



City of Robbinsdale

City Council Work Session
Tuesday, October 10, 2023

MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tem Wagner called the meeting to order at 7:44 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Murphy, Webb, Parisian, Blonigan, Mayor Pro Tem Wagner

Absent: None

Staff: Tim Sandvik, City Manager; Kayla Kirtz, Assistant to City Manager - Communications; Rick Pearson, Community Development Coordinator; Charnelle Dengnoue, Human Resources Manager

DISCUSSION

A. HRC Discussion

Sandvik introduced the Human Rights Commissioners (HRC). Commissioners discussed a public data request regarding crime-free housing. Member Parisian asked when nuisance data was collected and Commissioners confirmed the data was collected from January 2018 to January 2022. Member Parisian asked about specific metrics from the data and Sandvik noted the weekly reports from the Robbinsdale Police Department. Member Parisian and Sandvik discussed data requests.

The HRC asked the Council to continue assessing the crime-free housing ordinance.

Mayor Pro Tem Wagner clarified the specific requests of a resident work group. The HRC and staff discussed how the HRC is requesting that staff assist with putting together a resident work group. Sandvik noted that staff could put together a framework to present to the Council. Member Murphy noted that the HRC could assist with recruiting members for the work group. Mayor Pro Tem Wagner expressed support.

The HRC proposed a Shelley Day Celebration on Friday, May 3, 2024 and is seeking Council approval and staffing support.

Member Murphy asked about Commission budgets and directed the HRC to present a specific budget and event framework to the Council. The Council expressed support for the event.

The HRC proposed changing the name of Sanborn Park to Philando Castile Park.

Member Webb clarified the history of the Sanborn family.

Member Murphy asked whether the city has a policy for renaming parks. Sandvik responded that the city does not have an official policy.

The HRC noted that they have discussed the proposal with the Parks, Recreation, & Forestry Commission and received their support.

Member Murphy stated that the city needs a policy for renaming parks and does not support renaming Sanborn Park to Philando Castile Park.

Sandvik noted that the last time a park was renamed was Hollingsworth Park in 1984 or 1985.

Member Parisian voiced support for getting community input on the renaming of the park, Member Webb and Member Murphy agreed.

Mayor Blonigan stated that he thinks the city should rename Sanborn Park but is skeptical of naming parks after people. Mayor Pro Tem Wagner stated he does not share the skepticism of naming things after people, and is open to having a policy in place and receiving community input. Mayor Pro Tem Wagner stated support for naming the park after Philando Castile.

Member Murphy clarified that Council is in support of renaming the park after constructing a policy. The HRC will share policy research with staff.

B. Annual Communications Update

Kirtz introduced the presentation, sharing that she has been in her role since September 2022. A reason for the presentation is that Council and staff prioritize communications and engagement. Sharing methods of communication, Kirtz highlighted who engages with different mediums.

Mayor Blonigan asked about specific departments. Kirtz shared there is collaboration.

Mayor Pro Tem Wagner asked about newsletter distribution. Kirtz shared residents are not required sign up for things like the bi-annual newsletter. However, you are required to sign up for things through e-notifications.

Kirtz gave some highlights from the Communications Plan, seeking input from Council. This update included sharing goals and philosophy. Kirtz then shifted to potential next steps.

Council and Kirtz discussed some updating of logos – not rebranding; rather, a refresh of current images in a high-resolution format.

Member Parisian shared a preference that staff continue to consider accessibility in fonts, messaging, and general communications.

STAFF UPDATES

A. Council Vacancy

Sandvik thanked Member Webb for her service to the Council. Sandvik instructed Council to formally accept Member Webb's resignation, effective October 10, at the October 17 City Council meeting.

Sandvik noted special election rules from the Minnesota Secretary of State's office, and suggested a tentative election schedule. Sandvik recapped rules for election filing dates.

Sandvik provided an update on the efforts of the Charter Commission.

B. Noise Enforcement

Sandvik provided an update on noise enforcement and the city's efforts to collaborate with the Police Department.

Mayor Pro Tem Wagner noted that he has not heard any complaints from his ward -- Mayor Blonigan agreed.

C. LRT Updates

Sandvik reminded council that Stop Light Rail on 81 group will be presenting at the October 17 City Council meeting. Sandvik provided an update on the LRT project.

Pearson displayed route maps of the Lowry Avenue station. Pearson and Council discussed the changes proposed by the project office: a station at-grade on Lowry Avenue.

Pearson noted projected ridership numbers from North Memorial Hospital employees and users.

Pearson discussed the light rail housing plan, noting a concept for high density housing at the proposed park and ride site and the Elim Church site. Pearson also suggested the 4000 block of W Broadway as a development site. Pearson noted the Mai Thai site, and estimated a total of 350-400 new units of high density multifamily housing that will stimulate development along the light rail.

Mayor Pro Tem Wagner expressed support for mixed-use development. Pearson recommended maintaining 25% of commercial properties in mixed-use zoning districts.

Mayor Blonigan noted grants from the Metropolitan Council for transit-oriented development and livable communities.

Sandvik stated that staff are considering proposing a moratorium on development until light rail decisions progress.

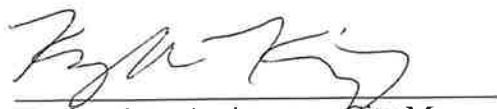
Sandvik encouraged Council to have conversations with staff surrounding light rail.

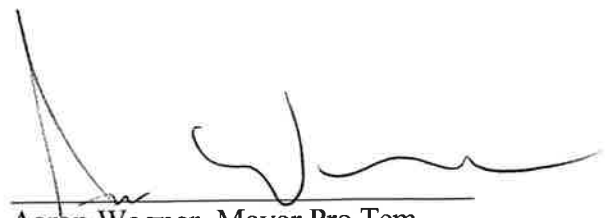
COUNCIL UPDATES

Mayor Blonigan recognized Dengnoue for her work and congratulated her on the new role.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro Tem Wagner adjourned the meeting at 10:06 p.m.



Kayla Kirtz, Assistant to City Manager-Communications

Aaron Wagner, Mayor Pro Tem