

**WORKSHOP MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF VADNAIS HEIGHTS
JUNE 18, 2019**

The workshop meeting of the Council of the City of Vadnais Heights was held on the above date and called to order by Mayor Gunderson at 5:30 p.m.

The following members were present: Mayor Heidi Gunderson, Council Members: Craig Johnson, Patricia Youker, and Bob Morse. The following member was absent: Council Member Greg Urban.

Also present were: City Administrator Kevin Watson, Assistant City Administrator Tim Sandvik, Planning/Community Development Director Nolan Wall, Fire Chief Ed Leier, City Attorney Caroline Bell Beckman, and Deputy City Clerk Peggy Aho.

Others present were: Tina Karsten, Metro Watershed District, Andy Gitzlaff, Ramsey County, Jeff Gersema, SRF Consulting Group, and Kent Hoken and Gerald Baldrige, Parks & Rec Commission members.

1. Update from the Parks & Recreation Committee

Gerald Baldrige, Parks & Rec Commission Chair, noted that the Commission is looking for direction from the Council City Parks. Baldrige noted that the Commission believes the parks are very well developed, but many citizens use sidewalks and trails. The Commission would like to understand the Council's priorities to move forward.

Mayor Gunderson thanked Baldrige and Hokens for their service on the Commission. She said that in the Goals Setting Session the Council discussed the City parks and trails. Moving forward into the budget portion of the year, Gunderson said she would be interested in knowing if the Parks & Recreation Commission has any thoughts on priorities for next year.

City Administrator Watson said that the Ramsey County is coming out to talk about trails, amenities, etc. from the St. Paul Regional Water utility entrance down Vadnais Boulevard to trail connection on Edgerton. He said that there may be an opportunity for the Parks Commission to figure out any enhancements.

Gunderson asked if the Commission sees any trail areas within the City that are begging for a connection. Baldrige said that there are some spots where the Commission feels there could be some connections put in, such as Bear Park to provide access from Tessier Street to Bear Park. He noted that he has asked Public Works to take a look and see if it would be possible to put a chip trail in that area.

Kent Hokens said that the previous Trails Commission had ranked the trails years ago. He said that he believes a high priority would be Koehler Road. And then McMenemy by Vadnais Lake Boulevard to connect the trail.

Gunderson suggested that the Parks Commission make some recommendations to the Council for budgeting for future CIP funds for Parks and Trails.

Council Member Morse said that he thinks Heritage Park may need lighting. There has been issues with unwelcomed people in the Park early in the morning hours. He also suggested that some historical markers be placed around the town on some of the trails.

2. Update on Twin Lake and Impact of Stormwater in the Region

Tina Karsten, Metro Watershed District, gave an overview of water levels in the area, noting that water levels are high, especially over the past 6 months. She said that West Vadnais Lake reached an elevation and started spilling over to an area where it hasn't ever ran before and that is to Twin Lake. Water levels are starting to decline. The Watershed is hoping to get the West Vadnais Lake lowered. There has been discussions about what would need to be done to protect the homes in Five Star Estates. She noted that the Watershed District does modeling predictions so that cities can better predict and prepare for future events. They partner with cities to do that and serve as a coordination effort of the whole system.

3. Ramsey County Update on the Rush Line Corridor BRT Project

Planning/Community Development Director Wall introduced Andy Gitzlaff with Ramsey County. Gitzlaff gave a PowerPoint presentation about the Rush Line Corridor, in particular the Buerkle Road and County Road E Stations and the Vadnais Sports Center parking study the project did earlier this year, as well as some of the engagement activities for the summer months.

Jim Gersema, SRF Consulting Group, walked through the plan sets for the Buerkle Road station. Andy reviewed the purpose for the Vadnais Sports Center Parking Study which was done to understand existing operations, look for short and long-term opportunities for operational improvements, and to determine the feasibility of future/added uses.

Gitzlaff reviewed the next steps for the Rush Line Project which includes upcoming public engagements, the on-line interactive map, engineering updates, and environmental issues. He said that they will be circulating the 15% plans out to the communities for feedback and that they are looking at late 2020 for publication of their environmental documents.

4. Discussion on 2020 Budget Breakdown: Fire Department and Community Development Funds

Planning/Community Development Director Wall reviewed the Community Development budget numbers from 2018 which include staff salaries, materials and contractual services.

Fire Chief Leier reviewed the Fire Department budget numbers from 2018 which include staff salaries, materials and contractual services. Leier reviewed current hours, and a projection of increased hours that will be needed because of 200 additional apartments

that will need to be inspected, higher call volumes (20% increase a year), increased training, etc. Leier presented a pie chart of the full time staff hours and how the work load is distributed among different tasks. The budget does not include any new equipment, it just keeps things running.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Watson, City Administrator

APPROVED