiency programs for residential and commercial businesses promoting energy audits and building improvements
- Lead by example with city buildings through solar installation, B3 benchmarking (22 buildings), and energy improvements
- Residential and commercial building code ordinance adopts latest State of Minnesota efficiencies
- Residence electrification events promoting EV vehicles, electric home and garden tools, home efficiency upgrades, and solar installation
- Partnering with SolSmart for residential solar installation
- Updated stormwater runoff storage sites in city parks
- Active green-space management as part of City's National Resource Plan
- Focused wetland recovery, partnering with Basset Creek Watershed
- Strong recycling and waste management participation, including new organic recycling program with 45% participation last year
- Community engagement through social media (Facebook), mailings, city website, community events, and targeted commercial business meetings
- Renewed focus on environmental justice with creation of Golden Valley map, extending Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's baseline. Directly influencing upcoming Plant-a-Tree event

Successes

- Lead-by-Example thru City Building benchmarking and improvements
- 16 private LEED certified buildings
- 16 public EV Charging stations as of 2020; City EV fleet now at 2
- 305 City and private solar sites; strong partnership with SolSmart
- High percentage participation in waste and organic recycling

Challenges

- Direct engagement with Mid and Small-commercial businesses difficult to secure; value proposition missing
- City Hall building energy improvements lagging
- Benchmarks to measure progress not set beyond Energy Plan; difficult to measure progress and prompt change in yearly tactics

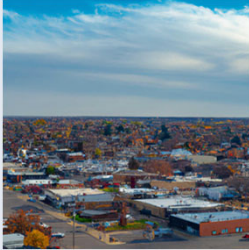
Next Steps

- Considering formal Climate Action Plan to provide overarching direction and better benchmarks

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Columbia Heights



Population: 21,835
Median Household Income: \$70,470
City Sq Mile: 3.52
City Designation: Urban Center

Sustainability Commission & Actions

Chairperson: Nicholas Ahmadvand
 Vice-Chair: Madeline Jensen Christen

- Established in 2023 with the goal of awareness and promotion of sustainable practices.
- This effort hopes to reduce human impact on the environment within the city.

Youth Commission

- 7-13 students aged 14-18

Scope of Current Climate Work

- GreenStep city (category A)
 - 22 actions completed, last step taken in 2015
- Xcel Energy Partnership
 - Business Incentive and Sustainability Rider: "new and existing commercial and industrial customers with new or additional load of 350kW or greater" can receive "an immediate 40% electric demand rate reduction"
 - Energy Design Assistance: a free design service that allows for large facilities to consider and incorporate energy efficiency into their projects
 - Energy Efficient Buildings: "a free program which encourages customers to incorporate energy efficiency measures into new construction, expansion or renovation projects"
- Created HeightsNEXT, a sustainability based community organization which hopes to "build a resilient and sustainable community in Columbia Heights, MN"
- 2040 Comprehensive Plan Goals
 - Increasing convenient pedestrian and bicycle accessibility, thus decreasing vehicle dependency
 - Promoting green infrastructure such as stormwater reuse, solar, and wind energy
 - Ensuring stormwater management practices are incorporated into new developments
 - Preserve and protect natural features and resources in existing parks and when planning and redeveloping park and recreational facilities
 - Coordination of surface water management efforts to preserve and improve the quality of water resources within existing parks and open space areas

Successes

- Soil preparation requirements are in place for construction projects and new developments in order to promote good root growth
- The City has taken efforts to require water efficient structures in new housing and developments.
- Thorough 2040 Comp Plan

Challenges

- Reducing unaccounted water loss to less than 10% (MN DNR objective) - the city's average from 2010-2015 was 24.6%, and they are working to reduce this percentage
- Determining how much benefitting property owners should pay for enhancing an existing improvement

Next Steps

- Complete more best practice actions to achieve Step 3 in GreenStep
- Compiling information for a formal climate action plan

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St. Louis Park



Population: 48,827
Median Household Income: \$94,263
City Square Miles: 10.8
City Designation: Urban Center

Sustainability Team and Charter

- 3 Staff members housed in the Building and Energy department
- The Environment and Sustainability Commission includes 13 members, with 2 youth members
- 2040 Carbon Neutral goal outlined in Climate Action Plan
- Climate Equity Map launched May 2023

Scope of Current Climate Work

- Rooftop solar implemented in city buildings like the rec center and at the Westwood Hills Nature Center
- City operations are powered by renewables through the "Renewable Connect" programs by Xcel Energy
- SLP and Xcel energy replacing all city street lights with LEDs
- EV chargers implemented at city hall; a year long fleet analysis identified what vehicles could be replaced by EVs
 - Was a part of SLP's involvement w/ the Cities Charging Ahead cohort on EV implementation
- The "Electric Vehicle Supply Ordinance" requires newly built parking lots to have EV charging stations
- Awarded the SolSmart gold designation in 2022 for fostering their local solar markets
 - SLP created an online solar suitability map
 - Trained staff on implementing and inspecting solar tech
- SLP is a part of Green Power Partnership, which helps develop clean energy generation across the US
- "Green Building Policy" ensures all new buildings will be built with energy efficiency and renewable energy in mind
- "Efficient Building Benchmark Ordinance" requires city buildings to report energy and water use
- Depave SLP - property owners who remove pavement and fill in with native plants, trees, rain gardens, pollinator habitat or permeable pavers may be eligible for partial city reimbursement
- Rainwater Rewards Programs - increase green infrastructure by providing residents with financial and technical assistance to install projects that reduce stormwater runoff

Successes

- CAP adopted in 2018, first in MN to adopt one
- "Electrify Everything" workshops popular with residents
- Partnership with nonprofits (Enerchange) to increase energy efficiency

Challenges

- Harder to make leased buildings more energy efficient as both renters and landlords have no incentive to improve them
- Changing transportation, less cars and more modes of transport
- State laws can get in the way of what the commission wants to do

Next Steps

- Promoting "Idle-Free" campaign for residents
- Possibility of focusing more on environmental justice

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Contacts

Golden Valley

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ekehrberg@goldenvalleymn.gov

Airrion Williams - Community Connection and
Outreach Specialist
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St. Louis Park

Emily Ziring - Sustainability Manager
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Hopkins

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Allison Egan

Program Manager, Sustainability
Health Partners
Allison.J.Egan@healthpartners.com

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City of Robbinsdale

TO: Mayor and City Council

PREPARED BY: Kayla Kirtz, Sustainability Coordinator

APPROVED BY: Tim Sandvik, City Manager

DATE: May 21, 2024

RE: Approve Submission of a Minnesota Department of Commerce Solar on Public Buildings Grant Application

Background:

In 2023 the Minnesota Legislature established the Solar on Public Buildings (SPB) Grant Program. The purpose of this program is to provide grants to stimulate the installation of solar energy systems on public buildings. The Department of Commerce will administer \$4.3M in grants to local governments in Xcel Energy electric service territory through at least two funding rounds. Grants will be awarded for up to 70% of the project costs (dependent on the government's financial capacity) for a solar array that is built on or adjacent to a public building and is lesser of 40kW system capacity of 120% of the building's annual energy consumption. Based on Robbinsdale's adjusted net tax capacity, the City is eligible for a maximum allowable grant of up to 60% of the project cost, not to exceed \$72,000. Additionally, the SPB grant can be stacked with the Inflation Reduction Act's federal tax credit for solar arrays through Direct Pay. The first step of the application, a Notice of Intent, is due Monday, June 3, 2024.

Analysis:

Conversations to install solar on Robbinsdale's municipal buildings have been in motion for multiple years now. The City is currently reviewing proposals for a solar array installation on the Water Treatment Plant, which has been accounted for in the 2024 budget. Thanks to Inflation Reduction Act tax credits and potential grant funding from the Department of Commerce, the City is well-positioned to begin the process of installing additional solar this year. This grant funding will also enable the City to make progress towards achieving the ambitious goals outlined in the Robbinsdale Energy Action Plan: to avoid 30% of energy-related greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, compared to business as usual. Contingent upon receiving grant funds, the City will pursue the installation of a solar array on the roof of Robbinsdale City Hall. The City has included \$315,000 in 2024 for "City Hall - Solar Panels" in the 2024-2033 Capital Improvement Plan.

Recommendation:

Motion to approve the submission of a Minnesota Department of Commerce Solar on Public Buildings Grant application.

Attachments:

None



City of Robbinsdale

TO: Mayor and City Council

PREPARED BY: Rachel Leen, Communications Coordinator

APPROVED BY: Tim Sandvik, City Manager

DATE: May 21, 2024

RE: Authorize Contract with CivicPlus for new City Website

Background:

Our current website has been in use for several years, and it is clear that an upgrade is essential to better serve our residents, leverage new technologies, and keep pace with evolving communication standards. City staff have taken on the project of finding the best options to capture the aforementioned going forward.

Analysis:

As a part of the process, staff identified the following priorities.

1. **Improving Resident Experience:** As a local government, we strive to provide efficient and user-friendly services to our residents. Currently, our website does not meet these expectations. Residents find it challenging to access information and engage with our services online.
2. **Easier Content Creation/Management:** The ability to swiftly add and manage website content is vital for timely communication, transparency, and community engagement. Quick updates ensure the rapid dissemination of important information, particularly during emergencies. Additionally, maintaining current event details, services, and adapting to changing circumstances through the website contributes to a positive public image and effective community involvement.
3. **Consolidation/Integrations:** We currently utilize several different vendors for our different offerings, creating some difficulties for our residents, as well as difficulties for staff needing to duplicate efforts between systems.

To understand current available technologies, City staff met with two other government website providers in addition to CivicPlus, and concluded that CivicPlus provides the best range of website tools for resident experience and content management. The new website costs fall under the threshold of the City Manager, and the initial investment and annual recurring costs with CivicPlus align with budget expectations. Funds for this project are already approved within our current fiscal year's budget.

Additionally, CivicPlus has a team of experts who will provide training, migrate our content, design the new website, and provide the hosting and security for the website. An added benefit with CivicPlus is that every four years of continuous service, the City can redesign our website. This will help us keep up with the industry standard of updating a website every three to five years.

Recommendation:

Authorize City Manager to execute CivicEngage Ultimate Implementation with CivicPlus.

Attachments:

None



City of Robbinsdale

TO: Mayor and City Council
PREPARED BY: Tim Sandvik, City Manager
APPROVED BY: Tim Sandvik, City Manager
DATE: May 21, 2024
RE: Authorize Limited Use Agreement

Background:

At the May 15, 2024 City Council Work Session, Council discussed a potential Limited Use Agreement with 4001 Orchard Ave.

Analysis:

At the time of preparing the Council packet, staff was continuing to work with the City Attorney, and property owner, to prepare the Agreement/License - a copy will be made available to Council prior to the meeting.

At a high level, the resident has installed decorative lights on trees in the City Boulevard/right of way. In order to permit this obstruction and limit liability, staff recommends entering into a Limited Use Agreement.

Recommendation:

Consider a Limited Use Agreement with 4001 Orchard Ave.

Attachments:

None



City of Robbinsdale

TO: Mayor and City Council
PREPARED BY: Tim Sandvik, City Manager
APPROVED BY: Tim Sandvik, City Manager
DATE: May 21, 2024
RE: Resolution Recognizing Rick Pearson Years of Service

Background:

In the spring of 2024, Rick Pearson - Community Development Director, officially shared his intent to retire effective May 31st, 2024.

Analysis:

In Mr. Pearson's 18-plus years of service to the City of Robbinsdale and the surrounding community, he has provided expertise in the area of planning while maintaining a high level of customer service towards residents, businesses, and visitors of the City. When considering an "average day" for Mr. Pearson, its clear there is no such thing. At any given time, he may be involved in large scale development projects, Light Rail Transit discussions, and neighborhood code enforcement, all while overseeing the Community Development Department.

Staff have prepared the attached memo for consideration, and the City Manager will offer a thanks to Mr. Pearson while presenting the resolution.

Recommendation:

By motion, approve a resolution recognizing Rick Pearson, Community Development Director, for his years of service to the City of Robbinsdale

Attachments:

1. Resolution - Rick Pearson years of service (002)

Member _____ moved and Member _____ seconded a motion that the following resolution be read and adopted this 21st day of May 2024.

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING RICK PEARSON, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR, FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CITY OF ROBBINSDALE

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to offer their thanks to Mr. Pearson for his more than 18 years of service to the Robbinsdale Community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Pearson has served as the Associate Planner for the City of Coon Rapids, the City Planner for the City of Rosemount, and will retire as the Community Development Director for the City of Robbinsdale; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Pearson has spent countless hours serving as the staff liaison to the Robbinsdale Planning Commission, participated in dozens of Robbinsdale Economic Development Authority (REDA) meetings, led many Rental License Training seminars, and overseen all areas of community development in Robbinsdale over the last 18 years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Pearson was integral to many projects in the community, including Parker Station Flats, Birdtown Flats, The Reeve, Hy Vee, and the Scattered Site program; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Pearson has served many City Council Members, worked with many City staff, and ultimately served countless residents, businesses, and visitors to Robbinsdale;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Robbinsdale, Minnesota: The Robbinsdale City Council formally offers their thanks to Mr. Pearson for his many years of dedicated service to the City of Robbinsdale.

The question was on adoption of the resolution and upon a vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof:

And the following voted against the same:

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL THIS 21st DAY OF MAY 2024.

William A. Blonigan
Mayor

Regan Murphy
Council Member

Mia Parisian
Council Member

Aaron Wagner
Council Member

ATTEST:

Chase Peterson-Etem, City Clerk



City of Robbinsdale

TO: Mayor and City Council
PREPARED BY: Chase Peterson-Etem, City Clerk/Assistant to City Manager
APPROVED BY: Tim Sandvik, City Manager
DATE: May 21, 2024
RE: Voucher Requests Pending Approval for Disbursement

Background:

The check register dated 5/21/24 reflects the voucher requests pending approval for disbursement.

The check register dated 5/8/24 through 5/21/24 is a list of vouchers requiring payment for city funds, Deputy Registrar, liquor, and miscellaneous purchases. The payments are required prior to the next Council meeting.

Analysis:

None.

Recommendation:

By motion, approve disbursement requests for the period ending 5/21/2024.

Attachments:

None



City of Robbinsdale

TO: Mayor and City Council
PREPARED BY: Chase Peterson-Etem, City Clerk/Assistant to City Manager
APPROVED BY: Tim Sandvik, City Manager
DATE: May 21, 2024
RE: Cancel July 2, 2024, City Council Meeting

Background:

At the May 15, 2024, Work Session, the Council discussed canceling the July 2, 2024, City Council Meeting. It was noted that two members may not be able to attend the July 2 meeting. If that happens to be the case, a two-member Council meeting would not be able to approve Council items. All four Council members supported canceling the meeting.

Analysis:

Staff will work to ensure all necessary and timely Council items are approved at prior Council meetings to mitigate any impact of canceling the meeting. However, the Council may schedule a Special City Council meeting if unforeseen items need to be approved.

Recommendation:

Motion to cancel the July 2, 2024, City Council Meeting.

Attachments:

None



City of Robbinsdale

TO: Mayor and City Council
PREPARED BY: Tim Sandvik, City Manager
APPROVED BY: Tim Sandvik, City Manager
DATE: May 21, 2024
RE: City Manager Annual Performance Review

Background:

Per the City Manager's contract, Mr. Sandvik is eligible for an annual review. At the April 9, 2024 City Council Work Session, Council agreed to host a closed session to review the City Manager's performance.

Analysis:

Under Minnesota State Statute Ch 13D, a public body may close a meeting to evaluate the performance of an individual who is subject to its authority. The public body shall identify the individual to be evaluated prior to closing a meeting. At its next open meeting, the public body shall summarize its conclusions regarding the evaluation.

Recommendation:

By motion, adjourn to a closed session to discuss the City Manager's annual performance review.

Attachments:

None