

**WORKSHOP MEETING  
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF VADNAIS HEIGHTS  
JULY 16, 2019**

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 5:31 p.m.

The following members were present: Mayor Heidi Gunderson, Council Members: Craig Johnson, Patricia Youker, Greg Urban and Bob Morse. The following member was absent: None.

Also present were: City Administrator Kevin Watson, Assistant City Administrator Tim Sandvik, Planning/Community Development Director Nolan Wall, Bob Sundberg, Finance Director, Fire Chief Ed Leier, and Deputy City Clerk Peggy Aho.

Others present were: Scott Yonke, Ramsey County Parks, and Bonnie Schweiger, ABDO (Financial Auditor).

**1. Update on Vadnais Lake Loop Trail – Scott Yonke**

Scott Yonke, Ramsey County Parks, gave an overview of the Vadnais Lakes Trail project. He said that now is the perfect time for the City to get involved. Yonke gave a high level presentation on the background of the Trail and the purpose and reviewed the segments of the trail. He said that they may need to discuss further how a partnership can be made to work on this project.

Yonke said that design work would probably begin in 2024 with final construction in 2025. He said that the next steps would be to complete additional site inventory and analysis, refine trail alignment of the corridors, complete a concept design, and determine potential funding partnerships.

Council Member Urban said that a previous Council had indicated that they thought it would be a better use of the City property along Segment G and that it may make more sense to keep the trail in the road right of way in that area. Urban also noted that there are some people that feel there are safety issues when trails are in wooded areas.

Urban asked if the County is looking for a financial contribution from the City or just land. Yonke said that at this point they are thinking both. Urban asked if other funding sources have been explored. Yonke said that they haven't looked at funding yet, only at trail locations at this time.

Urban asked if the City is a funding partner on the project could state aid money be used for any of it. Public Works Director Farrell said he's unsure and will have to look it up. Urban suggested keeping this project in mind when the City looks at revising its state aid roads.

Mayor Gunderson asked what the next steps are. Yonke replied that they need to look at some sort of feasibility study to see what the next steps might be. He encouraged sitting down with City staff to see how we want to approach next steps and look at different opportunities for funding. City Administrator Watson said that the City is prepared to be flexible with the property it owns along that stretch to make it work.

**2. Presentation on 2018 Audit – Bonnie Schweiger**

Bonnie Schweiger, ABDO, gave an overview of the 2018 Audit which has been completed.

**3. Discussion on 2020 Budget Breakdown: Parks, Recreation and Trails, Vadnais Commons and Public Safety**

City Administrator Watson reviewed the 2018 expenditures for Public Safety and discussed the projected 2020 numbers.

Assistant City Administrator Sandvik reviewed the Parks, Rec and Trails expenditures and Heritage Days revenue and expenditures. Morse noted that the Heritage Days Committee has been discussing ways of increasing revenues next year's Heritage Days event.

Sandvik reviewed the Commons 2018 expenditures and revenues.

Council Member Morse asked about homelessness and the use of bicycle cops for patrols in the parks. City Administrator Watson noted that he will ask about that at the next Ramsey County Sheriff's meeting.

**4. Staff Updates**

City Administrator Watson gave an update on the repair of the planter box in the front of City Hall. The City budgeted \$40,000 this year for replacement of the planter. The artists have been contacted and they say that they do guarantee their work but there has been some significant damage which goes beyond the warranty. The artists indicated that they would like to repair it. They submitted an estimate of about \$5,000. Watson said that \$5,000 is a good price for something that should last another 10-15 years. Mayor Gunderson said that it would cost more than that to remove it. It was the consensus of the Council to go ahead with the repair.

Public Works Director Farrell noted that the Buerkle Road repair bids came in between \$60,000 to \$65,000. He said that there will probably be another \$10,000 incurred for work needed for flaggers for work by the railroad tracks.

Watson noted that the White Bear Lake school district is hosting a meeting on July 31 about their proposed bond issue and their facilities. The City is hosting the meeting at the Commons.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kevin Watson, City Administrator