

**WORKSHOP MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF VADNAIS HEIGHTS
FEBRUARY 7, 2023**

OPEN MEETING

The workshop meeting of the Council of the City of Vadnais Heights was held on the above date and called to order by Mayor Krachmer at 5:35 p.m.

The following members were present: Mayor Mike Krachmer and Council Members Erik Goebel, Steve Rogers, Kelly Jozwowski, and Katherine Doll Kanne. The following member was absent: None.

Also present were: City Administrator, Kevin Watson; Assistant City Administrator, Kaylin Clement; Planning/Community Development Director, Nolan Wall; City Engineer/Public Works Director, Jesse Farrell; Fire Chief, Chris Hearden; Recreation and Facilities Manager, Katie Everett; and Deputy Clerk, Peggy Aho.

FUTURE CITY COUNCIL REQUESTS

Council Member Rogers asked that the Council discuss a 457 Plan with a match for employees.

HOME IMPROVEMENT LOAN PROGRAM – NEIGHBORWORKS HOME PARTNERS

Wall introduced Jason Peterson from Neighborworks Home Partners. Peterson said they can tailor this program to our community. He reviewed the draft guidelines, and said one follow-up would be marketing the program.

Council Member Rogers asked how Peterson would define success for the City. Peterson said in general you would have more people staying in their homes, interest rates are rising, matrix would be to measure utilizing the funds in place He said if the City makes investments it will get a return on those investments. He said the metrics would be are the funds being made, deployed, are payments coming back in.

Wall noted that staff are proposing a 20-year term limit and the Council can set the interest rate. Peterson suggested weighing what we want in return versus the benefit. He suggested 3 to 4% interest rate and a minimum of \$5,000 loan and a maximum of \$25,000.

Council Member Jozwowski asked what the time frame is for the work to be done. Peterson replied 120 days. He noted that all the funds would be escrowed with them and that a contractor would get paid when the work is complete. He said Cities sometime allow extensions of 90 days at a time.

Wall said that the Council also needs to discuss eligible improvements.

PURPLE LINE BRT – METRO TRANSIT

Craig Lamothe, Metro Transit, Purple Line BRT Project Management gave a presentation to the Council on the Purple Line BRT project. Steven Smith, Ramsey County, and Liz Jones, Community Outreach Coordinator also presented. Metropolitan Council Member Vento also attended the meeting.

Purple Line staff gave an overview of the Purple Line BRT Project which included the route modification study and next steps.

GOLD LEAF PILOT PROGRAM INITIATIVE

Item moved to the Council meeting agenda.

HERITAGE DAYS MARKET

Katie Everett, Recreation and Facilities Manager, noted that a question came up at the last meeting about types of vendors allowed at the Heritage Days Market. Everett noted that staff have look at various options for the Market to try and make it a good event. They have decided to focus on a makers market. She said that this year will be a transitional year.

Council Member Jozwowski said that she thinks based on the surveys it would be best to go the way of a markers market. Council Member Doll Kanne agreed.

Council Member Goebel said he also likes the idea of a makers market. Mayor Krachmer says he loves to see all the events reimaged.

After discussion the Council members were for making it a makers market.

OTHER STAFF ITEMS

City Administrator Watson noted that there are a couple big items related to two playgrounds in the CIP. He said if the Council is serious about doing the Park Master Plan that could be the game plan.

Council Member Jozwowski said she is in favor of doing the Parks Master Plan.

Watson said that the only thing that needs to be done this year are the tennis courts at Koehler Meadows Park.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Watson, City Administrator