



SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION - BOARD AND COMMISSION INTERVIEWS

City Hall—Shared Vision Room, 3989 Central Ave NE
March 5, 6, 9, 2026

Mayor
Amada Márquez Simula
Councilmembers
Connie Buesgens
Rachel James
Justice Spriggs
Laurel Deneen
City Manager
Aaron Chirpich

The City Council met in Special Work Session on March 5, 6, and 9 in the Shared Vision Room, City Hall, 3989 Central Avenue NE, Columbia Heights, Minnesota to interview candidates for open Board and Commission positions.

MARCH 5, 2026, WORK SESSION ITEMS

1. Interview Candidates for Board and Commission Vacancies.

The City Council conducted interviews for Board and Commission positions as follows:

Thursday, March 5	4:00 PM	Teresa Brown
Thursday, March 5	4:15 PM	Cassie Leoni-Helbacka
Thursday, March 5	4:30 PM	Catherine Vesley
Thursday, March 5	4:45 PM	Matthew Lupkes
Thursday, March 5	5:00 PM	Chris Christopherson
Thursday, March 5	5:15 PM	Janis Arnold
Thursday, March 5	5:30 PM	Brie LaPlante
Thursday, March 5	5:45 PM	Layla Rismoen

MARCH 6, 2026, WORK SESSION ITEMS

1. Interview Candidates for Board and Commission Vacancies.

The City Council conducted interviews for Board and Commission positions as follows:

Friday, March 6	2:00 PM	Michael Kleppen
Friday, March 6	2:15 PM	Valarie Wiig
Friday, March 6	2:30 PM	Michael Hartel
Friday, March 6	2:45 PM	Lisa Levitt
Friday, March 6	3:15 PM	Madeline Jensen Christen
Friday, March 6	3:30 PM	Stan McFall
Friday, March 6	4:00 PM	Emily Coveyou
Friday, March 6	4:15 PM	Molly Nelson
Friday, March 6	4:30 PM	John Gianoulis

MARCH 9, 2026, WORK SESSION ITEMS

1. Interview Candidates for Board and Commission Vacancies.

The City Council conducted interviews for Board and Commission positions as follows:

Monday, March 9	4:30 PM	Stephanie Woods
Monday, March 9	4:45 PM	Angie Heitz
Monday, March 9	5:00 PM	Beth Al-Qudah
Monday, March 9	5:15 PM	Jordana Matson Brady
Monday, March 9	5:30 PM	Donia Abu Ammo
Monday, March 9	5:45 PM	Julienne Wycoff

2. Post Interview Candidate Review.

The Council discussed which candidates to appoint to the Boards and Commissions by Resolution at the March 23, 2026, City Council meeting. The following applicants were recommended by at least a majority of the City Council:

Library Board

Beth Al-Qudah

Park and Recreation Commission

Donia Abu Ammo* , Lisa Levitt, Matthew Lupkes

Planning Commission

John Gianoulis

Sustainability Commission

Jordana Matson Bradley, Stephanie Woods, Brie LaPlante, Madeline Jensen Christensen, Molly Nelson, Cassie Leoni Helbacka, Emily Coveyou

*1 year term, from April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2027

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Ion, City Clerk/Council Secretary