

City of North Saint Paul
March 7, 2023
Approved City Council Workshop Meeting Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Monge called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Council Member Cole
Council Member Schweer
Council Member Wong
Council Member Nordby
Mayor Monge

Staff: City Manager Brian Frandle, Assistant to the City Manager Jennie Kloos,
Community Development Director Brandy Howe, Public Works Ron Ritchie,
Communications Kari Erpenbach

III. ADOPT AGENDA

On motion by Council Member Schweer, seconded by Council Member Wong, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to approve the agenda.

IV. TOPICS

A. Community Center Discussion

Community Development Director Brandy Howe updated the city council on the background and current status of the building. She provided a historic building use timeline which included an economic assessment.

Paige Sullivan with Wold Architects and Engineers presented a facility report and provided an update. She detailed goals and guiding principles, exterior and interior assessments and casework, roof, windows and brick replacement, non-ADA compliant areas, and mechanical and electrical systems.

Ms. Sullivan stated the next step will be to identify possible uses, programming development options, create a list of yearly prioritized goals, continue to work with all participants and provide further engagement opportunities. She also provided draft dates and recommended a city council approval date of August 2023.

City Council thanked Ms. Sullivan for the presentation and her engagement efforts.

Grady Harn presented the government status and the legislative efforts. Margaret Vesel, Director of Government Relations with Lark and Hoffman, provided an update on the current bill status and added there are currently 2,700 new bills for 2023.

Council Member Wong suggested further discussion regarding the Community Center and noted Public Works Director Ron Ritchie is currently working on getting the animals out of the building.

Mayor Monge questioned the original cost numbers and suggested more information to the new Council Members in regard to the building. Council Member Cole noted the history of the Community Center and provided a brief discussion on topics discussed with the previous City Council.

The City Council discussed the feasibility, need, current tenant status, and the future look of the Community Center. Mayor Monge noted there has been a lot of feedback on both sides of this issue and encouraged the City Council to look at the numbers and what it will take to get the Community Center back up to code.

The City Council also discussed other issues surrounding the Community Center such as parking accommodations, programming, rental opportunities, alternative ways for sustainability, cost saving efforts, maintenance, staffing and future budgeting.

Council Member Nordby inquired about a future date for a community engagement meeting. Council Member Cole added he believed it was in June. Council Member Schweer questioned when the community engagement date would be solidified. Mr. Frandle stated funding will be a big deciding factor on that date.

The City Council will continue to be updated and informed as the process moves forward.

V. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Council Member Cole, seconded by Council Member Schweer, with all present voting aye (5-0), meeting is adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

/s/ John Monge, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Brian Frandle, City Manager