

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a special work session meeting of the Spring Lake Park City Council Work Session was held on October 11, 2021 at the Spring Lake Park City Hall, 1301 81st Avenue NE, at 5:30 PM.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Nelson called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Robert Nelson

Councilmember Ken Wendling

Councilmember Brad Delfs

Councilmember Barbara Goodboe-Bisschoff

Councilmember Lisa Dircks

STAFF PRESENT

Police Chief Josh Antoine, Public Works Director Terry Randall, Building Official Jeff Baker, Recreation Director Kay Okey, Administrator Daniel Buchholtz

OTHERS PRESENT

Barb Harlan, Parks and Recreation Commission

Jeff Feulner, WSB & Associates

Heidi Leaf, 8220 Taylor Street

2. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Park System Plan Presentation

Recreation Director Okey introduced Jeff Feulner, Senior Landscape Architect at WSB & Associates, to present the Park System Plan.

Mr. Feulner provided an overview of the Park System Plan. He stated that the Park System Plan is a strategic and comprehensive master plan providing an overall community vision for the City's parks over the next 10-20 years. He said it is meant to guide future investments for improvements by establishing goals, policies, objectives, and overall priorities for the park system within the city of Spring Lake Park.

Mr. Feulner reviewed the City's Demographic Trends, GAP analysis, and the results of the engagement survey. He noted that 83% of residents in Spring Lake Park live within a 10 minute walk of a city park. He stated that nearly 300 participants responded to the engagement survey, which showed that the survey respondents rank the City's parks highly. He said the survey showed that responders supported updating the park building at Able Park, add a park building at Sanburnol Park, improve playgrounds throughout the City, add a splash pad within

the City and enhance the community garden program. He did note that a common theme of the survey was a concern over costs/tax implications for the improvements.

Mr. Feulner reviewed current recreational trends, recreational programming trends, and barriers to participation in recreation programs. Mr. Feulner reviewed each park site and rated it on a point scale. He stated that the City's park facilities are older but are in good shape due to the City's strong maintenance program. He stated that common issues/deficiencies found at each park was ADA accessibility and general age and condition of park elements.

Mr. Feulner presented recommendations for each park based on the firm's need analysis, results of the engagement survey and feedback from Recreation staff and the Parks and Recreation Commission.

- Able Park
 - Expanded trail (completed loop)
 - Connect parking lots
 - Upgrade playground
 - Upgrade shelter
 - Basketball court improvements
 - Park building improvements

- Sanburnol Park
 - Remove 1 ballfield
 - Add pickleball courts
 - Upgrade playground facilities
 - Enhance community gardens
 - Expand parking lot
 - Future community center building

- Terrace Park
 - Field drainage improvements
 - Add flexible greenspace
 - Relocate and upgrade playground
 - Improve existing building
 - Refurbish tennis and basketball courts
 - Add 2 improved shelters

- Lakeside Lions Park
 - Add splash pad facility
 - Upgrade playground with poured in place rubberized surfacing
 - Maintain existing shelters
 - Add nature play nodes
 - Move fishing pier to be more visible/accessible
 - Upgrade existing memorial area

- Triangle Park
 - Improve trail connections and add crosswalks
 - Improve ADA accessibility to shelter and amenities
 - Restore pond edge conditions to separate wildlife from park users

- Westwood Park
 - Add trail loop around park
 - Shift ballfield to allow for trail loop
 - Upgrade shelter facility
 - Upgrade playground facility
 - Add exercise station/nodes around trail loop
 - Improve ADA accessibility.

Mr. Feulner reviewed implementation priorities and cost estimates for improvements. He stated that the estimated costs for the entire system plan was \$10-12 million, excluding the community center building. He stated the community center building was estimated to cost \$2.9-3.5 million. He stated the next steps were to confirm proposed concepts, prioritize improvements, identify phasing/funding strategies, and prepare final document for City Council approval.

City Councilmembers discussed various aspects of the proposed plan. The City Council discussed the importance of working with the Parks and Recreation Commission to prioritize various aspects of the plan to spread out cost impacts over a period of 10-20 years.

Mayor Nelson thanked Mr. Feulner for his work on the plan.

B. City Street Speed Limit Discussion

Councilmember Dircks requested a discussion about speed limits within the City. She stated that the Legislature approved a law in 2019 that grants cities the authority to set speed limits on streets they control. She stated that she has received a number of inquiries from residents about lowering speeds in certain neighborhoods. She noted that speed complaints she received were from school busses, vehicles dropping children off at in-home daycares, delivery drivers, and garbage trucks.

Discussion revolved around challenges with enforcement, education, a lack of policy guidance from MnDOT on residential speed limits and challenges of having residential speed limits that differ from neighboring cities.

Consensus of the City Council was to not take action on this item until further policy guidance on residential speed limits has been published.

C. On-Street Parking Discussion - Manor Drive/Laddie Road & University Avenue Service Drive/Rosedale Road

Councilmembers Wendling, Dircks and Goodboe-Bisschoff discussed complaints they have received about on-street parking on Manor Drive near the Legends of Spring Lake Park and on the University Avenue Service Drive near Northtown Apartments. They stated that the complaints included vehicle repair being done on City streets, trash and debris being deposited in neighboring residential yards from parked vehicles, lack of access for emergency vehicles due to vehicles parked on both sides of the street (University Avenue Service Drive), and lack of on street parking for residents living along those streets. Discussion ensued about potential options, including no-parking zones and permit parking zones, and potential unintended impacts to surrounding neighboring streets.

Consensus of the City Council was to direct the Administrator to draft a permit parking policy for review by the City Council and to send a letter to affected residents in these areas seeking input on potential parking solutions.

D. Review Proposed Deputy Clerk Job Description

Administrator Buchholtz presented the proposed job description for the Deputy Clerk position.

Consensus of the City Council was to direct the Administrator to proceed with recruitment for the Deputy Clerk position.

3. REPORT

A. Council Reports

Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff inquired if the City Council had concerns about the proposed reroute for the Metro Transit 10 "N" bus route. Several Councilmembers expressed their concern about rerouting the 10 "N" route to 81st Avenue, citing congestion at the intersection of University Avenue and 81st Avenue and adding bus traffic when the City Council has been taking action to reduce heavy vehicle traffic on 81st Avenue. Councilmembers believed that Osborne Road was better designed and equipped to serve as the route for the 10 "N" route.

Consensus of the City Council was to authorize Mayor Nelson to send a letter to Metro Transit expressing the City's opposition to rerouting the 10 "N" bus route onto 81st Avenue.

B. Administrator Report – None

4. ADJOURN

Mayor Nelson adjourned the work session at 8:00pm.

Robert Nelson, Mayor

Attest:

Daniel R. Buchholtz, Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer