

CITY OF MENDOTA HEIGHTS  
DAKOTA COUNTY  
STATE OF MINNESOTA

Minutes of the City Council Work Session  
Tuesday, April 18, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Levine called the work session to order at 5:00 p.m. Councilmembers Lorberbaum, Mazzitello, and Paper were present. Councilmember Miller was absent.

Staff in attendance included City Administrator Cheryl Jacobson, Police Chief Kelly McCarthy, Public Works Director Ryan Ruzek, Assistant City Administrator Kelly Torkelson, Finance Director Kristen Schabacker, Recycling Coordinator Courtney Selstad, Natural Resource Coordinator Krista Spreiter, Park and Recreation Manager Meredith Lawrence, and City Clerk Christine Lusian. Natural Resources Commission Chair Heidi Swank was present as an observer.

GREEN STEP CITIES PROGRAM AND SUSTAINABILITY

Recycling Coordinator Courtney Selstad presented an update on the city's Green Steps Cities initiative including the city's recent achievement of step 2 status within the program. This achievement was completed by reporting on the work that the city has completed within existing programs. Advancement to Step 3 of the program will require completing specific initiatives as defined in the GreenStep program as well as additional best practices. Staff sought feedback from the city council as to how they would like to continue progressing on GreenSteps initiatives including the best practices that are required for Step 3 and asked for direction if the City Council had any additional priorities relating to sustainability that they would like staff to pursue.

The City Council discussed their continued interest in pursuing the Green Steps program in line with recommendations from staff. They requested that the Natural Resources Commission provide recommendations on specific initiatives that they would like the City to pursue as. In addition, projects outlined within the Natural Resources Management Plan that align with GreenStep Cities best practices should also be prioritized. The City Council would like to receive additional updates on the program twice a year.

Discussion touched on the label/marketing of GreenSteps versus impacts of the projects, prioritization of all of the goals in the Natural Resource Plan and GreenSteps Program, what a policy on living/complete streets would require, utilizing the Natural Resource Commission and area experts, and mobility/public transit.

Public transit ridership in Mendota Heights is low, however describing public transit options on our website would help completing a requirement in the GreenSteps program. The group agreed that direction or prioritization of goals and projects should come from the Natural Resources Plan and Natural Resource Commission and related committees with updates to the City Council twice a year.

#### CITY COUNCIL STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

City Administrator Cheryl Jacobson introduced proposed city council priorities and goals for 2023-2024 inviting city council discussion and direction. The proposed priorities are 1) Economic Vitality and Community Vibrancy, 2) Environmental Sustainability and Stewardship, 3) Premiere Public Services and Infrastructure, 4) Inclusive and Responsive Government. The two-year priorities provide structure and organization for daily operations. Council sets the direction for the city and staff carries out action items.

Discussion included clarification of public education on culture and history and the role of the city and other agency partners, the requirement of optical allyship in public service, referring to existing guiding documents like the comprehensive plan for direction and focus, and balancing expectations with time and resources.

#### SKATEPARK DESIGN

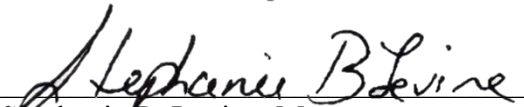
Parks and Recreation Manager Meredith Lawrence and Public Works Director Ryan Ruzek initiated conversation on the proposed reconstruction of the Roger's Lake Skate Park on the regular meeting agenda for a vote. Discussion covered budget and funding sources, what the surface preparation consists of, park equipment/layout options, project timing and weather, and market and expectation of rising costs.

#### MISCELLANEOUS


Paper requested bringing back the senior pass for the Mendota Heights Par 3 Community Golf Course. Lorberbaum mentioned hearing concerns from the planning commission members and residents on zoning code updates.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Levine adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

  
Stephanie B. Levine, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Christine Lusian, City Clerk