

Addenda
Minnetonka City Council Meeting
Meeting of Jan. 9, 2023

ITEM 14A - Ordinance establishing licensing requirements for the sale or disposal of edible products containing tetrahydrocannabinol (THC).

Section 4 of the ordinance, relating to the effective date, has been revised. The ordinance now provides an effective date of May 1, 2023 for purposes of accepting and processing license applications. There will be no enforcement of the ordinance for violations until July 1, 2023.

City staff will notify businesses in April that applications should be submitted in May, in order to allow adequate time for processing and approval of the applications prior to July 1. Staff anticipates that license applications will be presented to the council for consideration at the regular meeting on June 28, 2023.

ITEM 14C – Saville Flats Concept Plan

The following comment was received after the packet was distributed.

ITEM 14D – Acquisition of The Marsh located at 15000 & 15280 Minnetonka Boulevard

Survey results have been compiled after the packed was distributed.



14600 Minnetonka Blvd. | Minnetonka, MN 55345 | 952-939-8200 | minnetonkamn.gov

TO: City Council
FROM: Corrine Heine, City Attorney
DATE: Jan. 9, 2023
SUBJECT: Change Memo for Jan. 9, 2023 City Council Meeting

Item 14A: Ordinance establishing licensing requirements for the sale or disposal of edible products containing tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)

Section 4 of the ordinance, relating to the effective date, has been revised. The ordinance now provides an effective date of May 1, 2023 for purposes of accepting and processing license applications. There will be no enforcement of the ordinance for violations until July 1, 2023.

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Ordinance No. 2023-

An Ordinance establishing licensing requirement for sale or disposal of edible products containing tetrahydrocannabinol (THC); authorizing criminal background checks; establishing license fees; amending the Minnetonka Minnetonka City Code by adding a new Section 620 and amending sections 700.040, subd. 2 and 710.005, by adding a new paragraph 40

The City of Minnetonka Ordains:

Section 1. Chapter 6 of the Minnetonka City Code is amended by adding a new section 620 as follows:

Section 620. Edible THC Products

Section 620.05. Purpose and findings. The Minnetonka city council finds that, based on the most reliable and up-to-date scientific evidence, the rapid introduction of newly legalized edible THC products presents a potential threat to the public health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the city, and particularly to youth. Edible THC products have become increasingly common and are available in a variety of flavors and forms that appeal to children and young adults and may lead to negative health consequences. The city desires to enact this licensing requirement in an effort to prevent children and young adults from purchasing and using edible THC products. The intent of this section is to require a license for the sale of those edible THC products that may be legally sold under Minnesota law.

Section 620.10. Definitions. When used in this section, the following terms have the following meanings:

1. "Cannabinoid product" means any product containing nonintoxicating cannabinoids extracted from hemp, including an edible cannabinoid product that is sold for human or animal consumption.
2. "Certified hemp" has the same meaning as provided in Minn. Stat. § 151.72, Subd. 1(b), as may be amended.
3. "Edible THC product" means any product that contains more than trace amounts of THC and that meets the requirements to be sold for human or animal consumption under Minn. Stat. § 151.72, as may be amended. Edible THC product does not include medical cannabis as defined in Minn. Stat. section 152.22, subd. 6, as may be amended.
4. "Hemp" or "industrial hemp" has the meaning given to "industrial hemp" in Minn. Stat. § 18K.02, Subd. 3, as may be amended.

The ~~stricken~~ language is deleted; the underlined language is inserted.

5. "Labeling" has the meaning as provided in Minn. Stat. § 151.72, Subd. 1(f), as may be amended.
6. "Movable place of business" means any form of business that is operated out of a kiosk, other transportable structure or shelter, or a motorized or nonmotorized vehicle.
7. "Nonintoxicating cannabinoid" has the means as provided in Minn. Stat. § 151.72, subd. 1(h) as may be amended.
8. "Sale" means any transfer of goods for money, trade, barter or other consideration.
9. THC means tetrahydrocannabinol.
10. "Vending machine" means any mechanical, electrical or electronic, or other type of device which, upon the insertion of money, tokens, or other form of payment into or onto the device, dispenses edible THC products and includes vending machines equipped with manual, electric or electronic locking devices.

Section 620.15. License Required. No person may keep for sale, sell or offer to sell, or otherwise dispose of any edible THC product at any place in the City without first obtaining a license from the City.

Section 620.20. Exceptions. Reserved.

Section 620.25. Persons ineligible. No license will be issued under this section to:

1. A person under twenty-one (21) years of age.
2. A person who has been convicted within the past five (5) years of any violation of a federal, state, or local law, ordinance provision or other regulation governing the manufacture, sale, distribution or possession for sale or distribution of any drug, as defined in Minn. Stat. § 151.01, subd. 5, or products containing THC.
3. A person who is prohibited by federal, state, or other local law, ordinance, or other regulation from holding a license.
4. A person who is not the real party in interest or beneficial owner of the business operated under the license.
5. An applicant whose manager or agent does not satisfy the residency requirements of section 620.35 of this code.
6. As further described in this subdivision, the applicant or related person has had an interest in a license that was suspended or revoked within the five (5) years

preceding the application; provided that the applicant or related person had an interest in the premises at the time of the revocation or suspension, or at the time of the violation that led to the revocation or suspension. For purposes of this subdivision: (a) the license must have been a license for the manufacture or sale of any product containing THC or a nonintoxicating cannabinoid or for the sale of a tobacco product, issued by the city or another jurisdiction; (b) a related person includes any person investing in the business, building, premises, fixtures, furniture or equipment of the proposed licensee; (c) the applicant or related person may have held their interest in the license as an individual or as part of a firm, association, partnership, corporation, limited liability company, or joint venture.

Section 620.30. Places ineligible.

1. No license may be issued for any movable place of business.
2. No license may be issued for a business located within an exclusive liquor store as defined in Minn. Stat. sec. 340A.101, subd. 10.
3. No license may be issued for operation on any premises on which taxes, assessments or other financial claims of the city are delinquent and unpaid. If an action has been commenced pursuant to the provisions of Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 278, questioning the amount or validity of taxes, the Council may, on application by the licensee, waive strict compliance with this provision; no waiver may be granted, however, for taxes, or any portion thereof, which remain unpaid for a period exceeding one year after becoming due unless such one-year period is extended through no fault of the licensee.

Section 620.35. License application procedure.

1. Application. Application for a new license or license renewal must be filed with the community development director on forms supplied by the city. Applicants must answer fully and completely all questions asked and supply information required by the application forms.
2. Fees. Except as modified by this subdivision, applications must be accompanied by payment of the fee as established in Section 710 of this code, to cover the city's costs in processing the application, the investigation and administering the provisions of this section. The application fee is nonrefundable. If the applicant holds a liquor license or massage license, no charge will be made for the license under this section. If the applicant holds a tobacco license, the only fee charged will be a fee to cover the additional cost of the background investigation required by this section.
3. Manager or Agent. If the applicant is a firm, association, partnership, corporation, limited liability company, or joint venture, the application must include the name of the natural person who will serve as the manager or agent of the licensed premises.

- Such manager or agent must, by the terms of their written consent, (1) take full responsibility for the conduct of the licensed premises, and (2) serve as agent for service of notices and other process relating to the license. The manager or agent must reside within 75 miles of city hall. The required residency must be established by the time the license is issued and must be maintained throughout the existence of the license and all renewals. The time for establishing residency may be extended, for good cause, by the city council. A licensee must notify the city in writing within 15 days of any change in such manager or agent indicating the name and address of the new manager or agent and the effective date of such change.
4. Investigation. The city is empowered to conduct any and all investigations to verify the information on applications and renewal applications submitted under this section, including but not limited to ordering a criminal history check pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 299C.72 and conducting an inspection of any premises proposed to be licensed. The city must conduct a background check on all new applications. The investigation shall consider all facts and information bearing on the question of the applicant's fitness to receive the license and to perform the duties imposed by this ordinance. The city may conduct a background check on an application for a renewal of a license if it is in the public interest to do so. Failure of an applicant to allow an inspection is grounds for denial of the license. The results of any investigation must be submitted to the city council.
5. License decision. The city council may grant or deny the application. The following are grounds for denial or nonrenewal of a license:
- a. The applicant or location fails to meet the eligibility requirements of this section.
- b. The applicant failed to provide information required by the application or provided false or misleading information.
- 620.40. License term; renewal; transfer.
1. Term. Each license will expire on December 31st of the year in which it is issued; except that licenses issued under this section to any person or entity that also holds a massage license will have the same license term as the massage license.
2. Renewal. An application for renewal must be made at least 90 days prior to the expiration of the current license.
3. Issuance as privilege and not a right. The issuance of a license issued under this section is a privilege and does not entitle the license holder to automatic renewal of the license.
4. Non-transferable licenses. All licenses issued under this section shall be valid only on the premises for which the license was issued and only for the person or business

to whom the license was issued. The transfer of any license to another location, business, or person is prohibited.

620.45. Suspension, revocation or civil penalty

1. Grounds for suspension, revocation. A license issued under this section is subject to the right of the city council to suspend or revoke the license upon any of the grounds identified below. The grounds for suspension, revocation or civil penalty include:
 - a. Fraud, misrepresentation, or false statement contained in a license application or a renewal application.
 - b. Failure to comply with any applicable statute, regulation, or ordinance, including this section, relating to the sale or use of edible THC products.
 - c. If the licensee is also the holder of a tobacco license issued by the city pursuant to section 625 of this code, any grounds for suspension or revocation of the tobacco license under that section.
 - d. If the licensee is also the holder of a massage business license issued by the city pursuant to section 810 of this code, any grounds for suspension or revocation of the massage license under that section.
 - e. If the licensee is also the holder of a liquor license issued by the city pursuant to section 600 of this code, any grounds for suspension or revocation of the liquor license under that section.
2. Procedure. The city will follow the procedure set forth at section 700.035 of this code.

620.50 License restrictions.

1. Legal age. A person must not sell, offer to sell, give away, or otherwise furnish any THC edible product to any person below the age of 21 years.
 - a. Age verification. Licensees must verify by means of government-issued photographic identification that the purchaser is at least 21 years of age. Verification is not required for a person over the age of 30; however, it is not a defense to a violation of this section that the person appeared to be over the age of 30.
 - b. Signage. Notice of the legal sales age and age verification requirement must be posted prominently and in plain view at all times at each location where THC edible products are offered for sale. The required signage must be posted in a manner that is clearly visible to anyone who is or is considering making a purchase.

2. Sale, display and storage.

- a. A licensee may sell edible THC products only in a direct face-to-face exchange between the licensee or the licensee's employee and the consumer.
 - b. A person must not sell, dispense, or give away any THC edible product through the use of a vending machine or similar automated dispensing device or by means of delivery.
 - c. All THC edible products must be stored either behind a counter or other area not freely accessible to customers, or in a case or other storage unit not left open and accessible to the general public.
 - d. No person under twenty-one (21) years of age may sell, give, or otherwise furnish edible THC products at an exclusive tobacco store as defined by section 625.005 of this code. No person under eighteen (18) years of age may sell, give, or otherwise furnish THC products at any other establishment licensed under this section.
 - e. A person must not distribute samples of any THC edible product free of charge or at a nominal cost.
 - f. A person must not sell, offer to sell, give away, distribute or display any THC edible products outside the location or area covered by a license.
 - g. A person must not sell, offer to sell, give away, distribute or display any edible THC product that does not comply with the requirements of Minn. Stat. § 151.72, including but not limited to the packaging, labeling and other requirements provided by that section.
 - h. A person must not sell, or offer to sell, give away, distribute or display THC edible products in a manner that violates federal or state law.
3. Display of license. All licenses must be posted and displayed in plain view of the general public on the licensed premises.
4. Inspection. The premises licensed under this section must be open to inspection by any authorized representative of the city during regular business hours, for purposes of ensuring compliance with this section.
5. Responsibility. A licensee is responsible for the conduct of its place of business and the conditions of order in it. The act of an employee of the licensee is deemed the act of the licensee as well, and the licensee is liable for all penalties provided by this section equally with the employee.

620.55 Compliance checks.

From time to time, but at least once per year, the city shall conduct compliance checks of licensed establishments. No person used in compliance checks may attempt to use a form of identification that misrepresents the person's age. All persons lawfully engaged in a compliance check shall answer all questions about their age asked by the licensee or their employee, and produce any identification, if any exists, for which they are asked. The city will conduct a compliance check that involves the participation of a person at least 18 years of age, but under the age of 21 to enter the licensed premises to attempt to purchase the licensed products. Persons used for the purpose of compliance checks shall be supervised by law enforcement or other designated personnel. Nothing in this article shall prohibit compliance checks authorized by state or federal laws for educational, research, or training purposes, or required for the enforcement of a particular state or federal law.

Section 620.60. Violations and penalties.

1. Violations: administrative penalties. Any person violating a provision of this section may be subject to the administrative enforcement program contained in section 1310.015 through 1310.050 of this code.
 - a. Licensees. Any licensee who has violated this section, or whose employee has violated this section, will be charged an administrative fine of at least \$300.00 for a first violation of this section; at least \$600.00 for a second offense at the same licensed premises within 36 months after the initial violation; and at least \$1,000.00 for a third or subsequent offense at the same location within 36 months after the initial violation. In addition, for the third offense, the license will be suspended for not less than seven days and may be revoked.
 - b. Other Adults. Other adults who have violated this section will be charged an administrative fine of at least \$150.00.
 - c. Minors. A person under the age of 21 years who purchases or attempts to purchase, tobacco-related products using a driver's license, permit, Minnesota identification card, or any other type of false identification to misrepresent the person's age, may be required to participate in a youth diversion, tobacco free education, or other alternative program selected by the chief of police. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in this section 625, no other monetary or criminal penalty may be imposed for violation of this subdivision 1(c).
 - d. Judicial Review. Any person aggrieved by a decision under paragraphs a. or b. above may have the decision reviewed in the district court in the same manner and procedure as provided in Minn. Stat. § 462.361.

Except as otherwise provided in section 1(c) of this section, every person who commits or attempts to commit, conspires to commit or aids or abets in the commission of any act constituting a violation of this section, is guilty of a misdemeanor and every person who causes, coerces, permits or directs another to violate any of the provisions of this section is likewise guilty of a misdemeanor. Subdivision 1 of this section does not prohibit the city from seeking prosecution as a misdemeanor for any violation of this section.

Section 2. Section 700.040, subdivision 2 of the Minnetonka City Code, relating to criminal background investigations, is amended to read as follows:

2. Authority to Conduct. The Minnetonka police department is hereby required, as the exclusive entity within the city, to do a criminal history background investigation on the applicants for the following licenses:

- a. liquor, including managers of the establishment;
- b. charitable gambling, when the licensee will operate in the city;
- c. pawnbroker and precious metal dealer;
- d. sexually oriented business;
- e. peddler and solicitor;
- f. massage business, including managers of the business; and
- g. edible THC products.

In conducting the criminal history background investigation in order to screen license applicants, the police department is authorized to access data maintained in the Minnesota bureau of criminal apprehension's computerized criminal history information system in accordance with BCA policy. Any data that is accessed and acquired must be maintained at the police department under the care and custody of the chief law enforcement official or his or her designee. A summary of the results of the computerized criminal history data may be released by the police department to the licensing authority, including the city council and city staff involved in the licensing process.

Section 3. Section 710.005 of the Minnetonka City Code, relating to schedule of fees and charges, is amended by adding a new paragraph 7, to read as shown below and renumbering the existing paragraph 7 and subsequent paragraphs according:

<u>para.</u> <u>no.</u>	<u>description</u>	<u>amount</u>	<u>code</u> <u>section</u>
<u>7.</u>	<u>edible THC products license</u>	<u>\$500.00</u>	<u>620.35</u>

Section 4. This ordinance is effective May 1, 2023 for purposes of accepting and processing applications for licenses; enforcement for violations of the ordinance will begin July 1, 2023.

Adopted by the city council of the City of Minnetonka, Minnesota, on Jan. 9, 2023.

Brad Wiersum, Mayor

Attest:

Becky Koosman, City Clerk

Action on this Ordinance:

Date of introduction: Oct. 24, 2022

Date of adoption:

Motion for adoption:

Seconded by:

Voted in favor of:

Voted against:

Abstained:

Absent:

Ordinance adopted.

Date of publication:

I certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of an ordinance adopted by the city council of the City of Minnetonka, Minnesota, at a meeting held on Jan. 9, 2023.

Becky Koosman, City Clerk



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TO: City Council
FROM: Julie Wischnack, AICP, Community Development Director
DATE: Jan. 9, 2023
SUBJECT: Change Memo for Jan. 9, 2023, City Council Meeting

Item 14C Saville Flats Concept Plan

The following comment was received after the packet was distributed.

Name

Bill Laidlaw

Full Address

5717 Mahoney Avenue
Minnetonka, MN 55345
United States

Phone

[REDACTED]

Email

[REDACTED]

City Council, EDA or LBAE

City Council

Meeting date

January 9, 2023

Agenda item

Saville Flats

Comment

Mayor and Council Members, I am writing to express my opposition to the rezoning of the land. A few years ago, shortly after Lakewest purchased the property, they submitted a similar proposal. I attended the neighborhood meeting, which was well attended and uniformly opposed to the rezoning. The city rejected the rezoning. Following this rejection, a very nice single family residence was built on one of the lots. Shortly after this, Lakewest erected two large signs on 101, advertising the land as available for a daycare, church or storage facility, knowing full well that it was not zoned for these types of buildings. In my opinion, Lakewest has spent little time trying to market the property within the existing zone requirements. The type of development proposed is completely inconsistent with the surrounding neighborhoods. None of us want to look at a large complex with a big parking lot. All of these would be lighted all night, ruining the natural feel of the area. The proposed development is also very close to the Purgatory Park reserve. Lakewest knew the zoning of the land when they purchased it. They should sell the property if they cannot work within the existing zoning. I respectfully ask that you reject this proposal. Thank you for your time and consideration. Bill Laidlaw 5717 Mahoney Avenue

[REDACTED]

Item 14D Acquisition of The Marsh located at 15000 & 15280 Minnetonka Boulevard

Survey results have been compiled. Information about the consideration of purchasing the Marsh was communicated in the following ways:

- **News Release:** 30 Media Outlets were notified, several of which published stories.
- **Twitter:** 1 like; 32 link clicks
- **Facebook:** 59 likes; 9 shares; 4 comments
- **Minnetonka Website:** 7,531 emails, 53% open rate; 312 are following the project page.
- **Minnetonka Matters:**
 - 1,700 visits to minnetonkamatters.com page.
 - Minnetonka Matters contains a translation tool, so the survey can be taken in other languages.
 - 1,340 people have responded to the survey (distributed on Jan. 2, 2023).
Of the survey respondents:
 - Of the respondents, 71% identified as residents; 25% were frequent visitors; and the remaining were occasional or rare visitors or workers in the city.
 - Approximately 90% of the participants indicated support for the city's purchase identifying the city as the best future owner or the city should step in at least temporarily (21% of the 90%). Approximately 7% indicated they do not support purchasing the property.
 - 1,067 respondents supported more recreational facilities and pools
 - 673 respondents supported a nature center
 - 589 respondents supported senior programming.
 - 395 respondents (269 identified as residents) wanted to share their ideas (see attachment).
- **Public Comments**
 - Ten additional comments have been received via email (since packet distribution) – see attached.

Action Item 4.

The sources and uses table on page 6 of the staff report indicates \$305,000 within the 2022-2026 CIP originally approved for city hall and community center improvements project is delayed to aid in purchasing of The Marsh. However, \$275,000 of this amount has been used for items including design, engineering, wood reclamation and technology improvements. Because an interfund loan is identified to account for the full purchase price and operating costs, the CIP amendment does not affect the total interfund loan amount (\$6.275 M), but rather decreases the amount coming from the capital replacement fund (a portion of the CIP).

Motion should be revised to state:

Amend the 2022-2026 and 2023-2027 Capital Improvements Programs (CIP) to delay improvements to the community center facility and add \$970,000 to finance property acquisition. (5 votes)

Additional Public Comments Received

From: Tom Barrett
Date: January 5, 2023 at 11:30:42 AM CST
To: Brad Wiersum
Subject: Marsh

This city should not be in the wellness business or landlords of anything. This city should not be in competition with any of the private developers or control real estate.
Our tax dollars should not be used to purchase any failed business only to spend more on redevelopment

Tom Barrett

From: Patricia Mougel
Sent: Thursday, January 5, 2023 5:59 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: The Marsh

Dear city manager and council members,

I am a resident of St Louis Park who was a member of The Marsh for 15+ years. I moved from Minneapolis to St Louis Park to live closer to the Marsh! When the pandemic hit I was unfortunately not able to continue paying the high monthly dues.

The proposed acquisition of the Marsh by the City of Minnetonka comes as a big relief for those of us who know the value of this peerless facility.

The Marsh clearly stands out among other fitness centers in the metro area and nation-wide for its focus on integration of wellness, body-mind-spirit practices such as Tai Chi, Qigong, NIA (which are rare to find in a traditional fitness center), close to a natural area which offers further wellness and recreational benefits.

The Marsh has always very much been a gathering/community place and almost a 'second home' for some, in particular retired individuals who visit several times a week and even on a daily basis for some. Considering how loneliness negatively affects individuals' mental health and healthy aging, the center is an invaluable asset for the community. I urge you to keep the community and wellness aspects in mind in future planning.

The therapy pool is a place of healing for many with injuries, limited physical abilities and those going through physical therapy. Many from across the metro have benefitted from it.

I would encourage you to keep Ruth Stricker's legacy by making the facility accessible to a range of visitors, members and non-members.

I would picture the center offering reduced rates for Minnetonka and St Louis Park residents (reciprocity) and for individuals 60 and older. Please also be mindful that some people who work need a center open during the weekend (Saturdays and Sundays).

Thank you for realizing the value of this facility and taking the appropriate steps to retain it as an asset for the community.

Patricia Mougel

St Louis Park

From: Geri Sweet

Sent: Friday, January 6, 2023 10:19 AM

To: Public Comment

Subject: The Marsh

Dear Mr. Funk,

Back on October 17th, I made a personal call to the Mayor of Minnetonka in the hopes of raising awareness to the fact that The Marsh was about to be abruptly closed by the YMCA, the beneficiary of Ruth Stricker's generous estate gift. The mayor was gracious enough to listen to me rave about the importance of keeping The Marsh for the community at large.

The Mayor suggested that I contact every council member to express my desire to keep The Marsh as the treasure it is. I followed his direction and contacted all members of the Minnetonka City Council. Many of the council members wrote back to me expressing their interest and concern and communicated that they were including you in on the situation as City Manager.

I was more than elated to read in the Bring Me The News article that a vote will be taken on January 9, 2023. To quote from the article: **“This property sits at the heart of our community and is historically, culturally and environmentally significant,”** stated City Manager Mike Funk. **“The availability of this land represents a rare and unique opportunity to ensure public access well into the future, whether the city becomes the long-term owner or a temporary steward of the Marsh.”**

I am not a resident of Minnetonka, yet I am so proud that you have recognized and eloquently expressed what so many of us have known all along about the value of The Marsh. From my own personal perspective - a past Minnesota Viking Cheerleader (from the era of the 'Purple People Eaters') and a 15 year volunteer at Courage Center, it is crucial to saving The Marsh and especially the ability for all to utilize the Therapy Pool. Being very active physically in my youth, coupled with a family history of severe arthritis, I was almost deemed to life in a wheelchair as walking was almost impossible. I just had my first of two total knee replacements and am hopeful that I will be able to continue to recover with the knowledge that the Therapy Pool at The Marsh will be there for me and the community at large.

The Marsh is so extremely vital to our aging community and I hope that the vote is unanimous to keeping The Marsh in play for many years to come.

Thank you for all of your efforts to keep The Marsh viable and part of the Twin Cities landscape.

Best regards,

Geri Sweet

From: A K Griff

Sent: Thursday, January 5, 2023 6:29 PM

To: Brad Wiersum; Deborah Calvert; Kimberly Wilburn; Brian Kirk; Rebecca Schack; Bradley Schaeppi; Kissy Coakley; Mike Funk

Subject: RE THE MARSH - Angela Griffin, Rowland Road, Ward 1

Yes please purchase the Marsh. Do not let that beautiful piece of land slip out of our hands. I believe the City should purchase our local land when it can. Also I agree the Marsh has been a very special place for the City members and non members alike. Ruth created it that way and always made sure non members had a space there to use the restaurant, shop, beauty, function rooms and to take a class now and then. Please do your best to have a controlling say in its future. Thank you. Angela

From: John Freivalds

Sent: Wednesday, January 4, 2023 1:58 PM

To: Bradley Schaeppi

Cc: Deborah Calvert

Subject: congratulations

Go for it!

From: Ann Perkins

Sent: Friday, January 6, 2023 11:48 AM

To: Public Comment

Subject: The Marsh acquisition

Good Afternoon,

As a long time Marsh member, I am thrilled at the news.

Clearly a lot of thought is going into this purchase, which I also appreciate.

I would like to add my comments to those of many others, who talk about how different the Marsh has been from your typical fitness club.

Williston is great for its type of club, but it does not soothe the body, calm the mind, or help open oneself to meditation. All of which the Marsh did in abundance.

And we need those resources more and more in our current culture - a "place dedicated to balance" to quote Ruth,

Finally, as a means of helping finance the Marsh, it is the perfect place for a farm-to-table type restaurant. I don't know all the details of renting out to a for-profit chef, but that would seem to be a great solution for using the lovely space that is there. And why not add a cooking school while we're about it.

Thanks for listening.

Ann Perkins

From: Thomas Stockert
Sent: Friday, January 6, 2023 12:54 PM
To: Bradley Schaeppi; Brad Wiersum; Deborah Calvert; Rebecca Schack >; Kissy Coakley >; Kimberly Wilburn
Cc: Mike Funk
Subject: Marsh Property

Greetings Mayor and City Council Members,

I'm writing after a quick scan of Agenda Item 14.D. (Non-Contingent) Acquisition of the Marsh. I'd like to express a few concerns now, and follow up with more thoughts over the weekend.

Are there lead issues?

Is there asbestos?

Was there a septic there prior to having city water?

Has there ever been an environmental assessment on the property?

I've stood in the Marsh with every council member and Mr. Funk. What's under that carpet?

That floor was like the one in a fort I built when I was in grade school.

Do you know what we're buying? My hunch is the building needs to come down. Are you prepared for that?

Is there an exit strategy?

Please ask the City Attorney for an opinion on signing a non-contingent purchase agreement. Staff does work hard, and I'm appreciative of their work as well. I'm expecting Council will defer to their recommendation. As a taxpayer and a bond holder I ask that you put more thought and debate into this than was put into the \$15,000 pilot buckthorn removal project. I'll be expecting Minnetonka's Residents and City Council to seek accountability if this goes wrong. This could turn out to be something that would impact careers in private industry.

I wish I could be there in person Monday, though I have a conflict. Something tells me this won't be the last time the Marsh shows up on the agenda.

Best regards and happy new year

Tom Stockert
5524 Dominick Drive

PS – My council member, Brian Kirk has been intentionally left off this email as I'm sure he's abstaining on this one (lucky him).

From: Barbara Schneider
Sent: Saturday, January 7, 2023 2:18 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: The Marsh

The tentative agreement for the City of Minnetonka to purchase The Marsh is very encouraging.

I joined The Marsh 11 years ago, my gift to myself for my 60th birthday. It has been the core of my plan for healthy aging. Ruth's vision for well-being was far ahead of her time, and the continued operation by the City of Minnetonka would provide a unique and valuable amenity for the community. The facilities of The Marsh are especially suited for older adults or those dealing with physical issues that might prevent them from using other health facilities. This is a real opportunity to offer a broad spectrum of wellness programming to the community. As many Marsh members do not live in Minnetonka, I hope consideration will be given to extending membership to non-residents.

Thank you,

Barbara Schneider

From: Al Ritchie
Sent: Sunday, January 8, 2023 6:31 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: The Marsh Acquisition

January 7, 2023

Mike Funk, City Manager

Darin Nelson, Finance Director

Minnetonka City Council

- After reviewing the council packet, I feel that acquiring The Marsh based on this information is premature.
- My understanding is that neither the YMCA nor The Marsh have financially broken even or showed a profit.
- It would have been helpful to include the last 5 years of operating budgets and member numbers in the packet.
- I believe the City Council should delay a decision until these questions can be answered:

QUESTIONS FOR THE MARSH ACQUISITION

1. Who are “**The Marsh’s**” (City of Minnetonka’s) customers?
2. Can Minnetonka provide a better deal than the competition, such as with programs and fees?

(Lifetime Fitness, YMCA, Eden Prairie Community Center, and all the 24-hour Fitness Centers)
3. Does Minnetonka have a sustainable advantage over the competition?
4. Will Minnetonka be cannibalizing some of Williston’s customer revenues?
5. Has Minnetonka City staff done a 5-year business plan that includes all the capital investments, revenue sources (fees and rentals) and expenses (staffing and maintenance)?
6. Can Minnetonka break even or make a profit on the investment (\$)?
7. How does Minnetonka fund the purchase price and the ongoing expenses and what is the funding source if expenses exceed revenues?

Once Staff has answered these questions and included them in a future packet for review, I believe both the City Council and Minnetonka citizens will have a better understanding of the proposed acquisition and the financial implications to make an informed decision.

Al Ritchie

18420 Spring Crest Drive

Community Survey

SURVEY RESPONSE REPORT

09 December 2022 - 07 January 2023

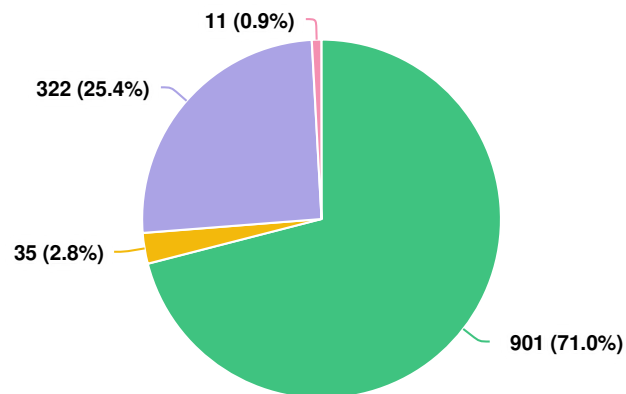
PROJECT NAME:

The Marsh



SURVEY QUESTIONS

Q1 Which of these best describes your connection to Minnetonka?

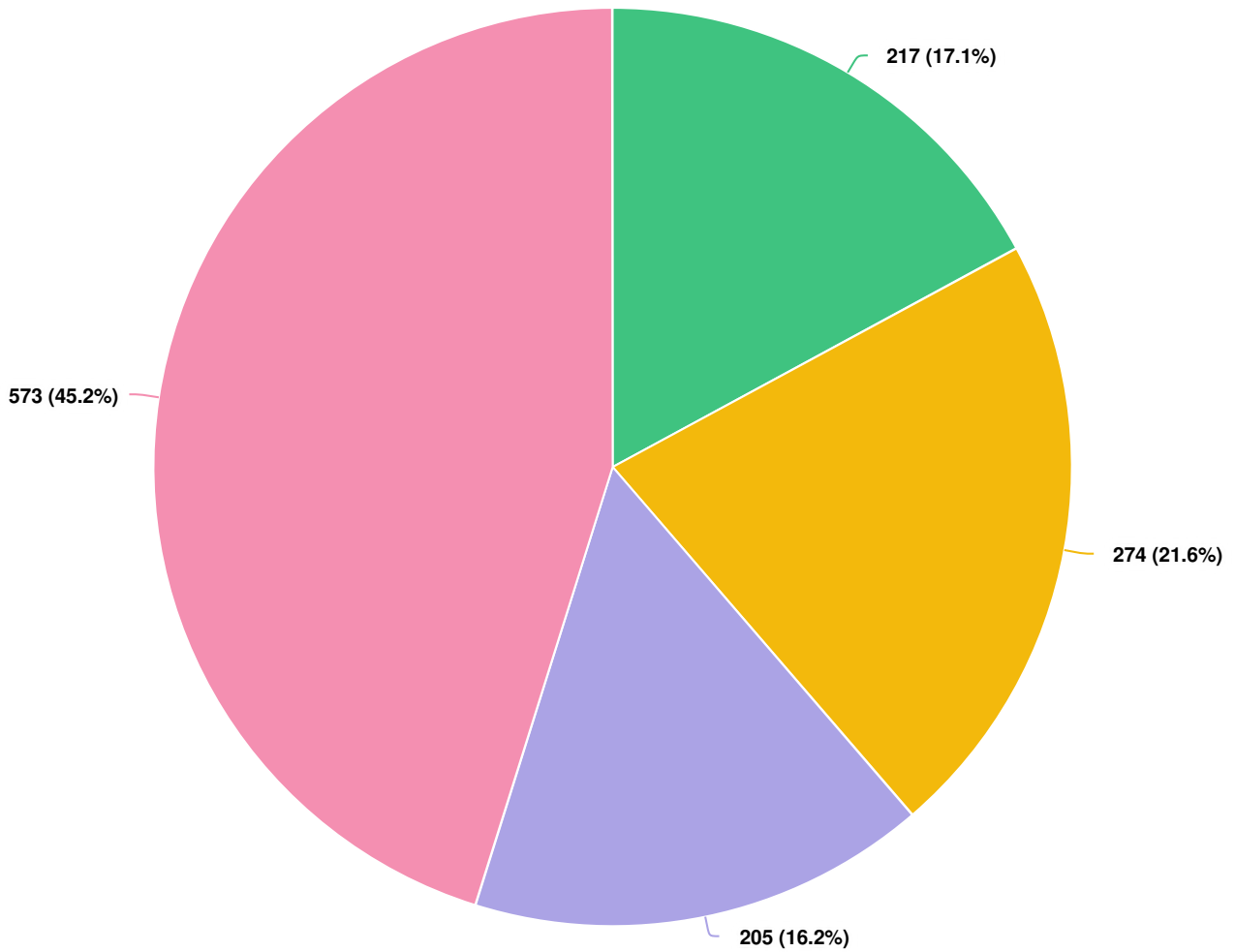


Question options

- Resident of the city
- Live elsewhere, but work in the city
- Frequently visit the city
- Occasional or rare visitor

Mandatory Question (1268 response(s))
Question type: Dropdown Question

Q2 How would you describe your use of the Williston Fitness Center?

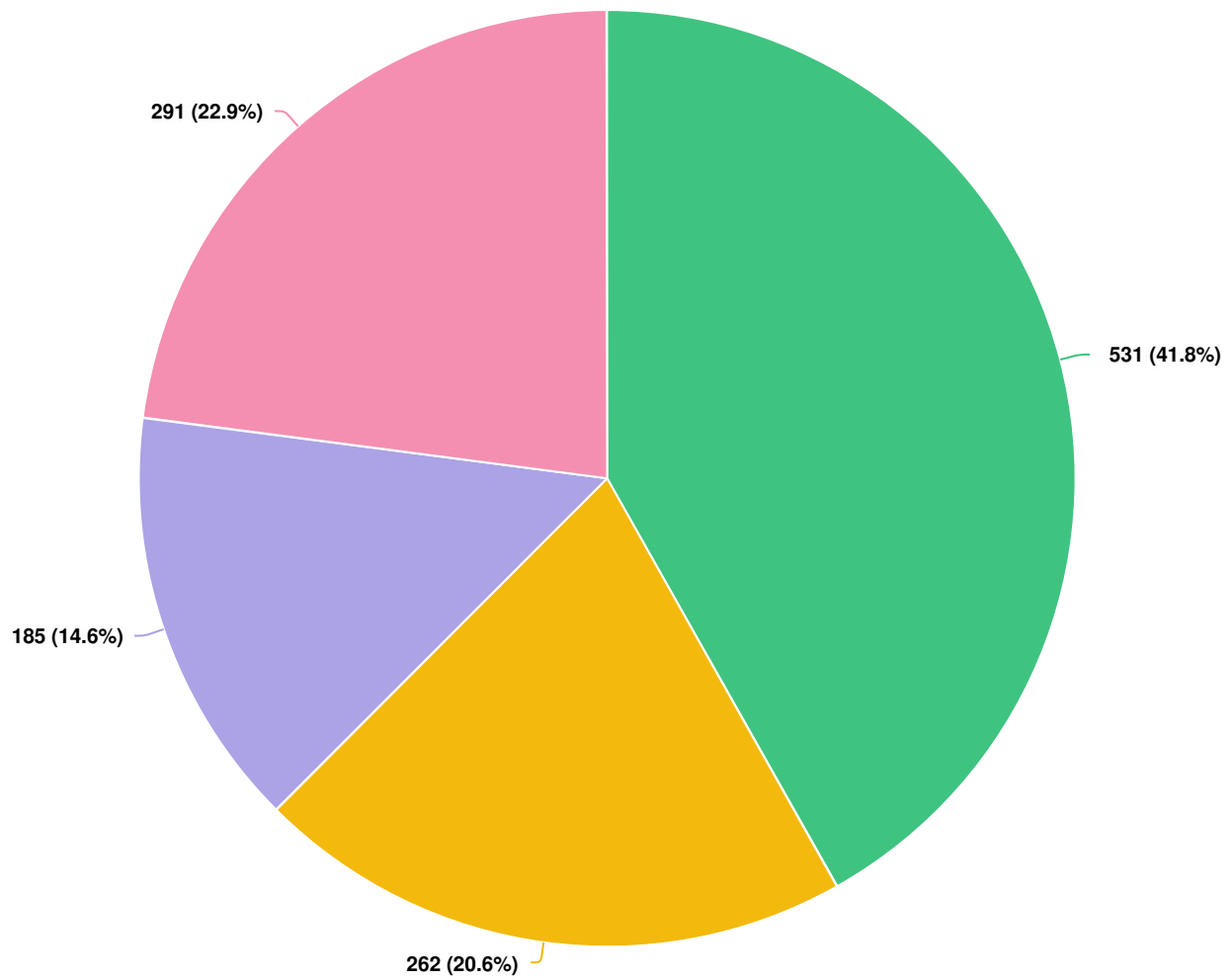


Question options

- Use it frequently
- Use it occasionally
- Rarely use it
- Never use it

Mandatory Question (1268 response(s))
Question type: Dropdown Question

Q3 How would you describe your use of The Marsh

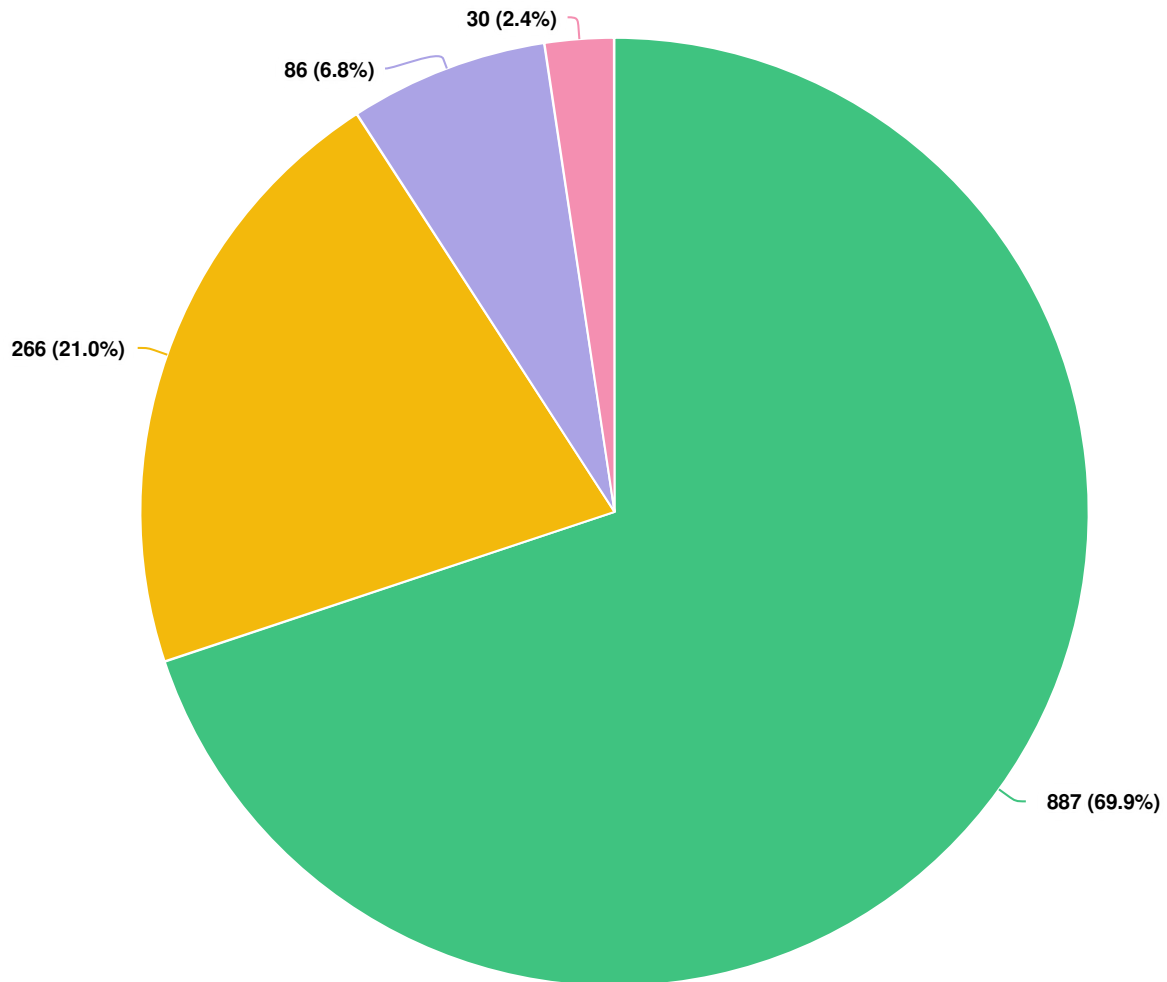


Question options

- Frequent visitor or user
- Occasional visitor or user
- Rarely visit or use
- Never visit or use

Mandatory Question (1268 response(s))
Question type: Dropdown Question

Q4 Which of the following best describes your opinion on the City of Minnetonka's discussions about purchasing The Marsh?

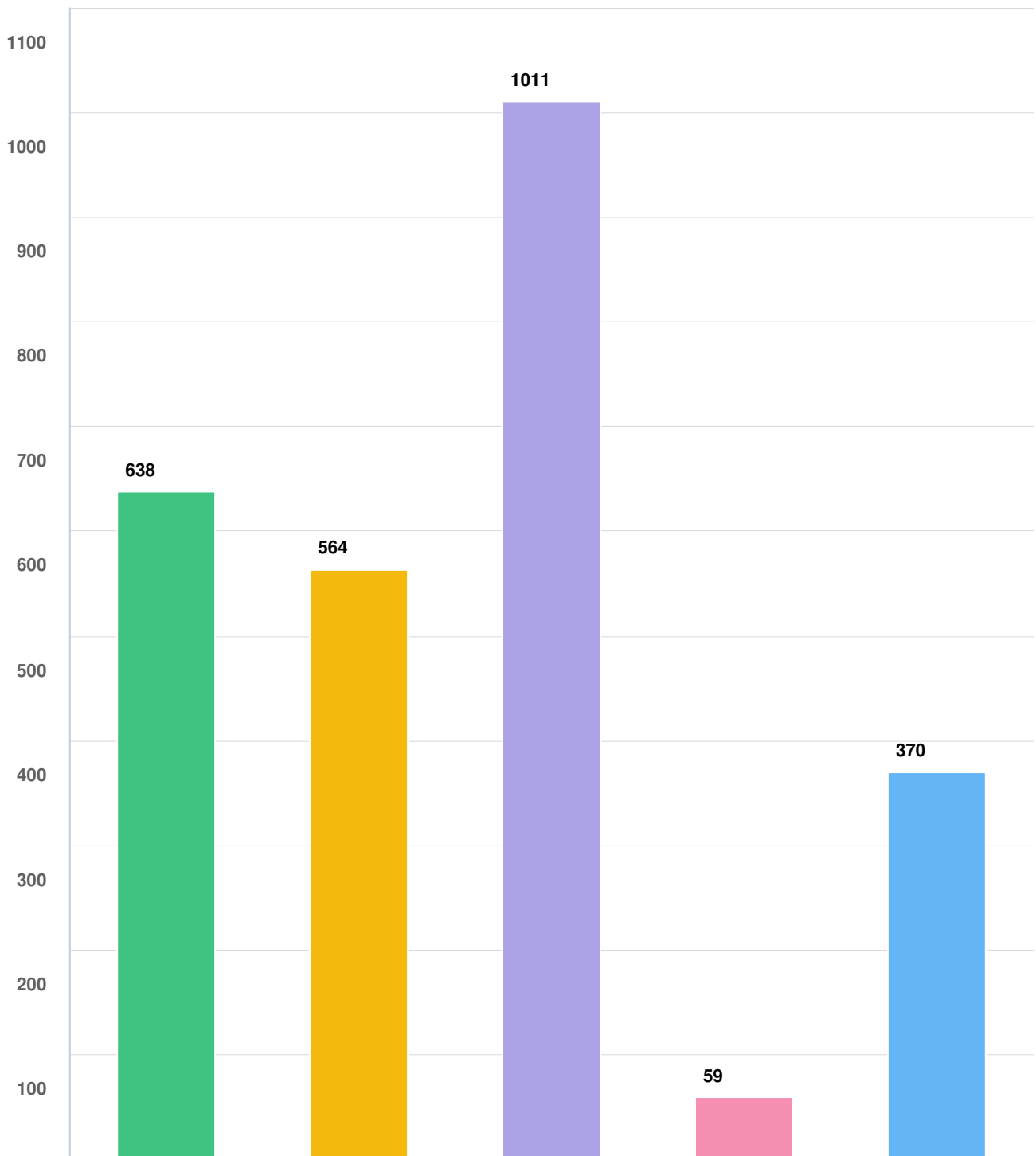


Question options

- The city would be the best future owner, as it could ensure that the public continues to benefit from this facility and property.
- The city should step in and buy the Marsh, but this may just be a temporary step as the City Council considers the best long-term plan and ownership for the facility and property.
- The city should not try to buy the Marsh.
- Please provide more information about your answer.

Mandatory Question (1268 response(s))
Question type: Dropdown Question

Q5 While the city will continue to receive feedback regarding this property, do you have any initial thoughts on potential future uses of The Marsh?



Question options

- Nature center
- Senior programming
- Recreational facilities and pools
- Housing
- Other (please specify)

Mandatory Question (1268 response(s))

Question type: Checkbox Question

Resp. No.	Connection to City	Q4: Opinon on the discussion about purchasing The Marsh	Q5: Initial Thoughts on Potential Uses
7	Resident		Event space
8	Resident		Community meeting space
15	Resident		Replacement for the Williston Center. Williston is a downer atmosphere and too closed in. I would never join, but definitely would if it was in the Marsh location. Use Williston for something else.
16	Resident		Please find professionals to run the restaurant and spa - both are needed in the city and to support the facility
18	Resident		Would love to see the restaurant be reinvented here as well - we desperately need another health focused food option in Minnetonka. Would love to see the Williston move into this facility, then develop more senior housing in the current Williston location. Please preserve this beautiful facility as is with minor improvements.
25	Resident		Spa
29	Resident		If member fees won't sustain ownership, the city should sell. Residents should not face a levy. It only benefits members.
30	Resident		Spa services
32	Resident		Williston needs to be renovated with a walking path and new uses - with the addition of the Marsh - we now can have a rec center that can compete with others like Plymouth, Chanhassen, and St. Louis Park. We pay high enough taxes (and they just went up) it would be nice to see them go towards something like this.
42	Resident		Community center
46	Resident		We'd like to see it continue its current use + nature preservation study
52	Resident		A mental healing and exercise center available low or no cost to anyone who may need it. This can help productivity of currently downtrodden citizens long term, which gives back to the community.
54	Resident		Spa, small boutique hotel, best patio restaurant in Minnetonka
59	Resident		I would like to see the pros and cons of all these and other options. Thanks for the opportunity to give feedback.
60	Resident		In addition to a fitness center The Marsh was a social gathering place. Could incorporate senior center activities easily into the current culture of The Marsh
64	Resident		I hope the city will consider finding ways to utilize the space in partnership with for-profit entities - similar to the way Merz Physical Therapy pays for it's space. A restaurant, the spa, meeting space rental, perhaps other medical or wellness practitioners could be interested in renting space for their practices and/or for programming. I believe part of the issue with the drop in membership was the lack of marketing the facility and drawing in new members as older members aged out. For profit partners marketing their services might also increase interest in membership. If there is anything I can do to help I'd be happy to volunteer my time. Feel free to reach out to Susan Goll goll.susan@gmail.com if there is any way I can help.
65	Resident		Don't buy it
67	Resident	Minnetonka seems senior focused and I think the demographics are changing and the city should become more family focused.	Programs for kids/teens - escape rooms - video games - virtual reality - climbing - zip lines
74	Resident	I have a strong interest in using the warm water therapy pool at the Marsh, but couldn't justify the membership fees for just that. The water at the pool at Williston is too cold for most therapy use. If use of the Marsh facilities was made available as part of the Williston membership it would definately be a benefit to all of us that desire a warm water option and increase overall fitness memberships.	
75	Resident		Whatever its use, I would like it to be affordable to ALL residents. The Marsh was not.
80	Resident		Continue its original purpose. Wellness, therapy, mental, spiritual including the adjacent land. Consider finishing someone who want to continue running the programs, but have the properties city owned.
82	Frequently visit the city		A location for services as Merz, spa, restaurant, and retailers
83	Resident		Mental health and wellness
85	Resident		Community space for meetings and events. Additional space for exercise, classes for all types for all ages and social functions. More outdoor space and resources for nature activities.
86	Resident		Dog park, basketball courts
106	Frequently visit the city		Restaurant, spa, rehab facility and event center
111	Resident		The city would do well to hire a skilled hospitality professional/restauranteur to operate the café/restaurant concession, book professional & community groups to maximize the hotel/conference spaces on the east side to create a complementary facility that offers additional amenities to the City's already terrific Williston property.

121	Resident		Meeting rooms for small groups. - Education programs for residents. - Use kitchen and café area to teach high school students how to operate a small business (in this case, a small restaurant) - social gathering space. - additional office space for certain City of MTKA agencies, i.e, free up space at City Hall by moving some into the Marsh - use the wetland area for recreational and environmental education - computer/internet lab for those w/o computers or for teaching others how to use them.
124	Resident	Concerned about the City's ownership of the Marsh in light of the initial mission and purpose of the Marsh. I question the city's ability to love up to/manage/carry that out and would hate to see that change. Seems to me a private owner would be a better	Similar use as in the past ... focus on fitness as well as mental & spiritual well being. This is unique model with few facilities operating in this space
125	Resident		Community space - special events rental, retail, restaurant, community garden, the possibilities are endless!
127	Resident		Please, no more housing! I have been going to the Marsh for years and love the natural setting. The pools are very important to the community. There are a lot of older adults and those with orthopedic challenges who rely on warm pools.
129	Resident		The café/event space would generate income. It was a lovely spot for lunchtime gatherings.
130	Resident		Why is the City spending our tax dollars on this? The city has greater needs than the purchase of this.
131	Resident		Wellness center! Balanced approach to health for all age groups. So many options for community partners - encourage collaboration amongst many community resources like Lakewinds for restaurant case, etc. Being mindfulness to kids and therapy for those that need it most. The Marsh could really thrive!!!!
135	Resident		Physical therapy Restaurant Tai Chi
138	Resident	The City should be the Marsh and consider a public/private partnership to maintain the Marsh going forward. It is a truly unique asset with the services it provides. City ownership ensures long term outcomes and the private component can deliver best of	Fitness and wellness programming for working adults
139	Resident		Consider food and entertainment options too please!
140	Resident		Lease restaurant space, lease the spa for spa operations, lease overnight rooms to medical experts or individual remote work leases, and special events. Continue programming of health/aerobic/wellness classes and enhance coordinated use of all pools. Expand usage or outdoor space and schedule unique community events indoors and outdoors. I have more thoughts than expressed.
143	Resident		The Cit might offset operating costs by marketing the food service capabilities and space for corporate events, meetings, wedding receptions, etc. Also, please keep MERZ PT in place. They are very good and would be a good partner for the City. I do support low income/affordable housing in the City; however, I do not support The Marsh as a viable candidate for that use.
147	Frequently visit the city		Community center for true health/wellness using integrative and functional medicine and teachings, expanding on the mind/body connection going beyond the offerings of Williston and other fitness facilities. Including healthy food.
150	Resident		The unique characteristics of a whole body wellness center and initial purpose of the Marsh should be maintained, as Ruth Stricker intended it to be. It should NOT be in any way similar to the Williston Center or the Y.
152	Resident		Keep the Marsh programs and facility intact. It fills a gap in the POST plan for the largest segment of our population: older adults.
155	Resident	The marsh is an ex car excellent facility. Acquisition of it will expand the city's recreation programming, especially for seniors and adults. There are also opportunities for public/private collaboration. I have been a member of both Williston and the Marsh. I much prefer the Marsh for its spaciousness and focus on health and wellness.	
161	Live elsewhere, but work in the city		I completed my occupational therapy doctoral capstone project at the Marsh last summer. The marsh serves a unique and underserved population of older adults and other individuals with adapted fitness needs. The warm water pool is one of the only (if not THE only) warm water therapy pool for public access and it has great benefits to many populations including those with arthritis, limited mobility, obesity, and more. The building has been creatively designed in that it is easily accessible for disabled people. The older adult population is only expected to group in the years to come, and having the Marsh available for people of all ages will bring a unique spark to the city of minnetonka.
162	Frequently visit the city		Continue Ruth's legacy of mind body wellbeing for all with expert staff and innovative programming. Key previous Marsh staff would be happy to help advise and create a plan.
163	Resident		No re-zoning of the land for future redevelopment. That area should be devoted to nature and the creek, and should benefit the public/residents of Minnetonka as it has been with the Marsh.
171	Resident		Love the facility. It is almost spiritual with a feeling of tranquility, community. A piece of peace. Let's keep focused on what's right in this world ... nature.
173	Resident		Spa services
174	Resident		I recently went to the Cullen event held there and it was a perfect venue as a level higher than having at the City Hall. Perhaps have it available for rental (AA meetings, environmental groups, weddings, etc.) and move Senior store from existing place to take over the Marsh's formerly gift shop. I also liked going there for relaxing, informal lunches versus meeting friends at noisy restaurants. Nort sure about the room rentals previously available in tower, but for a bridal party it would be perfect for before wedding, retirement parties.

175	Resident		I have been a Marsh member for 30 years. My hope is that it continues to be a fitness/wellness retreat and not get developed. No condos please! The parking area could be turned into some sort of outdoor sports facility. My family members from out of town loved staying there with the use of the facilities and restaurant. It is a gem and public environmentally friendly spaces in Mtka. are appreciated by residents and the public. I think what you have done with the Cullen property is great. Some things are just sacred, and The Marsh is one of them!
177	Resident		The city would be the best owner if they are willing to commit to a 10-20 year plan and lease it to someone who has the expertise to run it. I understand that the city has a 20 million dollar health and wellness fund. This would be a fine use of the funds. If residents have access to use it.
178	Resident		This is such an important facility for so many people try to keep it the way it is now
183	Resident		Preservation of natural areas and increased trails for walking/recreation, possible event spaces for revenue building to fund upkeep of the building, ?outdoor concerts/performances?
185	Resident		Would like to utilize the facilities of the Marsh.
187	Resident		Similar to what it is today but needs marketing to drive increased membership
188	Resident		Retreat center
189	Resident		A center for mind and body balance. Teaching students/middle and elderly residents how to achieve best balance in their lives. Rehabilitating juvenile offenders in structured programs using this balance.
195	Resident		The city should use that space to create a community clinic that provides more health care access to our residents.
196	Resident		Restaurant, spa
199	Resident		Lease out spa, restaurant and retail to keep those going. Add a salt spa/cave
200	Frequently visit the city		Yoga/art center model after silver wood park three rivers park district
206	Resident		I believe this beautiful facility should be leased out for a restaurant, spa, yoga and other fitness classes.
211	Resident		This facility is an asset to the community overall-the best interest of our community is to preserve the Marsh- It's a tremendous benefit to the community- I'm speaking for many other long time residents- Please save the Marsh! We need this, and it's the best use of our tax paying dollars! Losing this facility would be
212	Frequently visit the city		Wish it could be as much as possible as before, with the same staff and classes. Would also love to have the restaurant back if possible, & maybe the shop. Thank you, so very much!
219	Resident		Speakers on relevant health and wellness topics. A restaurant and that offers healthy food and a place for people to socially connect. A heated pool and facility offering PT to those needing it. The Marsh never was just a place to workout. It was a community, a place to workout yes but so much more about building social contacts that are so very important to mental and physical health.
220	Resident		As a Marsh member and Mtka resident, i think the city can develop tremendous programs to serve all generations. With the city's experience running a fitness center and senior programs, they can be beautifully blended here and expanded. The pools are great for all ages as well. I support this purchase!
223	Resident		I'm just wondering if any of this large acreage is protected for wildlife. We are taking so much away from them.
225	Resident		I think Williston is much too crowded. You need the expanded area the Marsh provides...plus all its wonderful varied complete healing and wellness opportunities and ensure it is cost effective for all our citizens...
226	Resident		Spa!!
228	Resident		Senior Recreational Facility in conjunction with Hopkins. Silver Sneakers, etc. Move the classes from City Hall. Continue OT and PT options. Connect with Sister Kenny or Courage Center.
231	Frequently visit the city		Keep it as a unique holistic focused facility. Add trails and nature areas around the property for community use. Keep the restaurant and make it more available to the community and add outdoor seating. Outdoor fitness classes and yoga during warm months.
233	Resident		Also a quality restaurant and spa services would attract all ages from the community and beyond
242	Resident		Keep as adult wellness and exercise complex. Add Hazelwood to run restaurant. Use for events weddings etc. beautiful property should be used for many uses . Yoga, cycle , etc
245	Frequently visit the city		Spa, coffee, community space, events, education
247	Frequently visit the city		Multi generational programming friendly to seniors. Outdoor nature oriented. NOT housing.
252	Frequently visit the city		Guest speakers as in the past
258	Resident		Captain Gabe's brewery
262	Resident		Wellness center
265	Resident		Use as it's always been used; a fitness and wellness facility! NOT HOUSING!
270	Frequently visit the city		Wellness classes and meditation for the public would be beneficial for the city and each person that visits

278	Resident	I don't believe that Minnetonka should not purchase The Marsh. We are not happy with the \$10 a month fee on our utilities for trails we never use. We are unhappy with our city supporting Williston where residents still have to pay to enter. I strongly oppose public funds going to buy a facility that only a select group of residents support. Minnetonka needs to connect all residents, not just those who bike and go to fitness centers.	Free community center. With pay for certain classes and activities like the model other cities use. Not an exclusive membership only facility.
280	Resident		therapy, healing ... it's amazing there is nowhere else a person can do anywhere when the heated pool is needed ... shocking
284	Frequently visit the city		Continue this amazing wellness/recreational center with all that it offered in the past
285	Live elsewhere, but work in the city		Healing center offering Mental health Meditation Movement classes Sound healing Integrative alternative methods Such as reiki hands on healing Therapy accessible to different demographics Youth development Integration of different ages and special needs
286	Resident		It's very disappointing that you issued this survey with no details, such as purchase price. I do not support this action.
289	Resident		Allow private enterprise to determine the highest and best use. Needs to be a taxable entity.
293	Resident		Reopen restaurant to the public and perhaps spa services, or rent space to others. Use larger rooms for seminars and charge outside groups to use the space. Restaurant could cater. Senior meeting place also, with groups, clubs, etc. Thank you for prioritizing this property to maintain a health/ wellness mission in our community.
297	Resident		Access to the land for limited use that would not negatively impact the enviroment quality of the site, if possible.
310	Resident		Not really sure. Multi use is usually better to include broader use.
312	Resident		Minnetonka Community Ed programming
313	Frequently visit the city		The best option for the future of the Marsh and the City is that the City purchase the Marsh. The Marsh has been an integral part of my health and wellness-being for many years. I would like the facility to continue as a center for well-being. I would like to continue as a member there. To me it does not matter in the longterm, whether the city or a private entity owns it, as long as the facility continues as a center for fitness and well-being with pools, classes and training center. I believe it is an asset to the community in many ways and there is a need for more fitness center options in the vicinity.
317	Frequently visit the city		Restaurant
321	Resident		Would make an amazing art center with studio space, a gathering spot/restaurant, nature center on main flood. Wellness and therapy pool on the lower level. Minnetonka is really lacking an art center.
325	Frequently visit the city		Complete Wellness Center including a Spa and Physical Therapy partner
326	Resident		Especially like the idea of a nature center -- I think of Westwood Hills Nature Center in ST Louis Park -- I would LOVE for this type of center to be opened in the Marsh location by the City of Minnetonka!
328	Resident		Community gathering place (food, events, etc.)
329	Frequently visit the city		Wellness Center with health providers of eastern and western medicine giving talks on staying healthy
332	Resident		Café
334	Resident	Do NOT purchase. I'm not sure if you will listen to opinions since you are already going down this road. Why are we using taxpayer dollars to purchase this? Focus on police, fire, roads, utilities, etc the core functions of our taxpayer dollars. This building/programming has failed twice now. Why do you think the city can do a better job, even if there is a different use? Be wise with our taxpayer dollars and do NOT proceed.	Nothing, let a private party purchase and put it to its best use.
337	Resident		It should be returned to it's original intended use, what Ruth Strick intended ... wellness and fitness.
340	Resident		I have been a member of the Marsh since its inception. I joined when I lived in South Minneapolis so it was a drive for me to even get there. But as a young woman I found that health clubs were only geared to service one thing. Exercise of sorts and that's it. The Marsh conceptually always considered exercise without mind engagement-the body mind connection- was key to whole body wellness and mental stability. This was a facility that welcomed young svelte bodies and equally welcomed older or less svelte types because Ruth Stricker was way ahead her time in understanding the body mind connection and how important it was. The facility provided not only exercise facilities and well educated trainers on staff, but it offered nutritional education and delicious healthy food in its restaurant. It offered workshops with exciting diverse professionals familiar with a more holistic take on people's health. It was a place that when you walked in the front doors, you breathed a sigh of comfort, relief and felt welcomed. As it grew, the spa, a full service physical therapy department and the amazing warm water therapy pool were unique and special. I know I'm not alone in expressing my deepest hope that the city of Minnetonka continues with its intent to buy the Marsh from the YMCA which never was invested in its message, it's purpose or its members. Please save The Marsh so it can continue to provide me and so many others the physical and mental therapy that have kept me going all these years. It's a quiet peaceful oasis in a world of chaos. We need it to continue.
341	Resident		Reopen the Marsh to continue Ruth's legacy and build the community back with opening the cafe,spa,pool classes,personal training, physical therapy and other studio classes including the unique cardio bounce class not found at other centers.
343	Resident		fitness center, physical therapy facility, restaurants and small shop, and spa. Just like it has been since Ruth Stricker Dayton opened it.

344	Frequently visit the city		Special unique therapy center for all people with injured and surgeries.. one of the few centers offering offering I'Chi and Tai'Chi classes for health and socialization. Such a special place to be invigorated, healed and energized to be a productive. Member of our community.!This is a transformative thing you are doing by securing its future A real feather in Minnetonka's hat.a positive benefit for its residents and the whole metropolitan area.
347	Frequently visit the city		partner with other wellness providers to expand services and perhaps generate rent. The therapy pool is one of a kind and so important for many to continue to move.
349	Resident		I think the Marsh should be expanded to include services and programs for children and families. It's a beautiful facility and all people in Minnetonka should benefit from it. I have been a member there for over 10 years and Brough my grandson whenever it was possible. I loved their Day Care and pools.
351	Frequently visit the city		This is the only olace that I could find with a therapy pool. I live in savage and used to come to the marsh for the therapy pool
352	Frequently visit the city		Conferences and special events
355	Resident		Being a registered nurse and seeing how valuable the Merz Physical Therapy has been to the community I would hope it would continue to be part of the new Marsh. This type of service is not available at other Health Clubs in the surrounding area (Williston, Lifetime nor the YMCA. Thank you for asking for our opinions.
362	Resident		The Marsh should be sold for to someone who wishes to run a club or develop the land.
371	Frequently visit the city		The natural wetland environment should be preserved above all else. Do not expand facility footprints or add buildings/structures that degrade the wetland environment. Desirable for city to retain ownership because selling off to private party eliminates or at least greatly reduces city control of property uses. No more housing developments or condos, PLEASE.
373	Resident		—Fitness classes, both in-person and virtual, like the Marsh has had. —A location for health and well-being seminars, like the Marsh has done regularly over the years. —Fitness equipment use, like previously.
379	Resident		The Marsh is a center for fitness and balance. It should be maintained this way not converted to housing or senior living. That was the fear and is why Ruth Striker gave it to the YMCA. IF the City cannot maintain the use and improve the facilities and programming as-is, why buy it now? Buy it if you can maintain what the community uses it for now, not a housing conversion.
382	Resident		City zoning should drive the future use of the Marsh property and site. With Williston fitness center and the Minnetonka government center within walking distance of this property, it would be repetitive for the City to operate the facility. If the Marsh as a business model was succesful, YMCA would continue to operate it, not sell it. Let a developer purchase the property and develop it to their needs, assuming that fits with the city's existing zoning and use regulations.
387	Resident		In addition to what I checked above, the restaurant was a gem that fostered community. Perhaps the city could contract that out to help revitalize The Marsh
388	Resident		Leave as close to as is with maybe a little remodeling. For sure keep the therapy pool as I use it for medical reasons and none other around like it.
389	Live elsewhere, but work in the city		A co-operative holistic health center (operating with the same intention as founder Ruth Stricker) - more than 'just a fitness facility' - high-level alternative care provided in a judgement-free setting; membership-based, but open to the entire community.
390	Resident		Room reservations and rentals for staff retreats, small groups, etc. Could have some options for smaller meetings. Love the cafe and coffee house. Love the idea of a Nature Center.
391	Resident		Continue with its original philosophy of fitness balance for body, mind & spirit!
393	Frequently visit the city		Casual dining... a place to meet / gather with friends Continue offering health and wellness classes such as yoga, meditation, low-impact fitness... better suited to seniors Access to warm water therapy pool for those of us with arthritis and mobility issues
394	Live elsewhere, but work in the city		Protect the space as a purveyor of healthcare and wellness in the vision of Ruth Stricker
395	Resident		Keep the center the way it was a benefit to people wanting a healthy alternative
397	Resident		The Marsh is a calming, healing nature center like no other anywhere else. We've traveled a ton and I'm a public health nurse. Bruce and Ruth loved it but it was a tax write off for them. It is already designed to provide every possible element of healing. PT downstairs, therapy pool, hotel if you need to be close for awhile, all the appropriate classes for east and west medicine, lots of beautiful spaces for quiet and meditation. And plenty of places for great parties. Just start with restaurant and silver sneakers ...everybody is chasing their silver sneakers...and the renewal can begin. I want to savor a healthy meal looking out at The Marsh.
409	Frequently visit the city		Must remain a center for wellness and balance, consistent with the vision and application of those Ruth Stricker ideals. A unique and respected facility must be preserved .
424	Frequently visit the city		venue for seminars or retreats
426	Frequently visit the city		Physical Therapy Spa Mindfulness and Well being programs

429	Resident		I think it should be aimed at the youngest and oldest residents. Senior health and wellness and early childhood development. The williston (we are current members is better suited to the rest of the population. Seniors have specific health and wellness needs that can be better served at a specialized facility. Seniors who are still in their homes do not have all the programs available that seniors in facilities have avail. I think the same can be said for early childhood literacy and pre-k health and nutrition. Specialized programs aimed at high risk populations outside of the schools pay long term benefits.
433	Resident		As a marsh member I was attracted to the mind body connection and the pools. It is more than a gym, and I would like to see Ruth's legacy preserved. She was on to something- I was told a year ago by a Y of the North representative that they were trying to incorporate Marsh practices into the Y. The challenge is that it is not mass appeal and not a long term fit for the city, which is seemingly met by Williston. A tragic outcome would be for the facility to be sold to someone who simply values the land and attempts to redevelop into housing. I would love to see a new steward come along who shared Ruth's vision and would be grateful to the city to help facilitate that by becoming temporary owner. Sincerely, Chad Gehrman
434	Resident		4 hotel guest rooms are housing ...
436	Resident		Longtime member of Marsh, would rejoin in a minute. Otherwise conference center with hospitality and dining and gift center and sundries-but that's what it was before and didn't pay out. Otherwise Senior housing and city planning/permitting offices, library, charter school, nature center, and historical society museum.
437	Frequently visit the city		Belonged for 32 yrs. Vital for exercise, health, well being physically and mentally. Small size and one on one approach made classes valuable, friendships possible. Adult only facility most of the time was critical.
445	Frequently visit the city		Quality health club, also available to non residents. Being member of the Marsh since the beginning, long time members should have priority for new membership.
449	Resident		A combination of healthy restaurant, classes, wellness activities, senior activities, rental use for events ...
450	Resident		I think it is important to keep The Marsh as a recreational facility, but I do not think it should be the same as Williston. Keeping it public but perhaps a higher end public facility would be ideal. As an example, keep the same level of services with classes, towels and ability to rent lockers.
451	Frequently visit the city		D'Amico in the restaurant space! Keep the salon! YOGA YOGA YOGA
454	Frequently visit the city		High quality fitness center, available to non residents also
455	Frequently visit the city		In house physical therapy by Merz with access to facility
456	Frequently visit the city		Merz Physical Therapy
460	Live elsewhere, but work in the city		Wellness center including massages, other spa services and integration with physical therapy. Also meeting spaces for rent.
461	Resident		Highest and best economic use as determined by the market. The city should not be spending tax dollars to purchase a private business.
464	Resident		A few points since we have been members to both over the many years we have lived here. It would be counter-productive if the city couldn't maintain its beautiful facility with its high aesthetics standards. The grounds and physical connection to Jidana Park is a gem for residents in all seasons. This could be a fantastic asset for all residents who probably are unaware of it. It also could be a perfect community rental for rental (weddings, reunions...); some family events; and for a more developed art class/exhibit area for local artists; nutrition classes. Its reputation as a wellness center would be a huge asset for the city without them having to create it from scratch. Mtka could create a close-in-proximity 2-facility health system: Williston could focus on family, sports and what it does best (however often way too crowded for equipment and swim use); then the Marsh could handle the more mind-body-spirit wellness aspect that is similar to what the Marsh was able to provide best. This would allow Williston to be able to provide its lacking outdoor programming and tie directly into the Jidana Park/Minnehaha Creek use. This combined effort would also help with parking issues at Williston if some of the programming (yoga, dance, water therapeutics, etc.) was all located at the Marsh facility. Since I don't know if the city could manage such an operation, then that's where the private sector could partner. However with this kind of partnership, there needs to be a city resident "discounting" of use & programming use since the Marsh was limited to mostly the wealthier residents who could afford it. This holistic wellness approach to health is a vision in line with the Minnetonka branding that could be realized with this rare opportunity. I would think there could be a strong philanthropic backing for such a partnership, something the Dayton family would probably be interested in supporting with a sustainable plan and vision.
467	Resident		The warm therapy pool is very important to many people, both young and old. There are few of these pools available in the whole metropolitan area, and it has helped many of us retain good health. It also is important to the Physical Therapy Dept. located in the Marsh. Exercise in this pool is needed in the City of Minnetonka. I have enjoyed membership in the Marsh for 30 years, and I have lived in Minnetonka most of my adult life. I will be more than happy to have The Marsh back.
469	Frequently visit the city		Meeting spaces, restaurant/coffee shop, fitness center, reciprocity with Hopkins, community classes, rehab facilities, Merz Physical Therapy, sell to private party that will commit to a wellness center with community access
470	Frequently visit the city		A top quality restaurant serving 3 meals per day and possibly entertainment several evenings each week.
475	Frequently visit the city		I am delighted that the City has stepped in and I encourage the City to possibly enter into a private/public ownership with others with the intent of keeping the core values of a healthy mental and physical well-being facility going.

476	Frequently visit the city		I think the city buying the building is one of the best things that could have happened. I was so sad once I heard the Y was selling and shutting down the Marsh. I really believe it is a fantastic facility that has huge potential for the city of Minnetonka or a partnership with other organizations. For me the Marsh is really at it's heart a health and wellness center. A place where you can not only go to work out, but relax and enjoy some tranquility. I could see, given the buildings location and resources, being a great center for senior programs, nature classes/walks, and hopefully keeping the Therapy Pool. The Therapy pool was one of the main draws for me as a member of the Marsh.
479	Frequently visit the city		I promote keeping the Marsh as it is with the pools, wellness classes, spa facilities, gym equipment and trainers, etc with the exception of leasing out the restaurant facilities. This opens up for dinners etc. Have an employee to coordinate big events to rent out the space- ex wedding receptions, big parties etc. Money makers. Keep the Privately owned PT portion. Theses things will bring \$\$\$\$. This is a one of a kind facility and one that continues to promote wellness and health for all ages, but has facilities for those injured and seniors that other recreational facilities do not have. It is vital and should be considered very essential to the aging population. Having monthly membership dues should be considered as well as short term membership for those needing the facility in recovering from injury etc. I believe care need to be taken when considering this to be an opened recreational facility with making it more like a Y facility. There are others in the area that can meet that need. The one area that no other offer is the wellness and senior aspect of the Marsh. The therapy pool should be used for that. Not a free for all with kid or others using it for just fun. It provides necessary therapy for many physical/ healing/ wellness needs that regular pools do not. I do not want to see this turned in to another Y, LA Fitness etc type facility. It has too much value as a healing/wellness/physical facility. It offers all of these things that other facilities offers but A LOT MORE. It is the MORE that needs to be kept and it not turned into another "fun" drop -in place to hang out with friends for a few hours. I also want you think about the senior emphasis placed here. Welcome those folks by providing an atmosphere that promotes their wellness which is hard to find in most facilities. Children, teens, young adults etc have different needs and perspectives on fitness, fun, peace etc. These people are welcome for specific classes accompanied by parents etc. but not used for hang out sessions with friends. There is a fine line to draw here. A recreation facility or a wellness facility offering more adult classes, trainers, services etc.
482	Resident		This is The Jewel of Minnetonka- The benefits to the adult community is invaluable- The Williston Center provides options for families- There is nothing like The Marsh anywhere in the entire state, and very few that can be compared with The Marsh in the USA- I am a travel agent and my niche is wellness travel- I've been to and researched hundreds of Spa's and Wellness facilities globally- We are completely blessed to have this wonderful Wellness Center in our beautiful neck of the woods- Personally-, as a fit young minded Sr Citizen residing in Minnetonka this facility is the reason I am young minded and staying healthy as I age gracefully WITH the Marsh Warm spa pool Ruth's vision to include warm water for aquatic therapy was far before the Spa and medical communities realized the benefits of exercising in warm water- With the right people at the helm this absolutely has tremendous potential to benefit the City of Minnetonka and the residents here- I'm speaking for thousands of residents of Minnetonka, please keep this facility as Ruth's vision... It is needed! Respectfully, Connie J Sass, CTC 952-215-6548 Rose Glow Journeys Journeys for Survivors Minnetonka Resident since 1994-
486	Resident		Provide the services as in the past with updates here necessary
487	Resident		Review the current and projected demographics of this area to determine offerings to benefit the community. The Marsh was exclusive and felt like it was geared to senior citizens. I didn't feel welcome there as a middle aged parent.
489	Resident		Should be a public, private combo....as described in the newspaper...own with Private entities...Merz and developercould create a high level of creative synergy that is needed to restore it to total functionality... Hope you also read the article about boutique gyms in paper yesterday. They have discovered how to appeal with techniques that have been part of The Marsh for 40 years: springy floors, resturants, party like events, family days. People need connection. That's why so many of us love the Marsh. It's like a quiet Fun extension of our homes.
494	Resident		Music and arts venue
495	Resident		Purchase snow plows
497	Frequently visit the city		KEEP AS IS. IT'S JEWEL AMONGST THE LIFETIME GYMS THAT OVERCHARGE AND AREN'T A PEACEFUL, MEDITATIVE ENVIRONMENT AS RUTH SET UP THE MARSH TO BE. I'M IN MY 70S BUT SEE MUCH OLDER PEOPLE THERE EVERYDAY. WHERE WILL THEY GO? LIFETIME? PLANET FITNESS? I DOUBT IT AS THE ENVIRONMENT WILL IMMEDIATELY TURN THEM OFF. SO THEY ARE OUT OF LUCK TRYING TO STAY IN SHAPE AND BE HEALTHY. UNTIL LAST WEEL WE HAVE BEEN MEMBERS SINCE 1993 WHEN WE MOVED TO DEEPHAVEN.
500	Resident		Wellness programs, health education lectures, guest speakers, social events
503	Frequently visit the city		Fitness and Wellness Center, offering fitness programs to all ages but with a special emphasis on senior programs
504	Resident		Continue using the Marsh as it has been since its inception with fitness, food, retail, hotel, physical therapy, etc. The mind/body connection is what has made the Marsh such an incredible resource.
505	Frequently visit the city		I feel that the "Marsh model" has, since 1980, served the community excellently and in a unique way. There are few if any other health club facilities in the area which combine physical and spiritual wellness. This has worked very well for seniors in the community who are not well served by other health clubs that are geared to a younger population. The classes and lectures at the Marsh, however, did attract both young, middle-agers and oldsters. I had been a Marsh member since 1991 and would go back there in a minute!

506	Frequently visit the city		wellness center focused on mind and body
507	Resident		meeting rooms, banquets, restaurant facility, receptions
508	Frequently visit the city		A Center that could incorporate many aspects of senior wellness and fitness as I would prefer that it be focused on senior (age 55 or greater) individuals
509	Resident		community center an additional community conference rooms
512	Resident		Nothing could be better than what it is used for now. A place where us old men and women can maintain our strength and mobility & remain productive members of our households, neighborhoods and society.
514	Frequently visit the city		Continue the Marsh as Ruth envisioned it....a center for balance, healing and fitnesses, focusing on people with injuries, disabilities, seniors in conjunction with Merz and therapy pool. Have it continue to serve as a place for community members to gather in classes and restaurant. Look for income streams utilizing the restaurant, spa or raise money through investors donating to The Marsh after forming a non profit. I would not object to some housing being added to help pay for annual expenses. Be creative!
516	Resident		Continue as a health and fitness center. Leasing out the spa and restaurant facility. Using the hotel spaces as leased office space. Continuing the Marsh philosophy addressing mind and body health. We have been members and the nurturing caring community is invaluable.
519	Frequently visit the city		Community gathering space
522	Resident		Therapeutic pool
524	Resident		WELLNESS?! Or are these aforementioned in addition to?
525	Resident		Is there room for pickleball courts? Lost of interest in more of them in the city!
527	Frequently visit the city		Perhaps space could be rented out to mental health services, independent shop and spa, restaurant
529	Resident		Continue as a wellness center
536	Resident		Use it for a medical facility, like Mertz Clinic, Massage, spa, exercise classes, community meeting rooms. Many who have cancer or other physical ailments do well in the warm therapy pool and that would be another asset. Thank you
539	Resident		This is already not a profitable business. It will cost the tax payers money because you are taking a business off the tax role. Further it will cost tax payers to fund a money-losing venture ongoing. The city is not a for-profit business turn-around expert. We already pay high taxes, please leave this to private entities to buy and manage so that our taxes can be reduced.
545	Resident	As a decades long-time city resident and longstanding member of The Marsh (through end of 2022), The Marsh has served as a unique and vital recreational facility and connective social fabric for so many residents of Minnetonka and neighboring cities. In particular, the aging residents who relied upon The Marsh for its special targeted wellness programs and social connections. Most notably, a rare and treasured Heated Therapy Pool. In short, The Marsh is both a City Landmark and living treasure that should be preserved and maintained by the City; in view of the tumultuous tenure over the past	The Marsh is ideally suited as an expansion and extension of its existing Senior programming and resources; in view of the number of recently opened 55+ communities and the many aging residents who seek to continue to remain in Minnetonka (and environs). The Marsh has always been one of the magnet attractions. Moreover, The Marsh had provided an array of on-site restaurant and catering (pre-pandemic) services that could be resurrected for community use
546	Resident		Restaurant! We need more restaurants in Mtka and it would be a great location.
548	Resident		Used as the Marsh: pools & equipment; spa; meals; meeting place; PT business; place to stay. All the services the Marsh provided. The Y made no effort to keep the services. Losing the staff a big mistake. I'm sure many of them would come back. It can be kept as a nonprofit community center. Proud of the Council for taking this step.
549	Frequently visit the city		Spa
551	Resident	I love the building and the property. I would hate to see a multiple family housing complex built there. I also hate to see the city saddle we tax payers with an additional tax burden. I am interested in what current zoning ordinances are in place to protect it. The Y must be limited on what it can be developed as. I mostly enjoyed having lunch at the	something that generates income. we have enough parks that are not used and not cared for.
556	Resident		Conference center, wedding venue, party venue, child care for people who use the facility, children's programming, dining events, music events, rehabilitation center, rent rooms, spa open to community, and store open to the community, Ruth did not believe in marketing to the general public, we need to market to everyone the benefits and offerings. Keep the trainers as highly educated as they were. Put the right people in charge, like Tim Mortenson, who has a hospitality leadership style!
558	Resident		I have been a member of the Marsh for years. It has provided not only a health and wellness center for Minnetonka residents but offered services such as the restaurant which provided a welcome community building niche for an intergenerational population. The Marsh was a vital component of my health and wellness program. The surrounding terrain provides a unique walking/nature area for residents to enjoy. Kudos to the City of Minnetonka for being willing to purchase and maintain a much needed community health and wellness option. I am happy my tax dollars will be going to support the continuance of the The Marsh. The Marsh is a unique community opportunity.
559	Frequently visit the city		Merz physical therapy, please don't let this business go!

569	Resident		Keep all aspects of the Marsh services including the restaurant café options. Expand the fitness programming for seniors as the Marsh has offered unique health, wellness and options for an intergenerational population, including spa, restaurant in a nature oriented setting. What an opportunity for the City of Minnetonka and its residents. Thank you!
570	Frequently visit the city		If the Marsh continues to serve as a recreational center, please accept Silver Sneakers as partial monthly payment as seniors make up a large portion of the city's residents.
574	Resident		Keep it as it is! Non-commercial spa, sanctuary, wellness and so much more.
576	Frequently visit the city		wellness and health classes
581	Resident		I am open to any viable ideas the City would have to maintain and/or expand the services, building, and land around the Marsh on a breakeven or profitable basis. I have heard that the Marsh was not able to draw enough income to sustain itself and needed Bruce Dayton's contributions to sustain it. I would hope there are ways it could be managed and or built out to make it fiscally sustainable on its own. I am excited that the City is looking into this purchase. I love the Marsh and everything about it - the workouts as well as the Asian atmosphere and artwork. It has truly been an inspiration every time I have gone there for a workout. Also, the employees have been exceptional in both their service and friendly, encouraging, and inspirational connections with the patrons. Thank you for asking for our comments! Scott Simpson
586	Resident		I love the concept of a Public/private partnership. This is a win for everybody
607	Frequently visit the city		Continue with Ruth's legacy and bring back child care
611	Frequently visit the city		How about serving the special needs community and senior exercise and therapy. I am a senior who could use aquatic therapy And My grandson has a Developmental Delay (Fragile X and Autism) and needs swimming lessons for safety. I did not realize that was closed. Sad, I was hoping to be able to become a member. The Y is not the same and it is intimidating for me & my grandson. Sad it always comes down to \$\$\$.
614	Resident		licensed day care/preschool in the upstairs that was available for overnight guests
615	Resident		Wellness center - various kinds of therapy possibly subsidized by City (e.g. mental health, physical, massage, music therapy dance therapy, art therapy). I am a counselor and would love the opportunity to rent space at the Marsh at an affordable rate. I feel like the environment would be healing and welcoming. I'd love to see the small cafe stay open even if the full restaurant is not possible.
618	Resident		Please dont waste my property tax money on buying a dilapidated facility that needs to be bulldozed or millions spent on a total refurb. Also the outrageous costs of hiring a manager and many employees at above market prices plus their government benefits and giant pensions makes this a disaster. Imagine if the residents one day find out the true cost of this purchase and staffing.
624	Frequently visit the city		Training center. Personal trainers Personal Trainers Restaurant
631	Resident		I've been a member at the Marsh for 25 years. Have worked out there and have done over rehab of 7 Orthopedic replacement surgeries there. Have also been doing Pilates for 8 years. I would hate to see this historic venue fall by the wayside.
636	Frequently visit the city		Continued fitness and the other similar classes (meditation, yoga, vibrational healing) and food. Also event center services. Open to all, regardless of what city they live in. Fair pricing for seniors. Not high priced "boutique" or "only for the wealthy" type of place. The therapy pool and water classes are a game changer for so many who struggle with traditional fitness venues.
637	Resident		Wellness programs and featured speakers. Massage and spa facilities. Conference and event rooms availability for rent or reserve. Community art and sculpture garden displays.
638	Resident		It's an amazing recreational property should be available full time.
639	Resident		Community meeting space to supplement the community center, especially for small groups such as the Marsh Toastmasters. I always felt The Marsh was the heartbeat of Minnetonka. We have an incredible opportunity to continue Ruth's legacy to the benefit of the greater Minnetonka community. We can truly be civic leaders by creating a very special multi-use space unlike any small city in the country. Let's get creative and explore the possibilities this space and property provides. I can't think of a better long-term steward of this resource than the City of Minnetonka. Please, let's do the right thing.
643	Resident		Would like to see the Marsh developer per Chuck Leer w farm to table, spa and leased departments. Be very careful regarding spa director
646	Resident		Why another facility? There are so many other priorities.
651	Resident		Health and wellness club as before
652	Resident		I was a member for 20+ years and then quit during Covid. If they open it up to Silver sneakers I would be a member again. I loved how it was before the Y took over-meditational, dining, shop, pool - very unique-we belong to silver sneaker's and now go to lifetime
654	Resident		The city should keep it as it is, with the goal of wellness, a calm workout spot, therapy pools and all that it has been for 30+ years.
657	Frequently visit the city		Maintain it is a fitness and wellness center!
661	Frequently visit the city		wellness center

666	Frequently visit the city		Loved the Marsh Restaurant! A great place to meet a friend(s) and connect without pressure to clear a table.
667	Resident		Maintain the Marsh as a health & wellness center, spa and restaurant. Include the Silver Sneakers program
672	Resident		As a charter member of Yhe Marsh, I have benefited physically and mentally from this facility and it's objectives. I believe it should continue to support it's iconic role as it has since 1985.
673	Resident		Spa!, !!!! Be very careful on who you chose to run a spa. SO miss the shop.
674	Resident		Yoga. Community seminars/speakers
685	Live elsewhere, but work in the city		A continuance if its original mission: a center for balance and fitness, including conference and hotel facilities
693	Resident		The marsh has been an integral part of my life. It was the first gym that I felt comfortable, safe and relaxed in my 51 years. I attribute getting my health back to the Marsh and Liz Barber Anema for pushing me to check it out. Forever great memories and love for this place. One of a kind!! I am so hoping you keep the fitness center aspect and bring back the old instructors. The therapy pools are a lifeline to many community members and also surrounding community members. I would love to see it also as an event center for the community. It is a beautiful property that could be used for wellness retreats, small weddings, anniversary parties or other celebratory community events. I truly have been lost this last week not having the marsh. I hope so much you bring it back to all of us that need it so much! Reach out to Liz Anema, longtime studio director and Minnetonka resident, to help build a plan for its future. She is a bright positive light in the community!
697	Frequently visit the city	The city would be the best candidate to own the Marsh and surrounding property and determine what to do with it long term. Would it be best long term to partner with the state to manage a portion or the property as an urban protected conserved areas. Would it serve the community to establish the Marsh as a center for study gerontology study cent	Surrounding property is a restored prairie so Nature Center would be great with possible long term conservation with educational and/or urban protected and conserved areas. Maybe Minnetonka managed, or Minnetonka-partnership with neighboring cities, or state scientific and natural area? Educational/research ask U of M? Ask practice leaders conservation, prairie restoration, and/or permaculture for ideas like establish a permaculture area of excellence and educate? lead by example? Senior programming could be expanded to community programming and corporate programming. Corporate ideas include team-building one day or multi-day events/conferences. Consumer ideas include conferences and retreats), Music events, as well as renting studios for event management. Allow non-profits or community groups to use the space free for meetups and corps or for-profit groups pay for space. The membership - Maybe include mainstream senior programming and also experimental edgy senior programming to redefine what senior programming can be and advance and redefine aging. For example, a trainer brought in try before try training came to twin cities. A trainer brought in extreme high intensity interval training class for seniors before it was mainstream for seniors and implemented before it was mainstream and reversed the age clock for a bunch of participants. A number of marsh-member-athletes maintained intense training over years (all american athletic status at edge of national fitness bell curve) athletics and competed as seniors nationally and internationally and hold state and national records in athletic competition and were never studied for effects on aging. Another example is U of M did study on general sample set of Marsh members (middle of bell curve). Get resources to review pub med research on gerontology, aging, exercise, lifestyle, fitness for senior programming ideas. Senior programming to include self defense like krav maga which is results-oriented self defense. Ask cross section of national and/or international thought leaders for ideas. Ask previous "overnight stay" sample of guests what services they liked having and would have liked to have. Jane Goodall was an overnight guest. Interview "present" and previous marsh staff for ideas - trainers, management (current including Cece (customer service) and previous including Tim Mortenson (operations), and Joel French (exercise/fitness PhD)), maintenance staff, and restaurant staff, shop Arlene, Spa. Ask Ruth's family, ask Mark Dayton. These are gold mines for idea-mining. Ask cities what they are doing (Portland, Seattle, LA, New York, Raleigh, Durham). Look to "competitors" and resorts on west coast and resort associations and maybe even costa rica and ask what they are doing? Reach out to AARP? other associations? If Minnetonka buys marsh, see if you can get access to the books and do revenue analysis, i.e. look for biggest revenues in the marsh's business units: which corporations booked the most services for "conferences" and team building and ask them what they liked and what they would have liked, Ask the Marsh PEOPLE (present and previous staff current and past membership, previous guests, corporate and consumer customers) are assets. Call if you have questions cell 612-387-7256.
703	Resident		Outdoor pool!!! Minnetonka needs an outdoor community pool!!
711	Resident		Not housing!
718	Frequently visit the city		Hoping that they can find someone(s) to lease the restaurant and open it again. Healthy food and such a beautiful place to dine with that amazing deck and scenery. Hoping they can find someone(S) to lease the spa. Would love to see it be used as a place to workout again and have the wonderful feel that Ruth brought to it. Speakers,, classes, rentals for parties, use of the facility again... im hoping that it will be vibrant and used but not over crowded . Maybe as they have done people will have to make a reservation so classes don't get too large.
723	Frequently visit the city		Keep the current Marsh, but make positive changes to increase revenue
725	Resident		Retreat Center, restaurant, & health & wellness center (spa too would be nice!)

731	Frequently visit the city		I would like the Marsh to continue as a health and wellness facility. I love the Marsh. It is a wonderful facility with training center, therapy and lap pools and walking track. The spa with health options of acupuncture, massage, manicures, pedicures, etc. is wonderful! The restaurant was wonderful. The gift shop was fun and I love having Merz Physical Therapy on site. Having Merz and the warm therapy pool was beneficial. They have had wonderful nutritionists give talks about nutrition. Very few other facilities provide these amenities. Perhaps add a holistic health practice. Expand the health and wellness function!!! I hope the city will not destroy such a wonderful facility!! It has been closed less than a week and I miss it terribly! The original employees are great - Tim, Cece and others! Please do not destroy this facility!!!!!! It could use some updating.
732	Resident		The Therapy pool at the marsh has been used by many in the community but especially seniors. It has allowed many to remain functional and independent when no other type of recreational activity is tolerated by the individual. The city offers many recreational opportunities for its residents, and special programs for seniors. This would be a great addition.
734	Resident		Community programming and space. Partners with the school districts to offer some options there, perhaps.
738	Resident		Maintain all of the unique and effective amenities the Marsh offers from its therapeutic & lap pools to the workout center, yoga & aerobics classes, spa, massage, restaurant & meeting facilities as well as the meditation & hotel area. There is nothing like this anywhere in our state I've seen that offers so much holistically health-minded community benefits, especially for our injured and elderly fellow citizens as well as preserving the landscape in that area. The Marsh needn't change all - what really needs to change is educating the public to better understand what a fabulous resource they have available to them.
743	Live elsewhere, but work in the city		Healthy Restaurant and Spa Services added back into The Marsh offerings-in addition to the warm Therapy Pool and Exercise/Wellness programming for seniors.
752	Resident		I am a great advocate for the wellness feature of The Marsh. Many, many times after a class at Williston Center we have gone to The Marsh for coffee or tea and a snack. Friendships made while exercising can become life long friends when a little social part is added to the experience. It keeps people coming to Williston Center and is an alternative to it. I have met friends there for lunch, a wedding reception, a group banquet. a middle size group breakfast, and more. Where can a person find a pleasant place to maintain friendships and make new ones. What other fitness club can you see people in wheelchairs or with walkers? What other fitness club will you find people in their 70's and 80's enjoying themselves eating and laughing. I have missed this experience since Covid. The times I have been there have been awful whether meeting friends or bringing friends. The food service makes it for everyone, not just for those wanting the classes. I am 82 and want to have this facility there again for me. Don't forget the cranberry scones!!
753	Frequently visit the city		Intergenerational holistic health oriented activities, nature is a part of that
754	Frequently visit the city		loved the wellness vibe and the spa
756	Resident		I knew Ruth and discussed with her in the past ideas for the different population types at the facility. Many elderly seniors struggled with parts of the facility without assistance and we talked about care assistance for those struggling as well as augmentation to the locker room with higher bench seats, handles on
759	Resident		The Marsh will serve limited clients. Please do not waste tax dollars on services for the few.
760	Resident		Casual dining options, coffee; special events rental. Cater more to adults as did the Marsh; kids already have the Y.
767	Frequently visit the city		Keep it as it is
772	Frequently visit the city		As members, we also loved the spa and café and restaurant. Lovelly meeting rooms too.
777	Resident		There are better uses for taxpayer money.
783	Resident		I like the ideas Christopher Warden has to operate The Marsh, continue to operate it in the intentions of Ruth Strickler.
785	Occasional or rare visitor		I had my wedding reception here, it was BEAUTIFUL! The space is amazing. We would visit yearly to celebrate our anniversary until the pandemic hit. I am thrilled that this space will be saved for future generations. My daughter also took swim lessons here - we drove 45 mins each way because Diane is just that good!
789	Resident		As Ruth did, combining nature, wellbeing, and fitness. It could be used as a space for teachings, retreats, etc. - the larger integrative community loves this space.
809	Resident		Complimentary rec facilities and pools to Williston. Do whatever you can to keep the therapy pool and Mertz in the building. Great example of public/private partnership. And super helpful to an aging population.
814	Frequently visit the city		Recreation to include xcounrty skiing, hiking, off leash dog area Also, I live in Deephaven and have been somewhat frustrated with inability to access Williston. Maybe a city coalition to share costs and make surrounding cities that feel aligned with Minnetonka included. Very much support this project. Public access and day programs for schools! So much is possible, thank you!!
816	Resident		I no longer belong to the marsh because of financial considerations, but I loved it when I belonged to it. My daughter and I own a townhouse in Minnetonka, and she especially would benefit from the unique features that the Marsh has, in particular the therapy pool and the walking track. We would join the Marsh if it continues as a fitness establishment.
817	Resident		I need the marsh so many of us need therapy. As a senior WE NEED IT

819	Resident	It's doubtful the city can retain the unique experiences of Marsh membership. The former manager, Tim Mortensen, was let go shortly after the YMCA took over, and it was never the same, though Covid policies likely also took their toll. We were members for nearly thirty years, but if the plan is to make it Williston North, we would not support the city buying it and would prefer a private entity that understood Ruth Stricker's vision and	Maintain as it was, or leave it for a private entity to purchase and manage.
820	Resident		If the Marsh is a viable fitness center, then a private company like Lifetime Fitness will buy it otherwise let a commercial enterprise buy the property. Senior housing with the Marsh amenities is at the top of my wishlist. Too many senior housing units are built next to freeways and in retail settings.
825	Resident		events, co-working space
826	Resident		The restaurant should remain open for parties, events, weddingsetc. the gift shop that used to be open there' was wonderful. It could house the senior mills gift shop that is currently next to the old Dicks store in Minnetonka. The therapy pool should service seniors and other community members who are rehabbing.
827	Resident		Nature center only for outdoor use- not the building. There are many people with health conditions that use The Marsh therapeutic pools. It is wonderful to have a fitness / wellness center for adults only.
828	Frequently visit the city	The future plans for the Marsh should strive to keep it as it has been. I knew from many years ago, the club dues and other income did not meet the bottom line, it only kept going by Ruth's influx of cash yearly. She was clearly not a business woman. I believe that if most of the amenities can be "leased" to those who know how to keep a balanced budget sheet it can remain the "gem" that it has always been. I am sure you have had other comments similar to mine. Thanks so much to the City of Minnetonka taking this on. I think if you put out requests for leasing opportunities, there would be significant	Rent out banquet facility. Rent out hotel rooms with better marketing of this feature. Pool classes and therapy pool classes are big draw. Keep them and expand the schedule as income allows. Keep dues to offset expenses. Utilize as a Senior Center.
829	Frequently visit the city		provide ongoing services for health, wellness and community
830	Resident		I think there could be some interesting brew hall/food concept that can act as a community asset along with added trails and public plaza features
831	Resident		Retreat center, meeting facilities, overnight opportunities, mindfulness
832	Resident		pickleball
838	Resident		Besides being a Marsh member, we have used the incredible restaurant for over 30 years until the YMCA shut it down. We ate there at least once a week and often 3-4 times. It was healthy yet delicious cooking and the having both the sit-down restaurant and more informal cafe worked well, along with music nights in the cafe, etc.
841	Frequently visit the city		Keep it as it was. Especially the therapy pool and Connection with Merz Physical Therapy. Bring back the restaurant, clothing store and small hotel. Many women traveling for business felt it was the fantastic and safe. I met a woman whose husband a well known wood carver had died suddenly and her family had pooled their money to give her a week from Christmas to New Year's day. It is a wonderful place for a conference. I am from Golden Valley. Joining the Marsh led me to Lake Winds coop, donating weekly you're your food shelf, buying gas, buying bread, using the hardware store, grabbing a burger at Snuffy's and frequenting the nursery. I would never have done any of this without the Marsh. I had joined to heal from rotator cuff surgery. I taught art in EP and would stop to exercise and meditate and heal. Marsh allowed me to teach for two more years. I thought it was only for rich people, but I met people some older ladies who were not wealthy. I met some great women and their wisdom resonates with me. The Marsh surely sets Minnetonka apart from surrounding suburbs. You have great schools too!
843	Resident		Please pursue Ruth's Vision for a special center for balance and fitness
850	Resident		Healthy dining, perhaps in partnership with Lakewinds
851	Resident		Natural food options and holistic care options in house
853	Resident		I would like to see the senior programs moved to the Marsh. It is cramped at city hall and Williston is too noisy and too full. I would like to see the the spiritual, healthy, and senior programs continue at the Marsh. If the fee was smaller I would be there more often.
855	Resident		I would love to see the Marsh continue to be what it is. And to keep Merz PT there as well. Please do not develop this beautiful piece of property. Ruth would be devastated if it was destroyed and turned into any other type of real estate. Thanks for the opportunity to voice my thoughts.
859	Frequently visit the city		Spa, physical therapy, all choices
860	Resident		The City should purchase, I envision a Campus A and Campus B with Williston Ctr. The Marsh has trails and as an extension of the facility for everyone to enjoy. Williston is at near full capacity and adding another location helps the community as the baby boomer age (me included.) Charge more for the Marsh when used to recoup revenue and keep the facility similar to what is offered now.

866	Resident		As a resident of Minnetonka for almost 10 years now, I'm thrilled the city stepped up to make a purchase offer. I hope it maintains ownership of the Marsh and gives the pools and fitness areas a deep clean and some cosmetic upgrades and makes it available to the public. The grounds are great and would make a good place for a nature center. I would also like to see more programming for children. It's nearly impossible to get swimming lessons at Williston - they sell out immediately. Our city's libraries are small and don't have room for kids' story times, etc. Our neighborhood has tons of young children, and using this special space to support all of our young families, as well as elders, would be much appreciated and get a lot of use, plus encourage more families to choose Mtkka as their home.
869	Resident		Without knowing the current capacity and usage of Williston, impossible to know if more rec facilities are required. Combo us seems most compatible.
870	Frequently visit the city		Keep the Marsh as a healthy & healing center with a restaurant that encourages community and space available for community group meetings.
876	Frequently visit the city		Continue to operate the Marsh as it has been from the beginning. Increase membership and take other steps to it no longer loses money.
877	Resident		Specifically Health and Wellness Center including educational classes for all ages, open fitness area (exercise equipment) for seniors, warm therapy pool, physical therapy, regular pool (for seniors)
880	Resident		I am all for the city buying it and deciding which will be the best option, either running it or selling it to someone to run. I only used it for kids swimming lessons which were great there. I have seen the proposal by the Reeds and it sounds very complex and expensive. I know some are very connected to Ruth's vision for this place but it may may not be sustainable to be run exactly the same. I think we should think about what parts can still benefit the community and what parts may not. I am not sure how I feel about it being only adults as it has a great warm pool and was a great place for kids private swimming (obviously that didn't make most of the \$, but it might be a part). Children were not allowed to use the locker rooms for changing. The instructors were great. It didn't have a specific level set and the children really advanced. As far as a cafe, spa, and events I think it would have to be looked in to what parts will make enough money. There is a lot of space. Might it be renovated for more rooms for classes where multiple people are in? Is there an indoor walking track already? If not, is that an option? As far as I know we don't have that available in Minnetonka. Do we have places for seniors to "hang out" in Minnetonka, would that be something? Also, I hear pickle ball is all the rage, should that be considered. I am a newer resident (10 years) to Minnetonka and I think The Marsh sounds great and I see great things going on there. What we need to think is "what is wellness today vs. 30 years ago. Some aspects may need to change and I know people love that place but it also has to be sustainable. I trust the city to do the research and make good choices on this space. With all that said I do not want to see condos out there! I don't know about tbt need for a "nature center" as we have so much nature outside all around us.
885	Frequently visit the city		I live in Uptown Mpls. and I come to the Marsh at least 3 days a week - I take swim lessons there and bring my grandchildren there for swim lessons. I see the Marsh as a Nature Center, as a Recreational Center, and as a Health Center for all ages (which is a form of Senior Programming) precisely because it offers all of these things to the community. Incorporating all ages as it does is especially important for the health and well being of all ages. We need each other and we need exposure to each other through our life cycle - every age has something to give to every other age. The Marsh offers beauty, harmony and peace for everyone which is critical for health. The shortcoming that I see is its lack of diversity. A remedy for that could be offering transportation to elders of color so they could access and contribute to the wonderful health and enrichment resources that the Marsh has provided for decades. I do not think that housing fits in this space because it would mean building in this space and that would take away from the natural beauty of it and Natural Beauty is so necessary for health. In the meantime, I do plan to get to know the Williston Center. Thank you for providing the space to speak.
889	Resident		Event center and restaurant
894	Resident		Should be privately owned!!
895	Resident		A private person/entity should own this property and it should be up to them what they want to do with in in compliance with zoning ordinances, etc.
897	Resident		Health center
901	Resident	If the purpose of purchasing the property is to limit real estate development, I think it's a great idea. We do not want to turn our community into a grid-locked traffic mess. What about using a portion of the property for rental bikes, rental tubes, snack shake. Other places that I have lived have viable business on bike routes for bike repair, rental, etc... I have not yet seen that in MN with the exception of the coffee shop on the Hopkins trail.	

905	Frequently visit the city	I have been a long time member of the Marsh (dating back to 2000). Over the past 20+ years I have seen how the Marsh has positively supported a great number of community members young and old (from Minnetonka and the surrounding areas); especially those with age-related issues, "new exercisers (those who may be somewhat intimidated by the larger health and fitness centers), children (e.g. learning to swim), rehabilitation patients, and those who want to exercise in a less intimidating or "high intensity" environment characteristic of other fitness clubs. Recently, I had the opportunity to collaborate with the Marsh on my fall prevention research in older adults (I'm a current faculty member at the University of St. Thomas that studies specialized exercise on the major determinants of falls).The facility provided an ideal environment to study the effects of adapted exercise on fall risk and health in older adults. The research (now in its third phase) was a huge success; however, in addition to improving the research variables of interest, we saw a community develop. I have conducted research in other facilities across the Twin Cities; I am convinced the Marsh itself contributed greatly to this community building. I do not want to bore you with the statistics about health and community engagement. My fear, after spending months with members and non-members who participated in the research, is that not having the Marsh as an option (especially for the older patrons), many will stop exercising and/or interacting with their community altogether. That may sound overdramatic however, for many, the small community gathering places, like the Marsh, are many in the older age groups main community engagement. My hope is that	Keep the health club as is...selling memberships, providing classes, training, etc. Allow the current tenant (physical therapy) to rent space and/or buy into the building if they haven't already. Rent the restaurant space to a local restaurateur, and the same for the hair salon/massage therapy areas. That way the city has consistent income from its renters (and not have to deal with space upkeep/remodeling). On a side note, I always thought the Marsh could be a leader in older adult health (body and brain), wellness, and education. Older adults are not looking to be functional in their environment, they want to be able to "perform" and be active members. The Marsh could be the leader in adult performance. Thank you
907	Resident		needs restaurant, therapy pool and spa and salon facilities
911	Resident		Health Club just as it is now. I'd like it to remain the same with a few modern updates.
914	Resident		The Marsh has traditionally been, since founding, a hub of community gatherings for various classes and events such as memorials, luncheons and business gatherings. I would like to see this activity continue along with the pools and training/rehabilitation facilities. Thank you for your consideration.
919	Frequently visit the city		Classes and social opportunities: Mental & physical health classes for all ages. Alternative health classes like Qigong Tai Chi Yoga. Mindfulness MBSR training. Art , music & Literature display, performance & discussions. Multigenerational and multicultural experiences. Public and civic life gathering space. Rental space for community groups.
923	Resident		I also like the idea of a nature center but we truly are blessed in Minnetonka with wonderful access to nature through our incredible city and county park system. I would prioritize rec facilities/pools and senior programming, in that order.
924	Live elsewhere, but work in the city		Continue the good work that is being done at the Spa here as well. As the YMCA closed the gift shop, overnight accommodations, and the restaurant, members spent less time here and foot traffic dwindled; these things along with the Spa are a big part that made this a place of "destination" not just "another fitness center".
937	Resident		pickel ball etc
939	Frequently visit the city		The spa is amazing
940	Frequently visit the city		wellness community center
942	Resident		It would be really nice to keep spa even if you lease it out to some one else to operate. Also, the casual restaurant - maybe something could be done in partnership with an entrepreneur or Lakewinds for casual meals - soup, salad, sandwiches. Merz is excellent and should stay on site. Even my teenager has gone there for PT and loves it! Lots of senior programming but encourage families too via Tae Kwon Do classes and childcare. Seniors benefit from interaction with young people. Most of all Bring/maintain the holistic health philosophy and speakers for the entire community. So thankful our city is Moving forward to purchase the Marsh. Thrilled and very appreciative! This will be an excellent addition to the city offerings.
943	Resident		Maintain the therapy spool
944	Resident		Therapy pool
946	Resident		Don't purchase
947	Resident		Spa/massage
954	Resident		Spa
958	Resident		Maybe move The Landing to the Marsh making it more accessible to more people. A farm to table restaurant. Fitness classes for seniors in pools and training center.
961	Resident		To serve the same function as now
962	Resident		Spaces for children. Or carrying on the availability for overnight rental options as a restorative, affordable, retreat.
967	Resident		Casual dining & gathering place
976	Resident		Anything that is kid friendly.

984	Resident		Space for people to get together and be creative. Make a special occasion card, come and listen to or grab/ check out an audio book or dvd/ cd. Kind of like the library but bring it back when u are done and no "Check outs or late fees" movie nights, music nights by decade, dance lessons, community parties and bake sales, a place where people who have things to donate can give back to the community at no cost to either party.
986	Resident		I wonder why we need another "Williston" across the street. Perhaps reimagining this 7 acres for a different purpose is in order. Like the idea of plucking this gem from the jaws of developers focused on short-term profit.
989	Resident		It would be great to keep this location as a community/recreation spot. Would NOT like to see it turned into more high density housing.
994	Resident		Would love to see a restaurant establishment and Rec center family/kid centered. It's a bummer to live so close to Williston but we can't join based on our zip (we are deephaven). Lifetime is overpriced and over rated.
997	Resident		Love the idea of keeping Minnetonka historic. The city could absolutely use this as a recreational facility. This is the same reason I'm strongly opposed to rezoning Minnetonka mills. #minnetonkamatters #keepminnetonkaspecial
998	Frequently visit the city		Spa
1000	Frequently visit the city		Don't change a thing - just get membership back
1005	Resident		Indoor pickleball courts??
1006	Frequently visit the city		It is an absolute must to retain the Therapy Pool at The Marsh. There are many places for people to exercise in town, yet almost nowhere for those who need the benefits that this Therapy Pool has to offer. As one who used to frequent Courage Center's pool – The Marsh Therapy Pool is an absolute gem for those who suffer from illnesses where warm water therapy can aid one immensely.
1008	Frequently visit the city		Retaining the Therapy Pool is an absolute must. The population is aging and many people have no other outlet to recover from various ailments that a Therapy Pool can deliver. This is a gem that is vital for the lives of those who suffer from a multitude of issues - arthritis, total knee and hip replacements, fibromyalgia, the list goes on and on. There are many places for people to exercise and almost nowhere for people to take advantage of a Therapy Pool that was thought out with every need in mind from the ramp, to the whirlpool, to the varied degrees of depth of water to walking lanes - if they could double or triple the size - that would be amazing, yet we will take it as it is - thank you.
1009	Resident		meeting rooms, Climate Change Educational Center
1011	Resident		Prime objective to be viable taxable real estate. 2ndary – affordable co-operative apartments on upper stories. 3rdly - mixed commercial use on ground floor.
1012	Resident		Keepi as is. The marsh is a wonderful center for health and wellness
1017	Resident		The information released is so vague and incomplete as to be meaningless. Associated maps lack virtually all street and highway names. The scale is off and cherry-picked projects are listed.
1018	Resident		Restaurant- the city doesn't have many and it has a great partaking lot
1019	Resident		Waste of taxpayer money
1031	Frequently visit the city		As a Deephaven resident, I've wished I could join Williston. We pay to use basketball courts, batting cages, swimming pools. I think this is a great idea! The marsh was created with seniors in mind, so if it will be intended for families to use, there's a considerable amount of work ahead.
1032	Resident		The Marsh facility would serve as a wellness center and companion to Williston. Perhaps a 55+ partner - retaining the wellness and supportive experiences such as yoga, Thai Chi and therapeutic pools that are often needed for those recovering from injury due to later in life concerns. Further I would like to see mental health incorporated into part of the Marsh offerings - the guest rooms and meeting rooms currently at the Marsh could be converted into affordable office space for Mental Health Providers. Having been a member of the Marsh community for 14 years and a community mental health provider in Minnetonka for 5, I have often wondered about an integration of this sort into the City's efforts toward community wellbeing.
1034	Resident		A larger version of Williston with more equipment and fitness classes. Williston is just too crowded. Something that will compete with Lifetime at a much lower price for the members.
1036	Frequently visit the city		I love the Marsh! Please keep it what it is!
1037	Frequently visit the city		Health club for All ages.
1041	Resident		Other community use
1044	Frequently visit the city		If at all possible, The Marsh should revert to its original purpose and function. It was a unique facility and as such was a credit to the City of Minnetonka.
1048	Resident		This is an unnecessary expense to tax payers and makes housing unaffordable. When you find a way to cut expenses, then you can say you created affordable housing.
1054	Resident		Reasonably priced offices for psychologist and counselors to help residents, maintain the exercise center, senior center, nature center
1056	Resident		mental health healthy guidance center - Adult only center (mostly) or 16+

1063	Resident		If the city want affordable housing it's seems like a better location than ramming in a R1 single family home neighborhood (mills church)
1065	Resident		Please dont tear down this facility. I am a disabled resident with severe sensory issues. I finally was at a place where i could possibly go to a facility and im crushed at the thought that this space might not exist anymore. I worked a combined 6 years at the marsh when i was younger and it offers spaces like the closed track and warm therapy pool that are unique and irreplaceable. Please, at risk of sounding dramatic for some of us this is the only place that is brain or body friendly. Please let us have access to this piece of peace.
1069	Resident		With more indoor tennis facilities as well
1072	Resident		Continue the restaurant and dining facilities. Also programming on health and cultural issues. Definitely NOT housing.
1074	Resident		Facility should be opwn to all ages. Operate on a break-even basis (i.e. not subsidized).
1077	Resident		Event use weddings business meetings convention
1082	Resident		Rental for retreats, executive or other; event rental
1084	Resident		Private industry.
1085	Resident		knock down and rebuilding a nature and climate change center
1087	Resident		not get involved in purchase of Marsh or land.
1090	Resident		Level building and use land to create a nature preserve.
1091	Resident		Would definitely like to see something that all community members have access to enjoy. Not interested in any High density housing.
1092	Resident		I would like to see a co-working and community space for business/meetings. This would complement the use as a fitness and community center, and bring professionals together. Also, I support a space for celebrating and teaching the Native American history in the Minnetonka area.
1096	Resident		The Marsh ran as a deficit on a monthly basis. It's a loser and in need of lots of repairs.
1103	Frequently visit the city		I was told recently about The Marsh as a place with holistic services for mind and body wellness. I'm sad that I didn't learn about it sooner, as it sounds like it would have been a haven for me as an invisibly disabled person in the metro area. A welcoming place for wellness in whatever way that works for each person is an invaluable asset, especially in a world where gyms and recreation centers are often unwelcoming to those with disabilities or who want to focus on anything other than weight loss.
1105	Resident		Tear it down and convert it back to nature.
1109	Resident		Converge services like the soa and tehab!
1112	Frequently visit the city		As a member of the Marsh for over 15 years after a move to the area, I was drawn to Ruth Stricker's vision of blending East/West wellness, striking and innovative, and still singular in fitness and health contexts, which are seldom successfully merged. My hope is that Minnetonka will continue the Marsh unique commitment to East/West programming and services as a complement to Williston, while also integrating new programming that explores and encourages community dialogue, regarding environmental awareness (the marshland, our lakes, energy consumption); gender issues; and racial justice, including much for us to learn and respect re: Native American founding communities and issues. I see this as an extraordinary, once-ever opportunity for action, to extend and make concrete the welcoming stance articulated on the Minnetonka City home page. (My church reviewed city home pages re: racial and environmental awareness; Minnetonka led them all). There is a tremendous unmet need in our community for such a center, in addition to the present community education classes. I can see such a center both acknowledging Stricker's vision (now widely accepted) and also enrich it and point forward to engage with our 21st century issues. I would be happy to join in on a visioning team, but will also happily cheer you on from the sidelines! (note that I am a Deephaven resident, which could I imagine prevent my participation). I can't offer specific expertise beyond years of community programming in the arts, and a deep appreciation of leaders who have the strength and focus to bring forth a vision that benefits others. I say, onward! Finally, thank you for requesting public input, so critical with such a place and site, which would be a terrible loss on several levels if it was developed. I should add that housing is absolutely important, but to dig and develop such a unique site would remove this treasure from what I can see would serve as a welcoming place for all of our neighbors and future generations who enjoy the lakes and wish to protect them. With heartfelt hopes that what will emerge will demonstrate Minnetonka's leadership for the region and state, Betty Bright bettytbright@gmail.com 952.454.4182
1118	Resident		NO APARTMENTS or housing on this property that is about nature and wellness for Minnetonka residents.
1119	Resident		Would love to see wellness incorporated into it. More family friendly facilities - classes and things you can take your kids to (swimming, recreational classes, music/nature classes, imaginative play etc). Williston is always so crowded.
1122	Resident		Affordable housing
1123	Resident		Wedding Venue--my first and only visit to the space was for a friend's wedding. I now live within 1 mile of the Marsh. Despite being initially rained out on the back deck, the space was incredible. I'm not sure who catered out of the kitchen, but it was a fantastic day (and could be a good revenue generator!)

1130	Resident		The city doesn't need this. Property taxes are too high already.
1131	Resident		No subsidized housing or rental.
1138	Resident		An affordable natural based preschool center, local art gallery, coffee shop/small music venue
1139	Frequently visit the city		gathering & event space
1151	Resident	I would be in favor if it is financially sustainable and doesn't raise the tax burner of Minnetonka residents	
1153	Resident		How much are my taxes going up to subsidize the Marsh as requested by Marsh users from Edina, Plymouth EP and other unknown locations?
1162	Resident		Taxable real estate
1167	Resident		N/A - please don't buy it.
1174	Resident		Drop proposal, let Y solicit bids from commercial real estate interests. This area of Minnetonka already offers multiple recreational options, unlike SE / Opus corridor. Residents of the sizable apartment construction underway in that area should be top priority for any new city-owned recreational facility.
1176	Resident		Why are we spending this money? Do we really have to spend expansion money at city hall? Taxes are unreasonable and the council does NOT have a mandate to do as it pleases
1180	Resident		Should NOT be housing
1182	Resident		Minnetonka needs a fine arts center similar to the one in Hopkins. Theatre, live music, and arts programs would be a wonderful addition to our city.
1184	Frequently visit the city		I think The Marsh should continue, with additional community wellness initiatives, added childcare to get membership up, please keep it open to non residents! Also there is the option to bolster parts of the building revenue stream, like reinvigorating the conference area & renting out the rooms for retreats etc. Minnetonka could be a nationwide leader in creating a "blue zone" thru The Marsh - it already is this for many members.
1187	Resident		Access for all Minnetonka residents, as the Marsh has been a rather high-end facility which may not be affordable for some Minnetonka residents.
1188	Resident		Cutting-edge wellness space the provides access to a range fo classes at an affordable rate for all Minnetonka residents, that could space from yoga to nutrition to native gardening to crafts
1192	Live elsewhere, but work in the city		Work out gym, let a public company run it not the stupid city. Sell to the Ymca. Id way rather go to lifetime in mtka and spend \$200 every month than any city owned gym.
1200	Frequently visit the city		Activities for kids so that parents are able to work out (just like at the Williston Center).
1208	Resident		Splash pad or outdoor pool as Minnetonka does not have this amenity.
1222	Resident		The Marsh is first and for most a unique facility that offers fitness and wellness activities primarily for seniors and folks with disabilities. That should be maintained and expanded as soon as possible. The Marsh can be self supporting if run in a business like manner. Restoring its restaurant, spa and shop on a leased basis could reduce overhead and generate revenue to support other activities. In the past it has been a desirable venue for events. That too should be explored and hopefully reinstated. The property is not conducive to having children use it, except for some swim lessons. Restoring the child care facility however could allow parents and grandparents who have child care responsibilities to use the facility and broaden the membership demographic. In the past, a wide range of programing was offered at The Marsh and often it was open to the public. This would be another good use, not only for seniors whose current activities could easily be moved to the property, but also topics of interest to the community at large. This is a great opportunity for Minnetonka and it is very forward thinking of the city to take advantage of it.
1224	Resident		I think you should continue following Ruth Dayton's vision for the Marsh which has always been open to everyone. Seniors need a place to exercise and grow as people as well. The city should continue with a more holistic approach for the use of this space. Please don't turn it into another Wiliston.
1228	Resident	The city does not need to buy additional parks and recreation areas and facilities. This will only add \$4 million plus to the budget PLUS additional costs every year, PLUS additional employees hired by the city. What is the total cost over the next ten years? How many employees will be added? The budget increase 27% from 2020 to 2023. (going from 36 million to 46 million). Continually increasing the budget is not sustainable and is driving	The city already has 20% of Minnetonka as parks. It's not the obligation of the city to buy every property that comes up for sale.
1232	Resident		Sell it to reduce taxes.
1233	Resident		We need a center like others in area, ex: Maple Grove community center. More gymnasiums are most urgently needed. We have more than enough tennis courts, pools and ice rinks in the area. Also include the smaller cities like Deephaven and Woodland in your scope. These areas don't have any community centers at all.
1234	Frequently visit the city		As it was prior to the YMCA taking over - using all of the spaces - spa, entertainment facility, restaurant, store, gym/pools, etc.
1241	Resident		Some sort of programming/services that benefit the physical and mental health of ALL residents of Minnetonka. I hope the use of this property does not become exclusive to only those residents who can afford it, especially if taxpayer money is paying for its purchase.

1243	Frequently visit the city		Wellness, spa type facility
1251	Resident		Market rate and Senior housing with attached wellness center reusing portions of the existing facility.
1248	Resident		Shops and restaurants - commerce.
1249	Frequently visit the city		I love the Marsh, and the healing Therapy Pool. It is a wonderful facility, and such as asset to Minnetonka.
1253	Frequently visit the city		The marsh & property is a treasure & one of kind. It is a wonderful asset to the city of Minnetonka.
1264	Resident		Spa, restaurant and shop
1270	Frequently visit the city		Lease the business spaces- restaurant, spa, shop or some retail venue, special programs, retreat get away with the 6 rooms available there, specialty therapy pool classes and rehab, as an adult swim instructor it is a premier pools facility to teach adults... build this program, meeting place for many in restaurant space, conference and catering opportunities and beautiful event space.
1276	Resident		Let it be purchased and developed to keep it on the tax roles. There is no need to spend tax dollars to reduce our Minnetonka / Hennepin County real estate tax base
1277	Resident		I really like the calm peacefulness of the Marsh, especially in contrast to the Williston Center. So much of the city recreational budget seems focused on kids and I would like this one place to focus on adults, maybe even to 55+ adults. No children in sight!
1278	Resident		If the city buy this it should be open to all citizens of Minnetonka with the same pricing as the Williston club. Maybe adults only.
1279	Frequently visit the city		You and family programs
1285	Resident		I do not believe the city should only businesses.
1290	Frequently visit the city		Revive the restaurant
1292	Resident		Support Ruth Strikers Mission to degree possible. Holistic approach that combines physical, emotional and spiritual support while promoting and building community.
1293	Frequently visit the city		Continue the great fitness programs
1294	Frequently visit the city		How about a place like Edinborough in Edina ... where programs bring seniors and children/families together.
1304	Resident	I think the property could be used by local youth sports who lack indoor space for soccer, basketball, etc.	
1306	Occasional or rare visitor		Physical therapy with machines and exercise pool.
1307	Resident		Expand available meeting space for community.
1311	Resident		spa/café/rec center
1316	Resident		Maybe a space like Brookview in golden valley with indoor play space, food, outdoor space, indoor conference spaces. Etc.
1323	Frequently visit the city		Would love to see a public/private partnership in which the city allows a private group to fully realize Ruth's vision of true health and wellness, which includes alternative forms of healing. If the city was to run it, I'd be scared it would either become another rec center/YMCA/typical fitness center or turned to western medical model approach to health. This is a chance for Minnetonka to lead in alternative healing, just as Ruth always imagined, complete with an organic, sustainable restaurant, chiropractors, keeping Merz Physical Therapy (their approach to holism is vital), functional medicine and nutrition, acupuncturists, and fitness. It has to keep its focus about community, including all ages of our community- this is what will also make it different from say, Lifetime. I'd rather a private business be the one to invest in this than using tax payer money to do this.
1324	Resident		It would a great spot for a restaurant since there is nothing else nearby. It would also be a great space for a nature center and a wonderful gathering space for community ed classes and events. Maybe it could be both? It's so accessible and has such great parking, the options are endless. Please, not housing.
1326	Resident		Develop it like downtown wayzata with restaurants, shops a beer hall like the market at Malcom yards in Minneapolis
1328	Resident		Restaurant/pub Spa
1329	Resident		I love what Brookview has for community space
1331	Resident		Central gathering space with restaurants similar to Malcom Yards with different cuisines
1333	Resident		NO HOUSING!!!!
1335	Resident	Depends on how city utilizes the space	Lease out space and put profits in Minnetonka sovereign wealth fund to grow over time and benefit the city in several ways (education, infrastructure, tax relief, etc.)
1336	Resident		Fitness center with more expanded rehab services
1338	Frequently visit the city		Spa. Use for pedicures by medical certified staff needed by diabetics and others with foot problems. Need healthy feet not decorated feet. Restaurant with healthy food also nice with view and patio.

1339	Frequently visit the city		Medically focused spa and wellness center. Physical Therapy. Restaurant with healthy food. See nothing in proposal about spa. Open ASAP for medical certified pedicures. Member there for over 20 years until moved but still come for pedicures monthly even though drive 20 - 30 minutes. Keep limited kids to keep relaxing atmosphere except for baby swim lessons or kids therapy.
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