

City of North St. Paul
June 7, 2022
Approved City Council Workshop Meeting Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Furlong called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. The meeting was conducted at City Hall in the Council Chambers, and also via Zoom.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Council Member Thorsen
Council Member Petersen
Council Member Wong
Council Member Cole
Mayor Furlong

Staff: City Manager John Stark, Deputy Clerk Jennie Kloos,

III. ADOPT AGENDA

On motion by Council Member Petersen, seconded by Council Member Thorsen, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to approve the agenda as presented.

IV. TOPIC(S)

A. Arts & Culture Commission's Snowman Sculpture Initiative

Arts & Culture Commissioner, Tom Sonnek gave a brief summary on project "Snowy" that the Commission has been working on. Tivoli Too is the company that makes the sculptures and already has mold of the snowman which stands about 6" tall and weighs approximately 600 lbs. There are various benefits to the display within the City of North St. Paul, which include attention to civic pride, gathering people, the buzz it creates around North St. Paul plus many additional benefits. The goal is to have 10 "Snowies" around town. The Arts & Culture Commission is requesting that the City contribute startup dollars. The refurbishment of the current snowman mold is approximately \$11,500 and potentially a cost of one of the "Snowies" which can live wherever the City would like. With financial help from the City, the full sponsorship cost would be \$5,000 to local businesses or individuals. The sponsor would be able to choose the artist to design the snowman and design how the sponsor chooses. There are also different sponsorship levels that are being looked into as well.

Mr. Sonnek stated the schedule for this project is tight for this year, but is doable.

B. Community Center Informational Update

City Manager John Stark referred to this topic as a continued discussion and stated that this topic should be ongoing until all the information is presented for city council to make a good decision. Mr. Stark stated that options for the Community Center were presented and briefly discussed at the April 19th workshop. Staff informed the Council that the costs of providing the needed

maintenance and repairs that would allow the building to remain usable was likely \$1 million or more. Continued discussions and relevant information was provided to the council regarding the location of other suburban community centers, the status of the lease with Ramsey County for their Library, Ramsey County's desire to continue operations in North St. Paul, the feasibility of "surgical" demolition of only unwanted portions of the building and Kokoro's continued interest in the property with their current lease expiring on December 31, 2022. Their absence would make the building about 75% vacant.

The Ramsey County Library lease timeline is still in question and unexplainable with the gaps in years with lease documents. The question is when did the 20 years lease begin. It was stated the original lease agreement where all parties signed is dated and identified with a date of 2010.

A meeting has been set up next week with the Library Director and the Director of Property Management with Ramsey County.

A meeting was held with Wold Architecture to explore whether they thought the building could be surgically demolished. They looked at the building and blue prints and thought that by demolishing the community center and keeping the library was possible, along with other options discussed.

R.T. Luczak met with City Manager Stark and stated he continues to be interested in buying the building out right and would retain the library as a tenant or continue to lease the building until April or May 2023. He would also be interested in leasing only the court area for a longer term to serve as a second location to a facility he is currently constructing elsewhere. The School District also indicated a willingness to participate but Mr. Stark was unable to get an update from them on their continued interest.

Councilmember Cole thanked Mr. Stark for taking the time and putting the information he put together and provided the city council.

Mayor Furlong suggested putting together a task force for continued discussions for long term uses and stated that the repairs need to be completed, which Mr. Stark stated the budget would need to be amended to complete the one-time expenditures.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion by Council Member Petersen, seconded by Council Member Wong, with all present voting aye (5-0), Mayor Furlong adjourned the workshop meeting at 6:18 p.m.

/s/ Terrence J. Furlong, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Brian Frandle, Interim City Manager/ Clerk