

**CITY OF SHOREVIEW
MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
March 9, 2015**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Martin called the workshop meeting of the Shoreview City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on March 9, 2015.

ROLL CALL

The following attended the meeting:

City Council: Mayor Martin; Councilmembers Quigley, Springhorn and Wickstrom

Councilmember Johnson was absent.

Staff: Terry Schwerm, City Manager
Rebecca Olson, Assistant to City Manager
Mark Maloney, Public Works Director

Metropolitan Council: Marie McCarthy
Anna Lee Garlitz, Senior Planner

Community Organizations Representatives: Tom Lemke, Shoreview Northern Lights Variety Band
Alex Kahler, Shoreview Northern Lights Variety Band
Jacci Krebsbach, Shoreview Historical Society
Kent Peterson, Shoreview Community Foundation
Bill Kiehnbaum, Shoreview-Einhausen Sister City Association
Sue Hanson-Leiser, Gallery 96

MEET WITH METROPOLITAN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE MARIE MCCARTHY

Presentation by Metropolitan Council Senior Planner Anna Lee Garlitz

The Metropolitan Council (Met Council) is a regional policy-making body, planning agency and provider of services for the Twin Cities metropolitan area. State law requires the Met Council to manage economic development through the Metropolitan Development Guide. There are three regional systems overseen by the Met Council: 1) water resources management, which includes wastewater treatment, surface water management and water supply; 2) transportation, which includes highways, transit, and aviation; 3) regional parks and trails.

The Met Council also has a Housing Policy Plan. Amendments are currently being considered for the Housing Policy Plan. The transportation plan was adopted in January and the regional

parks and trails plan in February. Public comments are currently being received on water resources through March 20, 2015.

Municipal Comprehensive Plans address accommodation of growth and redevelopment that is consistent with regional development plans and policies. Components of the Comprehensive Plan include efficient land use, water sustainability, water resources protection, access mobility and choice, housing affordability and choice, economic competitiveness. The handbook will provide more specific outlines in each of these areas for cities to prepare their updated Comprehensive Plans. Training will be offered to staff.

Thrive MSP 2040 is established by statute for the Met Council to “prepare and adopt, after appropriate study and such public hearings as may be necessary, a comprehensive development guide for the metropolitan area...” Outcomes anticipated from the Thrive project include:

- Stewardship - responsible management of regional resources and strategic investments for the future.
- Prosperity - investments to attract and retain successful businesses, a talented workforce, and consequently, wealth.
- Equity - connecting all residents to opportunity and creating viable housing, transportation, and recreation options for people of all races, ethnicities, incomes and abilities.
- Livability - how places and infrastructure create and enhance the quality of life that makes our region a great place to live.
- Sustainability - preserving the capacity to maintain and support the region’s well-being and productivity over the long term.

As a result of the Thrive program, geographic planning areas have been updated. The following Policy Plans that have been adopted by the Metropolitan Council include:

- Housing Policy Plan - adopted December 2014
- Transportation Policy Plan - adopted January 2015
- Regional Parks Policy Plan - adopted February 2015
- Water Resources Policy Plan - to be adopted in early 2015
- System Statements for individual communities - to be adopted by Fall 2015
- Comprehensive Plan Updates - due in 2018

Councilmember Wickstrom asked if there would be any way that the Comprehensive Plan could be done closer to the time when the next census occurs in 2020. Representative McCarthy responded that the dates are in state statutes. City Manager Schwerm noted that if the Comprehensive Plan were done after receiving the new census information, it would be 2022 or 2023 before it could be completed.

Councilmember Wickstrom stated that as the City’s representative to the Association of Metro Cities, she has worked on two main issues: transit and water resources. Shoreview is not being treated equitably with transit. As the population ages, there will be more reliance on transit. There are also many businesses that look for transit opportunities for employees. Rather than focusing on transit from one poor area to another, the real need is for people in poor areas to be

able to get to areas like Shoreview where there are good jobs. There are very few transit options for residents in Shoreview. The northeast diagonal was added to Highway 36 which goes from Minneapolis to St. Anthony, along County Road C in Roseville and then north on Rice Street through Little Canada, Gem Lake and White Bear Lake. Transit is difficult to retrofit. It needs to be developed around future needs. It would make more sense to start planning transit in an area that is booming like Blaine so that the community can develop around transit opportunities.

Representative McCarthy agreed to bring Councilmember Wickstrom's comments to the Met Council. She explained that only 3% of the transportation budget is flexible. The remainder is dedicated funds. The Met Council has heard the need to widen I-694 through Shoreview, which will be done in 2015. The BRT line going along Snelling will be extended into Shoreview. The I-35W corridor is currently under study by MnDOT with the anticipation of widening that highway. Mr. Schwerm expressed great appreciation for the change with the MnDOT and Metropolitan Council for plans that now will add a third general purpose lane on I-694 through Shoreview. The Livable Communities Grant for Victoria and County Road E was also very helpful.

Councilmember Wickstrom stated that the key to transportation is to have a planning process that puts the needed lines of transportation on the map for funding with future development.

Representative McCarthy asked how transportation issues can be addressed to help older people stay in their homes. Mr. Schwerm stated that the Roseville Circulator service ended because there were not enough riders to keep it running. He stated that another option would be an expansion of the Dial-A-Ride service with longer hours in suburban areas. It would be helpful if the Dial-A-Ride service could operate beyond the hours of transit.

Mayor Martin stated that City officials have heard over and over as the population ages that people want to stay in Shoreview, but often it is transportation issues that do not allow them to remain in their homes. The Dial-A-Ride service is one piece but more thought needs to be given to not just commuting to downtown but within the City and neighboring cities so that there is access to local retail areas.

Councilmember Wickstrom agreed and stated that a circulator service is needed from Lexington along Highway 96 to Rice Street so people can get to Target. She noted that several senior housing buildings have been built in the City since the Circulator service ended.

Mayor Martin stated that on another issue, the concern over the low water level in White Bear Lake over the last couple of years has lead the Met Council to become involved in sustainability of water resources for the area. There is a lot of concern in Shoreview about being forced to convert to surface water usage through the St. Paul Water Utility system.

Councilmember Wickstrom stated that there is a big difference between the White Bear Lake water level and water supply for the area. Shoreview is in an area where there is not a water supply problem. Focus should be on problem areas like Woodbury. It does not make sense to spend a lot of money to solve the lake level of White Bear Lake and in the process force the City to change to using a surface water system instead of its own ground water system. Shoreview is

fully developed and will not experience much more growth. Conservation measures, which Shoreview is a leader in implementing, will address the problem.

Public Works Director Maloney stated that it is difficult to understand why the Met Council and legislature are focusing on the northeast area regarding water supply with the first model maps produced. The model does not predict this area to be problematic. The White Bear Lake level issue and subsequent lawsuit has tainted the issue. The settlement agreement that the DNR entered into leverages and relies on the Met Council's study. All the technical information the DNR is using is from the Met Council document, which identifies big dollar amounts for water supply in this area. Shoreview, with other local cities, is working to put local perspective into this process. The Met Council has set a firm date for adopting a water supply plan. Yet, there are so many moving parts with other agencies, such as the Legislative Water Commission and USGS. The problem is that there is a timeline for the settlement agreement and a timeline for submittal of the Comprehensive Plan update. There are reasons to look at water supply issues in the metropolitan area in terms of development and land use but not to look at Shoreview, when projections for growth are on a downward trend and the fact that Shoreview has been aggressive with water rates and sprinkling bans.

Councilmember Wickstrom added that the Metropolitan Council's report is based on what the legislature required, not on what scientists would have focused on regarding water supply.

Mayor Martin stated that it is important to open a dialogue on water issues. The frustration for Shoreview is that City water conservation ordinances were passed 20 years ago. Water consumption in summer is put on odd/even use days for watering lawns for conservation when necessary. If the City were forced to convert to surface water, it would be a huge economic burden on the community with no value. A water chart of the state is tremendously complex but shows no clarity of who oversees what. Consolidation is needed among the over 40 agencies dealing with water rather than adding another overseeing government level.

Councilmember Quigley expressed concern about the Met Council being able to maintain a strong link with 186 metro municipalities. That is a complex layering of government.

Representative McCarthy stated that there will be public hearings on water and she encouraged submittal of public comments. She thanked the Council for their comments on water issues and stated that she will look further into what needs to be done. The Council and staff are encouraged to contact Representative McCarthy and Ms. Garlitz at any time.

DISCUSSION WITH COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS REGARDING SPACE NEEDS

City Manager Schwerm stated that Mr. Lemke and representatives from a number of community organizations are present to meet with Councilmembers to discuss space issues and needs. These organizations have been active in Shoreview for the last 20 years. A report has been submitted that has a list of needs identified by each group for space.

Mr. Lemke stated that the first basic need is storage and meeting space. Many meetings are held in homes or tie up Community Center meeting rooms that otherwise could be rented to bring in

revenue. There are four groups--Gallery 96, Shoreview Einhausen Sister City Association (SESCA), Shoreview Northern Lights Variety Band, and the Shoreview Historical Society--and the Shoreview Community Foundation has been added. All organizations have equipment and artifacts that are now stored in various people's houses and garages. The Historical Society has many historical items that cannot be replaced and are scattered in several places. The groups would not use a central space 24/7, so it would also be a space that could be rented by the City.

There is an opportunity to possibly bring in a community theater group if space could be found. One request is a 350-seat auditorium, which he is confident can be filled a good share of the time. There is interest in starting a community orchestra as well as small ensembles, if there would be space to practice. Groups can share space.

The representative from Gallery 96 thanked the Council for all of the support given in the past. If there were community space, people attending a band concert could also be exposed to an art display. Gallery 96 would like to be able to offer classes.

Jacci Krebsbach, Shoreview Historical Society, stated that it is difficult to save history and programs when there is no space for display and storage. The community groups do not see themselves as separate but that they reflect the community and can work together to make efficient use of space, if it were available.

Community Foundation records are with the secretary, financial records with the treasurer, the official address is the address of the chair. It would be much better to have one address and one place where records can be kept.

Mayor Martin commended the group for coming together and being willing to work together. She agreed that a central space is needed for classes and programs as well as storage and office space.

Mr. Schwerm stated that the library is pursuing construction of a new facility on an expanded library site that includes the two residential properties at Victoria and Highway 96 that have been purchased. The County is pursuing sale of the old library to the Mounds View School District. However, the school district plans to use the entire building. He believes the best opportunity for the City to plan for community group space would be as part of the expansion of the Community Center.

Mayor Martin suggested a possible theater option would be to talk with the school district about use of the theater at Chippewa School. The push for the Community Center expansion is being driven by the need for more family locker rooms and program space. She has similar concerns about remembering history and keeping track of the valuable items for the future. She noted an article in the *Twin City Business Monthly* which reported the economic benefits of supporting the arts with ticket sales and associated activities around attending theater, exhibits and classes. An abbreviated community survey will be done this fall. She requested the community organizations to submit relevant questions that they would like to see asked.

Councilmember Wickstrom asked what types of models exist for performing arts and whether it would be realistic for the City to get funding for a theater. Mr. Lemke stated that he believes there is a good possibility if the groups work together. He noted that Maplewood leases its community theater to many types of groups and concert groups. There would be opportunities for corporate group meetings with a small theater.

Mr. Schwerm stated that City facilities improve the quality of life and make the community stronger, but even if they bring in revenue, they often do not cover operating costs of the facility.

Mayor Martin agreed but stated that although the Community Center brings in revenue, the City designed it to be affordable--not as expensive as other facilities like the YMCA and private health clubs. The City provided major financial support in the first years of operation and still does to some extent.

Mr. Lemke requested that a City staff person be assigned to their group for ongoing communication with the City. The group plans to visit other community facilities and would like a staff member to accompany them. Minutes of future meetings will be provided to the Council.

UPDATE ON RAMSEY COUNTY REGIONAL LIBRARY PROJECT

City Manager Schwerm reported that the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners will be voting the following day on proceeding with building a new regional library. The estimated cost is at \$17 million. The school district has provided a letter of intent for possible lease/purchase of the old library building. The County will handle sale of the property and needed improvements for the school district to lease the space. The County will issue debt for the property and be paid back through a lease/purchase agreement by the school district. The money will help with the construction of the new library. If the school district does not proceed with a lease/purchase, it is likely that the current library would be used for County office space.

Mr. Schwerm stated that the County is planning to solicit a Request for Proposal (RFP) to work on the design and layout of the new library. Tom Simonson, Assistant City Manager and Community Development Director, will serve as a City representative to work with the County as part of this group.

OTHER ISSUES

Snail Lake Marsh Area

Mayor Martin reported walking the Snail Lake marsh area with Councilmember Springhorn and County Commissioner Blake Huffman. A local resident, Bob Durbahn, also accompanied them and expressed concerns about the location of asphalt trails that would impact landmark oak trees. There are many parks and trails in the City and he would like to see this trail remain natural.

Mr. Schwerm stated that the County has revised its plan for the asphalt trails to be furthest north. The trail through the wooded area and to Reiland Lane would be a natural surface trail that

would meander and not remove so many trees. The width would be 3 to 5 feet instead of the originally proposed 8 feet. These changes are a result of the feedback from the public meeting.

Councilmember Wickstrom stated that the people who come to the public meeting are often those in opposition. She noted that previous limestone trails drew complaints about mud and how rough they were. Eventually, they were paved. It is important to save as many trees as possible, but more important is to keep planting new ones.

Mayor Martin stated that the oak trees in question are over 100 years old, and it is impossible to see a trail through the area without removal of some of those trees. Mr. Schwerm stated that there is only a concept design. A detailed design has not been completed.

E-Cigarettes

Councilmember Quigley asked if the City is going to be involved in inspection of the child proof packages for e-cigarettes. Mr. Schwerm stated that he does not see enforcement through the City, unless it is a priority of the City Council.

The meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.