

**WORKSHOP MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF VADNAIS HEIGHTS
JANUARY 19, 2021**

The workshop meeting of the Council of the City of Vadnais Heights was held on the above date and called to order by Mayor Gunderson at 6:30 p.m.

The following members were present: Mayor Heidi Gunderson, Council Members: Greg Urban and Patricia Youker, Steve Rogers and Erik Goebel. The following member was absent: None.

Also present were: City Administrator Kevin Watson; Assistant City Administrator Tim Sandvik; Planning/Community Development Director Nolan Wall; Public Works Director Jesse Farrell; Fire Chief Chris Hearden; Parks and Rec Supervisor, Katie Everett; and Deputy Clerk, Peggy Aho.

1. Parks Scheduling Software

Katie Everett, Parks and Rec Supervisor, gave a presentation on the Parks and Rec department background. She reviewed the current challenges to providing services to the residents. She said that the current software the City uses limits its services and adds constraints on internal functionality. Everett noted that staff are recommending that the City switch Civic Plus which includes Civic Rec, AudioEye, and Civic Engage.

Mayor Gunderson thanked Katie for her work and creatively in keeping people engaged.

Council Member Goebel asked what the current software system is costing the City. Everett responded that it is a free add on, and that the software company charges fees from on the credit card payments. Goebel asked how much staff time would be saved with the new software save. Everett said that that is hard to figure out.

Gunderson said that she supports the change and that the City needs to catch up with the times and thinks it will be easy for residents to register for activities using their phones and won't have to stop into City Hall.

Council Member Urban asked how the skating trail is working out. Everett said that it has been very well received but that the warm weather has made it a challenge for Public Works but they are trying to build it back up.

Urban said that he had been hearing some controversy regarding the use of trails by pedestrians in Vadnais Park. Everett noted that the trail is maintained for cross country skiing and that walking on the trails hurts the skiing trails. She said that due to COVID, the City's parks are being well used. She said that we need to educate the public about the use of the skiing trails and how walking on them affects the trails.

Urban suggested having County staff in to talk about ways to share the trails and get an update on the trail on the south end.

Other Staff Issues:

City Engineer/Public Works Director Farrell talked about the Joint Engineers of Ramsey County that met last week. He noted that he, City Administrator Watson and Planning/Community Development Director Wall met with the County Engineer and his team. He said that one thing that is a priority for Ramsey County is the trail for Vadnais Blvd and noted that the County has put out an RFP for a corridor study.

Council Member Youker made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Approved