

**Minutes
Minnetonka City Council
Monday, February 8, 2021**

1. Call to Order

Mayor Brad Wiersum called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call

Council Members Brian Kirk, Rebecca Schack, Deb Calvert, Susan Carter, Bradley Schaeppi, Kissy Coakley and Brad Wiersum were present.

Wiersum read a prepared statement noting the Minnetonka City Council held a special meeting prior to this meeting to conduct the city manager annual performance evaluation for the period January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. He explained the city council evaluated City Manager Barone on six different priorities and accomplishments, and scored her performance accordingly. Overall, the city council views City Manager Barone's performance as consistently meeting or exceeding expectations. He thanked Ms. Barone for being able to adapt, for her strong leadership and for her commitment to excellence throughout 2020.

4. Approval of Agenda

Schack moved, Calvert seconded a motion to accept the agenda with addenda to Item 15.A. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

5. Approval of Minutes:

A. January 11, 2021 study session

Kirk moved, Calvert seconded a motion to accept the minutes, as presented. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

B. January 25, 2021 regular meeting

Calvert noted she had spoken to staff regarding a small change she would like made to the minutes.

Kirk moved, Calvert seconded a motion to accept the minutes, as corrected . All voted "yes." Motion carried.

C. February 1, 2021 special closed meeting

Kirk moved, Calvert seconded a motion to accept the minutes, as presented. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

D. February 1, 2021 study session

Kirk moved, Calvert seconded a motion to accept the minutes, as presented. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

6. Special Matters:

A. Recognition of former charter commission member Karen Anderson

Wiersum recognized former charter commission member Karen Anderson and thanked her for her 30+ years of dedicated service to the City of Minnetonka.

Karen Anderson thanked the city for the opportunity to serve on the charter commission. She explained this group had a great deal of dedication to the city. She stated she was proud of how this group worked to protect the city's charter. She thanked previous mayors and city councils for allowing her to serve this community. She commented she appreciated all of the efforts of the current city council and City Manager Geralyn Barone. The council offered former Mayor Anderson a round of applause.

Schack thanked former Mayor Anderson for being a great mentor to her and wished her all the best in her retirement.

Calvert explained former Mayor Anderson was a great friend and supporter of women in government. She thanked Ms. Anderson for being an inspiration to her.

Carter thanked former Mayor Anderson for her tremendous service to the community and for her unwavering support.

Schaeppi thanked former Mayor Anderson for her assistance with the ranked choice voting issue and for her years of dedicated service to the City of Minnetonka.

Kirk thanked former Mayor Anderson for her years of service to the city.

Coakley thanked former Mayor Anderson for her service and stated she looked forward to having coffee with her sometime in the future.

Wiersum discussed a trip he took to Washington DC with former Mayor Anderson. He thanked her for sharing her time and talents with the community and for loving the City of Minnetonka.

B. Boards and Commissions interviews – Senior Advisory Board

Wiersum discussed the process that would be followed for the senior advisory board member interviews. He noted the first person to be interviewed was Barbara Benjamin.

Barbara Benjamin introduced herself to the council. She reported she was a retired physician and has lived in Minnetonka for the past 25 years. She believed she was an innovator and leader. She stated she has been creating wearable art since retiring and served on the Upper Midwest Bead Society. She discussed the innovative work she completed in her dermatology practice and explained she was instrumental in hiring foreign speaking doctors to meet the needs of the community. She commented further on the importance of seniors having a strong social network and noted COVID-19 has been a huge barrier for seniors.

Wiersum asked what makes Minnetonka's mission or vision powerful. Ms. Benjamin stated when she first moved to Minnetonka, she enjoyed the trees and nature. She indicated Minnetonka was a special place where citizens were listened to.

Wiersum questioned how the board or commissions purpose aligns with her interests and expectations. Ms. Benjamin explained she was always about making things better. Now that she was a senior citizen there was a special space in her heart for other seniors. She reported seniors have a lot of life experience and have specific needs. She wanted to address these needs with quality and dependable services, city activities, places to get together. It was her hope Minnetonka could continue to further differentiate themselves from other communities by addressing ageism.

Wiersum asked what the most challenging aspect was of an increasingly diverse community. Ms. Benjamin reported every city was experiencing this. She stated the key was to understanding and acceptance of other cultures. She indicated communication was important in order to understand their needs, while providing them with love and support.

Wiersum inquired what it means to have a commitment to diversity and how has she demonstrated this commitment. Ms. Benjamin reported she hired a Somali physician and Hispanic physician to meet the special needs of their communities in south Minneapolis and Shakopee. She noted she took care of the needs of transgender patients when other doctors would not. She explained she had

facilitated surgeries out of the country which required her to fill out forms in French. She believed the country was better and stronger when there is diversity.

Wiersum asked when it comes to senior programming during the pandemic, are there ways the city could better support the senior community and post pandemic are there areas of focus the city should address. Ms. Benjamin stated pre-pandemic she understood seniors struggle with technology. She explained it was important for seniors to understand how to Facetime or Zoom. She suggested the city complete a tutorial in order to inform seniors on how to run these technologies in order to have human connection. She suggested art, jewelry making, or writing be considered for senior activities after the pandemic. She indicated seniors enjoy smaller groups that ran at a slower pace in order to get seniors involved. She reported her Upper Midwest Bead Society has many, many teachers and they would be happy to come in and provide tutorials for seniors. She suggested physical fitness classes also be offered and that lectures be given on how to maintain health once people are no longer working outside the home.

Wiersum questioned if there were any other boards or commissions she would like to serve on. Ms. Benjamin stated she would love to serve on the Park Board.

Wiersum asked what makes Minnetonka's mission or vision powerful.

Wiersum questioned how the board or commissions purposes aligns with her interests and expectations.

Wiersum asked what the most challenging aspect was of an increasingly diverse community.

Wiersum inquired what it means to have a commitment to diversity and how has she demonstrated this commitment.

Wiersum asked when it comes to senior programming during the pandemic, are there ways the city could better support the senior community and post pandemic are there areas of focus the city should address.

Wiersum questioned if there were any other boards or commissions she would like to serve on. She indicated she was a biologist and really enjoyed nature. She recommended the indoor markets be greater publicized in order to draw more people to this event.

Wiersum discussed the process that would be followed for the interviews for the 12 candidates noting the senior advisory board currently had five open seats. He reported the next candidate was Carol Seiler. He requested Ms. Seiler provide the council with a little bit about her background.

Carol Seiler explained she was currently the president of a Minnetonka senior cooperative board of directors and has lived in the city for over 40 years. She reported her background was in human resources at Honeywell, noting she worked there for 35 years. After leaving Honeywell, she worked for a small benefits consulting company that assisted small businesses with procuring and managing benefits. She noted she retired in 2013 and became the oldest interior design student in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area and has since earned her interior design degree.

Wiersum asked what makes Minnetonka's mission or vision powerful. Ms. Seiler stated the commitment to living in an inclusive community was important to her. In addition, she supported the city's commitment to sustainability. She appreciated the fact that Minnetonka was a place for everyone, which meant it was inclusive.

Wiersum questioned how the board or commissions purpose aligns with her interests and expectations. Ms. Seiler stated seniors are often times overlooked. She believed this needed to change. She reported seniors have a great deal of life experience and this needs to be tapped into for the benefit of the community. She commented this culture shifts the focus away from a person once they were done working. She supported the senior advisory board working to get the seniors more involved in the community.

Wiersum asked what the most challenging aspect was of an increasingly diverse community. Ms. Seiler stated exposure to and understanding of different cultures, mental and physical abilities, ethnicities, ages, and sexual orientation was important. She reported she grew up in Eden Prairie and there was virtually no diversity, which was the case for many others in her age group. She indicated the senior advisory board could assist the city in educating and exposing the senior community to its differences.

Wiersum inquired what it means to have a commitment to diversity and how has she demonstrated this commitment. Ms. Seiler stated this means not rushing to judgement when we interact with others who are different and making an effort to get to know this person even if the interaction is just in passing. She commented not rushing to judgement was key to her. She explained she appreciated the diversity in the community and noted she had the privilege of recruiting and selecting diverse individuals at Honeywell for 30+ years. She indicated she served as the vice chair of a non-profit company board of directors that operated inside the Lino Lakes correctional facility. She noted her employees were incarcerated for a variety of offenses. She commented further on how she approached accepting and appreciating diversity in this situation.

Wiersum asked when it comes to senior programming during the pandemic, are there ways the city could better support the senior community and post pandemic

are there areas of focus the city should address. Ms. Seiler stated she has spent a great deal of time talking to seniors in Minnetonka, Eden Prairie and Plymouth. She understood seniors were concerned about where they can get a vaccine during the pandemic. She reported this information was very valuable to seniors. She indicated seniors were feeling very isolated during the pandemic. She suggested the city set up phone buddies to make calls to seniors. She recommended post-pandemic the city address the adjustment to transitioning back into the population. She recommended the city reach out to the senior population in order to learn what their changing needs may be.

Wiersum questioned if there were any other boards or commissions she would like to serve on. Ms. Seiler stated she would be willing to consider serving on any board or commission where her skills and abilities would benefit the organization. She explained she has enjoyed living in Minnetonka for many years.

Wiersum thanked Ms. Seiler for her time. He discussed the process that would be followed for the interviews and noted the city would be getting back to her. He reported the next interview would be with Carole Harris. He requested Ms. Harris introduce herself to the council.

Carole Harris introduced herself to the council noting she moved to Minnetonka over 40 years ago and has lived in the same house this entire time. She noted she lives in the Glen Lake area of the community. She explained she loved the trees in the city. She noted she was an elementary school teacher and also worked in the ESL program. She reported she was 82 years old and hoped to remain very active. She noted she retired from teaching in 2003.

Wiersum asked what makes Minnetonka's mission or vision powerful. Ms. Harris stated she lives the wording, how Minnetonka worked to be inclusive, residents, workers and visitors. She appreciated the city's dependable services. She indicated she was very turned off by the mission and vision of the City of Edina.

Wiersum questioned how the board or commissions purpose aligns with her interests and expectations. Ms. Harris reported one of her interests was to learn more about Minnetonka. She indicated her knowledge stops at Excelsior Boulevard and Highway 7 and 101. She stated she was knowledgeable about the Glen Lake area but she hoped that being involved would make her more knowledgeable about all of Minnetonka. She stated she wrote to the mayor about the outdoor market and appreciated the fact he responded promptly.

Wiersum asked what the most challenging aspect was of an increasingly diverse community. Ms. Harris commented understanding the lifestyle of the new people in the community was a challenge. She anticipated people were becoming very comfortable with who we are and who has been in the community and the time

isn't taken to find out about people who are not exactly like us. She discussed how she was working to educate herself and the children in her neighborhood when they are trying to sell her items at Christmas time. She indicated seniors can feel very uncomfortable spending taxes for schools for students that aren't actually living here. She understood the city was drawing students to the community due to the great schools, which meant the class sizes were increasing. She explained seniors were concerned about their money and how it was being spent. She believed the city needed to explain the good parts about having diversity in the area.

Wiersum inquired what it means to have a commitment to diversity and how has she demonstrated this commitment. Ms. Harris reported 30 years ago she hosted a family that came from Russia and has kept in touch with this family through the years. She explained she has learned a lot from this family. She noted she worked at the ICA food shelf which was open to diversity. She discussed the different languages that were on the shelves at the food shelf and how this helped those facing food insecurity. She commented further on the migrants that were coming into the community and how she demonstrated openness to these new people in the community.

Wiersum asked when it comes to senior programming during the pandemic, are there ways the city could better support the senior community and post pandemic are there areas of focus the city should address. Ms. Harris explained she and her husband see a need to better engage with seniors without computers. She reported seniors may not accept calls when the number is unknown and for this reason the city should be sending letters to these seniors. She stated post pandemic there needs to be better education regarding nursing homes and senior buildings in order to prepare seniors for a transition in housing. She indicated her granddaughters bought her program called Story Press where every week they come up with a question that allows her to write a story about. She stated she has answered questions about her mother and father. She believed this was a great way to get stories out that the seniors have in a way to share them with their families.

Wiersum questioned if there were any other boards or commissions she would like to serve on. Ms. Harris stated there were no other boards or commissions she was interested in serving on.

Wiersum thanked Ms. Harris for her time. He discussed the process that would be followed for the interviews and noted the city would be getting back to her. He reported the next interview would be with Douglas Scott. He requested Mr. Scott introduce himself to the council.

Douglas Scott stated he was a recent resident of Minnetonka. He noted he has lived in Toledo, Ohio most of his life. He explained he has a son that lives in St.

Louis Park and he has visited the area many times which led him to move to the Watertown Place apartment complex. He indicated after searching for apartments for some time, an apartment finally opened up. He stated he appreciated the welcome he received from the seniors in his apartment complex. He reported he worked for Proctor & Gamble for 35 years in sales and marketing. After Proctor & Gamble he moved to the University of Toledo working in workforce development, providing training for employees, and also providing assessments companies could use to hire employees. He explained he has a great deal of background working with people. He reported he retired in 2009, but could not just retire so he started a consulting business to focus on serving the companies he worked with on assessments in northwest Ohio. He commented he has found that when you become older you can't just retire, you have to have a focus. He stated he has loved the move to Minnesota and believes this state was beautiful.

Wiersum asked what makes Minnetonka's mission or vision powerful. Mr. Scott explained he was very familiar with mission and vision statements. He appreciated how powerful and precise the city's mission and vision statements were. He noted these statements were right to the point, addressed inclusivity, quality public services and the community being a special place for everyone. He saw the strength in both of these statements and commended the council for developing these statements.

Wiersum questioned how the board or commissions purpose aligns with his interests and expectations. Mr. Scott explained he was used to working in a diverse environment and he valued diversity.

Wiersum asked what the most challenging aspect was of an increasingly diverse community. Mr. Scott stated this came down to treating everyone fairly and without bias. He indicated these must be the city's guiding principles and challenges that everyone in the community must work towards.

Wiersum inquired what it means to have a commitment to diversity and how has he demonstrated this commitment. Mr. Scott stated based on his previous experiences in sales, he has had to work with diverse groups of people and he believed this has served him well in valuing diversity. He described how he has worked with people to become better people and how this has made him a better person.

Wiersum questioned if there were any other boards or commissions he would like to serve on. Mr. Scott stated he would be willing to serve on any board if there was a need. He noted he was primarily interested in serving on the senior advisory board.

Wiersum explained the council would be conducting interviews over several more meetings and the city would be getting back to him in March.

7. Reports from City Manager & Council Members

City Manager GERALYN BARONE reported on upcoming city events and council meetings. She explained city offices would be closed on Monday, February 15, 2021 for President's Day.

Wiersum stated he signed onto a statement of mayors against anti-Semitism from the US Conference of Mayors. He explained there were 219 mayors that had signed onto this statement. He believed it was important for the city to take a stand against anti-Semitism and bias.

Calvert commented during a time when anti-Semitism was at one of its all time highest rates since the holocaust, she applauded the mayor's efforts.

Calvert reported the League of Minnesota Cities was holding its Leadership Institute this month and she would be attending several of their training sessions. She encouraged her fellow councilmembers to sign up for training sessions with the League of Minnesota Cities.

Wiersum explained Councilmember Coakley, Councilmember Schack and he were also participating in this training. He indicated the League of Minnesota Cities does a great job providing training on a yearly basis.

8. Citizens Wishing to Discuss Matters not on the Agenda: None

9. Bids and Purchases: None

10. Consent Agenda – Items Requiring a Majority Vote:

A. Resolution approving a conditional use permit for an accessory apartment at 14303 Oakwood Road Extension

Calvert moved, Schack seconded a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-004 approving the request. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

B. Items related to a multi-family residential development by Dominion, at 11001 Bren Road East

Calvert moved, Schack seconded a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-005. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

C. Fiscal Agency Agreement related to EDA

Calvert moved, Schack seconded a motion to approve the Fiscal Agency Agreement. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

11. Consent Agenda – Items requiring Five Votes:**A. Resolution approving a conditional use permit, with parking variance, to expand Mercy Hill Church, a religious institution at 15408 and 15414 Minnetonka Industrial Road**

Kirk moved, Calvert seconded a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-006 approving the request. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

12. Introduction of Ordinances: None**13. Public Hearings: None**

Wiersum recessed the city council meeting.

Wiersum reconvened the city council meeting.

14. Other Business:**A. Items concerning Dicks Sporting Goods at 12437 Wayzata Boulevard:**

- 1. Amendment to an existing master development plan; and**
- 2. Building plans**

City Planner Loren Gordon gave the staff report.

Kirk asked if the height of the Dick's sign was similar to the original proposal. Gordon reported this was the case, noting there was more structure behind the parapet.

Kirk anticipated the sign plan would require an amendment for all stores over 25,000 and 35,000 square feet. Gordon stated the Dick's sign was taking up what the sign plan allows. He reported the tenants in the southern space would need a sign plan amendment.

Kirk questioned if a number of site improvements were now off the table, such as the pedestrian links. He inquired if these would come back into play in the future. Gordon discussed the strong commitment to the Ridgedale vision plan. He

indicated Brookfield has committed to completing the site improvements in the second phase of this project.

Wiersum commented on why the improvements were removed from the proposal and stated the applicant may have wanted to retain some leverage when modifications to the sign plan were needed in the future. Gordon stated he did not disagree with this perspective. He commented the other issue was the investment the developer has made in the site. He indicated the developer was proposing something more substantial in Phase I than was previously considered.

Wiersum asked for comments or question from the developer.

James Varsamis, Brookfield Properties, discussed the second phase of this project and commented on the work that would be done on the parking lot. He reported the partners in this project need to understand how the expenses tie to revenues, how the storefront could be changed or amended with the sign plan. He thanked everyone who has been assisting with this process. He stated he was very happy with the final design for Dick's Sporting Goods.

Shannon Yeakel, Dick's Sporting Goods representative, explained she appreciated staff working with her on this project. She stated she looked forward to opening this store later this year. She indicated she has a lot of new concepts that would be introduced in this store, new design elements, and a climbing wall.

Kirk asked how Dick's was treating the west side of the store facing the park. He suggested Dick's leave their options open because an entrance on the west side of the store may be warranted in the future. Ms. Yeakel stated she appreciated this suggestion. She noted the building would have one exterior entrance to begin with for operational purposes.

Schack commented she appreciated all of the work Brookfield and Dick's had done on this plan with staff. She discussed the value of having this portion of the mall full again with a new tenant. She appreciated how well done this storefront would be once completed and noted she would be supporting this request.

Calvert thanked staff for the detailed staff report. She appreciated how tasteful the final plans were compared to the original plans. She encouraged the developer to consider having a future entrance on the west side of the building given the fact this area would continue to develop.

Schaepfi thanked staff for all of their efforts on this project. He believed the final plans were more in line with the exterior designs for Ridgedale. He thanked the applicant for having a higher spend for the exterior of their building. He stated he was happy to see Dick's would have an active use within their

store. He commented it would be nice to see if the demand for parking really fit the business and wondered if the city could do better.

Kirk thanked the planning commission for completing the heavy lift on this project. It was his hope the site improvements would be completed in phase two of this project. He appreciated how the city was addressing the splitting of this big box retail site and anticipated this may occur again in the future. He supported the city continuing to look at the mall comprehensively. He believed this project was a win-win for the city and the applicant.

Calvert thanked Kirk for his comments and agreed a comprehensive approach to the Ridgedale Mall would be important in the future.

Wiersum thanked the planning commission, staff and applicant for their diligent work on this project. He appreciated the fact that the city's standards were not compromised in order to complete this project. He discussed how the world of retail was changing and he appreciated how Dick's was working to create a shopping experience for its patrons. He stated he fully supported this request. He indicated he appreciated the comments made by the council regarding the west front. He indicated he was excited Dick's was moving to the mall and would keep Ridgedale a flagship destination for residents in Minnetonka.

Kirk moved, Calvert seconded a motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-02 and Resolution 2021-007 approving the request. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

B. Diversity, equity and inclusion update

City Manager Geralyn Barone and City Attorney Corrine Heine gave the staff report.

Calvert stated it may be difficult for residents to understand what the staffing needs were to support commissions versus task forces. She requested further information from staff regarding this matter. Barone explained task forces were short lived and staff was stretched to meet the short term need. She reported a commission would require a fully staffed position.

Calvert indicated there were many different faiths being practiced in Minnetonka. She recommended that the city seek representation from each different faith for the diversity, equity and inclusion group. Police Chief Scott Boerboom thanked Councilmember Calvert for raising this concern. He discussed the work he does with the faith community and understood Bishop Johnson from Grace Apostolic was interested in serving on the committee.

Calvert explained she grew up in a house with restrictive covenants that prohibited Jews and Blacks. She indicated she was excited to see the city

addressing this type of language on behalf of all Minnetonka residents. She was a big fan of mapping prejudice in order to have them removed.

Coakley indicated she spoke with City Manager Barone regarding this topic noting she had a concern with who should be placed on the task force. She explained she would like to serve on this task force because she was the only councilmember that was a person of color. She feared that minority people on the task force would not say what they are thinking because of the leadership assigned to this group. She appreciated the fact that faith leaders would be at the table, but recommended the leadership be fully considered to make all members feel included. She questioned how long the task force would be in place noting she did not want things to be reverted after the work of the task force was completed. Barone commented further on the differences between a task force and commission. She explained a task force could really hit the ground running with specific tasks. She suggested a task force be created for one year and after that time, the council could consider forming a commission. She stated as far as representation, she would like to see Councilmember Coakley a part of the task force.

Coakley questioned how individuals would be recruited for the task force. She inquired how the city would reach a bigger audience, in order to ensure all people and faiths are represented on the task force. She believed there was more the city could do surrounding community engagement. She commented on how there were still families that did not have access to technology.

Kirk thanked Councilmember Coakley for asking for an additional \$50,000 in the budget to assist with this initiative. He appreciated the insights that have been provided by Councilmember Coakley and Councilmember Calvert. He recommended the task force membership be reconsidered to ensure it was not "too city heavy", but rather was a better reflection of the entire community. He appreciated the difference the city was trying to make in asking questions regarding diversity and inclusion. He commented further on the importance of having the right person in the DEI position.

Schack stated the Just Deeds program makes sense and she was pleased by the traction this program has received. She supported the city pursuing a DEI staff member in order to keep the city moving in a diversity and inclusion direction. She recommended Councilmember Coakley serve on the task force. She suggested the city err on the side of caution and stretch the number for this group. She believed the city would be well served by being more inclusive than exclusive with this group.

Schack noted she spoke to City Manager Barone regarding how large lot size requirements can hamper development of more affordable housing stock. She

suggested the council investigate this matter further and consider how to be creative in order to address this topic.

Schaeppi thanked City Manager Barone for her detailed update. He explained for the people who are tech savvy these individuals would be able to participate via the Minnetonka Matters platform. He stated he was excited to see the city moving in this direction in order to gain feedback from younger generations. He indicated he supported Councilmember Coakley's involvement on the DEI task force. He appreciated the city looking more closely into the special needs of the community. He hoped once people are brought to the table that each person within the community is heard. He believed this was very exciting and he looked forward to hearing more about this initiative.

Calvert commented over the summer after an emotional meeting she wrote a long email to the city manager and she appreciated the fact that a lot of her suggestions were being taken into consideration. She indicated it was incredibly exciting to see the city moving forward with a DEI task force. She agreed the city should cast a wide net for this group and was an opportunity for the city to hear new voices. She indicated she was comfortable with hiring a coordinator, noting this would be a long term position. She looked forward to the important groundwork this task force would put in place for the community. She commented on the important balancing act the city had with the leadership for this task force and understood the group had to be a safe space to allow people to speak their truth. She noted it would take a sustained effort over many years to undo 400 years of systemic racism and all kinds of bias.

Kirk recommended the LGBTQ community also be included in this task force.

Coakley commented the coordinator hired for the city needs to understand whole heartedly the work that needs to be done for the community. She wanted to ensure this person's skills and abilities were fully vetted. She thanked staff for all of their efforts on this initiative.

Wiersum stated he was excited about this discussion and the staff report. He commented on the conversations he has had with the city manager. He discussed the Just Deeds initiative in the city. He indicated the city may need to be creative in order to reach every segment of the community, even if this means through snail mail. He explained the idea of having a task force will inform the city's steps moving forward. He stated he liked the comments about the group size being diverse and larger. He reported a core could be formed among this group to drive the work that needs to be done. He recommended the council provide staff with further recommendations and comments for this task force. Barone thanked the council for their feedback.

Provided feedback on proposed task force and new staff position. No formal action required.

C. Resolution adopting the Opus Alternative Urban Areawide Review and Mitigation Plan

Community Development Director Julie Wischnack and City Planner Loren Gordon gave the staff report.

Kirk asked if the city were to max out on the 2040 comprehensive plan and the top end of scenario one was reached, could the council stop doing development in Opus. Gordon explained there was a complexity in monitoring what was happening in Opus. He stated it was not one particular development that will push the city over the edge. He reported the number of trips had a threshold and there were other influences on the plan, such as affordability numbers. Wischnack indicated the AUAR was about the tracking of where the city was at any given moment. She stated other documents do not have this same level of follow up.

Kirk stated it appears the infrastructure and traffic was the key on being able to move from scenario one to scenario two. He questioned if the lead time would allow the city to trigger it as its happening or would the city have to be proactive with infrastructure improvements. Wischnack explained the city would want to prepare for these improvement projects sooner rather than later. Even though the plan does not require some of these things, the city will want to prepare for more development in the future. She reported time was of the essence and more information would be coming to the council regarding this topic.

Calvert indicated she asked a similar question of the city manager this morning. She explained people from the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District have been reaching out to her regarding the salinity of the watershed. She stated she had been discussing road treatment with staff and she understood the city was working with building owners and businesses to encourage reducing the use of salt. She commented she read the packet over the weekend and she may not have fully comprehended all of the information. She discussed the treatment of stormwater and understood the city was trying to address all of the environmental concerns, which meant addressing stormwater from roads and parking lots. She questioned if the city was meeting all of the environmental needs from the watershed district within the AUAR. Gordon reported the AUAR was a comprehensive document that looks over top of the rules and does not cause the city to implement new rules. He explained the city has an outreach strategy for reaching property ownership groups about different techniques for spreading salt in the winter. Wischnack commented the document gives a snapshot of what you could expect in the stormwater arena.

Calvert expressed concern with how office space in Minnetonka would be impacted by COVID. She asked if the AUAR projections addressed this concern. Gordon stated this was a valid point. He discussed the numbers used within the comprehensive plan and understood the pandemic had changed things. He explained the council and staff would have to pay attention to the local market and what was happening. If there were things that needed to change within the AUAR and the comprehensive plan, staff would act accordingly.

Wiersum reported the AUAR was a snapshot of certain expectations for development within Opus. He questioned if there were two scenarios but not necessarily two options. Wischnack stated this was the case. She stated the city could not pick an option but rather would understand the impact of various scenarios.

Wiersum explained the city would then have to consider the expense of future development and how this development would impact the Opus area. Wischnack agreed stating the council would have to consider if the development can support the financing of the infrastructure.

Wiersum commented the city's commitment to sustainability should also be taken into consideration for future development in Opus.

Schaepfi stated he was pleased to see that partner agencies have thoroughly reviewed this document. He appreciated the comment from John Lee and the concern he raised regarding the city's level of recreation space. He thanked staff for all of their efforts on this comprehensive document.

Kirk commented on the recently approved projects that were not included in the AUAR. He anticipated that the city would be looking at scenario two within the AUAR and he hoped the city would be able to charge the projects as they develop to cover the necessary infrastructure to support this area of Minnetonka. Wischnack stated this was the city's plan.

Kirk recommended the city consider more park and open space within Opus for the young families that may be moving into this area. He stated he would like the council to take a comprehensive look at the entire Opus development going forward.

Calvert agreed with Councilmember Kirk stating a comprehensive approach to the Opus development would be important. She wanted to see Opus having enough parks and open space. She explained she appreciated the mayor's comments regarding sustainability within Opus and agreed the city should be charging enough to ensure the development had proper infrastructure.

Schack encouraged the council to be sensitive to the cost of future infrastructure noting she did not want future developers to be overly burdened.

Wiersum commented on the model that was used with the Bren Road interchange, noting businesses would be charged an access charge, which meant developers would be charged on a pro rata basis. He agreed with the comments that had been made regarding parks. He thanked staff for all of their efforts on this report. He explained Opus was 580 acres, which was .9 square miles. He recommended the city council look at some of the park and green space solutions regionally instead of just within Opus. He did not want to see a city within a city created, but rather to have this development be an extension of the city. He anticipated the city would have to remain nimble when reviewing future projects for Opus.

Kirk moved, Calvert seconded a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-008. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

D. Natural Resources Master Plan update

Natural Resources Manager Leslie Yetka gave the staff report.

Schaeppi asked if there would be any conversations regarding past plans and what worked versus what didn't work. He questioned if the city would be creating park specific plans. He inquired how the community could review this plan. Yetka reported the old plan was restricted solely to habitat assessment and specific strategies to restore these parks. She indicated the new plan assessed this same information, but was taking into consideration what strategies would work and what new technologies could be used, while also investigating where the community and habitats were trending. She commented in terms of park specific plans, staff had very specific park plans in mind and the city would be available for feedback from the public. She did not believe this information was available online, but could be viewed at city hall.

Coakley explained she received several emails from the public regarding park restoration and questioned if these should be forwarded onto staff. Yetka encouraged Councilmember Coakley to forward these emails to her.

Kirk asked if "The Friends of _ Park" would be started for each park in the city. Yetka reported these groups have been in touch with staff and more "Friends" groups are being organized. She indicated staff would be in touch with these groups going forward.

Carter questioned if these "Friends" groups were acting as a fundraising arm for the city, as separate 501c3's. Yetka explained for the most part these groups were loose knit volunteer groups. She reported the Friends of the Cullen Nature

Preserve has formed a 501c3. She understood this group was a resource to the city and provided a lot of volunteer hours. She noted this group has applied for grants collaboratively with the city and conducted their own fundraisers.

Calvert stated she asked the city manager about why this was under the purview of the park board and the sustainability commission. She explained this had to do with the focus of each body.

Wiersum reported the council would take another look at this plan later this summer.

Shack moved, Carter seconded a motion to refer to the park board for review. All voted "yes". Motion carried.

Wiersum recessed the city council meeting.

Wiersum reconvened the city council meeting.

15. Appointments and Reappointments:

A. Reappointment to Minnetonka boards and commissions

Wiersum gave the staff report.

Calvert moved, Kirk seconded a motion to approve the recommended appointment. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

16. Adjournment

Kirk moved, Calvert seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:16 p.m. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Becky Koosman
City Clerk