



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.

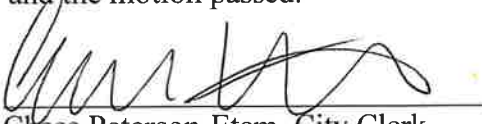
Member Wagner also congratulated Rick Pearson on his retirement and is looking forward to wishing him well in person. He mentioned No-Mow-May and that he would support doing this in the future. He thanked election judges who will be working in the upcoming Ward 2 Special Election and also thanked Matt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