

**City of North Saint Paul**  
**August 13, 2019**  
**Adopted City Council Retreat Workshop Minutes**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Furlong called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Present: Council Member Scott Thorsen  
Council Member Candy Petersen  
Council Member Tom Sonnek  
Council Member Jan Walczak  
Mayor Terry Furlong

Staff: City Manager Scott Duddeck, Deputy Clerk Mary Mills.

**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)**

City Manager Duddeck introduced the items not discussed at the June 11, 2019 workshop retreat.

1. Handicap parking by the Polar Lounge

Council Member Petersen indicated that Jerry Bayer at the Polar Lounge has customers who would benefit from having a designated handicap parking spot on the corner close to the entrance of the building. Manager Duddeck noted that when the new apartment development begins that can be discussed as part of the on-street parking process. Currently it is not a viable option due to curb cuts and space required. This item will remain on the list for future discussion as the redevelopment begins.

Off topic question by Council Member Thorsen was related to the development update for Margaret Street across from current City Hall. Manager Duddeck stated that the agreement with Coalition Development had expired and the City is looking at a new developer who is very interested.

2. Crittenden Memorial – parking spot

Council Member Petersen inquired about parking for people wanting to visit the Memorial. There is no parking directly in front of it so it is visible to passers by. Manager Duddeck stated that the corner of Seppala Boulevard is striped yellow for site viewing, but Seppala does have parking available, as well as Margaret Street in front of City Hall. There are spots in the parking lot next to the Fire Department as well.

### 3. Driveway parking setback policy

This item previously had discussion relating to how to make the ordinance work so that code enforcement can deal with complaints. This was brought up sometime back for discussion to make a decision to be consistent on all streets since setbacks varied somewhat throughout town. That very statement is the issue. There are many different setbacks and some right-of-ways have sidewalks and some don't. The right-of-way is different on different streets. Sight line can often be a problem for drivers. The ordinance does state you cannot block a sidewalk. The main question is to what extent does the City want to enforce this ordinance. There is no parking in the public right-of-way, but there are no active complaints in any area at this time.

Staff was asked look at what other cities do. Council agreed that the best plan of action at this time is to deal with these complaints case by case when they are brought forward.

### 4. EAC – more of an educational, not policy, driven commission

Council Member Walczak indicated that if the EAC is reinstated that it should be more of an educational commission that makes recommendations to the council on environmental items. Sonnek noted the EAC can stand up for some plans, such as the Living Streets, be an incubator for new ideas, to be more green, reach out to residents for suggestions to show engagement. Thorsen noted looking into E-stations.

Walczak stated that previously requests had been made of the members to review projects they were not trained to review and make recommendations out of their purview and comfort level. In addition, although there is no law dictating that there be an Environmental Commission, the Comprehensive Plan does refer to the EAC in many areas. If the EAC is indeed going to be responsible to perform these duties, then it needs the proper education.

The consensus was to revisit the code and guiding rules of the Commission and redefine its purpose. Find out who we are, develop the unique, forward thinking community we truly are.

### 5. Get a paved trail Southwood

The trail at Southwood currently is wood chipped. There has been discussion related to having it paved. Are there grant opportunities, how much would it cost. Duddeck stated that from South and Helen, going behind Cowern School all the way, could be used as a connecting trail.

### 6. Legislation wish list

Duddeck indicated that the City will continue its efforts related to MnDOT and Highways 120/36 interchange. It is priority to get that moved onto MnDOT's top ten year list. In addition the city will put together a plan related to the B.P. Station and other parcels needed to bring to the table. The 120 trail project is tied in, but is a very separate project not critical to 120/36. The legislative budget is a two year process. The first year they make their plans, the second they request funding for those plans.

Noted items for on-going and future discussion:

- Create and implement a firm Facebook policy.
- Chickens and bees – keep on the discussion list.
- Security cameras similar to the one placed at Helen and 18<sup>th</sup> for parks.
- Community Center sale and library status.
- Utility bill status.
- Street light fees – will be in budget discussions.

## V. ADJOURNMENT

*There being no further business, on motion by Council Member Sonnek, seconded by Council Member Petersen, with all present voting aye (5-0), Mayor Furlong adjourned the workshop meeting at 7:24 p.m.*

/s/ Terrence J. Furlong, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Scott A. Duddeck, City Manager