



Oil change with a side of gratitude

I'm waiting in the lounge at Rapids Honda and the news is on. The headlines are crippling inflation and gas prices at the pump up 50% over a year ago. I'm reminded the only constant is change.

In this season of giving thanks, I tip my hat to mayors, council members, city managers, administrators, legislators, and our valued community partners who show up every day and perform their best. Over and over again. Change is routine and the North Metro Mayors Association is here to help navigate it.

Examples of tackling change were bountiful at the November North Metro Mayors board meeting hosted by Brooklyn Park in newly remodeled city hall space. These gatherings are fertile ground for sharing concerns, celebrating wins, and grabbing a dose of inspiration. Watch for minutes with the next agenda.

Newly elected Brooklyn Park Mayor Lisa Jacobson gave an overview of city growth. This city is hot! Coming soon is a first-in-the-universe Taco Bell Defy, which is a new concept of drive-through service that looks something like a bank. Also in the works is Spero Academy which will serve students with developmental needs. The Mayor shared valuable insights on community perceptions on crime. Most numbers are at 30-year lows, but a concerning percentage of people do not feel safe. The city is being proactive to address the perceptions and realities.

The 2022 association budget was passed. Operating Committee Chair Jim Dickinson told the group he reviewed trends and our mindful reductions have put us lower than budgets going back seven years. Requests for 2022 dues, reduced for all cities, will go out now. Community Partners receive invoices in July.

Troy Olsen provided a legislative update. The session begins Jan. 31. Cities are encouraged to get their requests to him for inclusion in the legislative work plan.



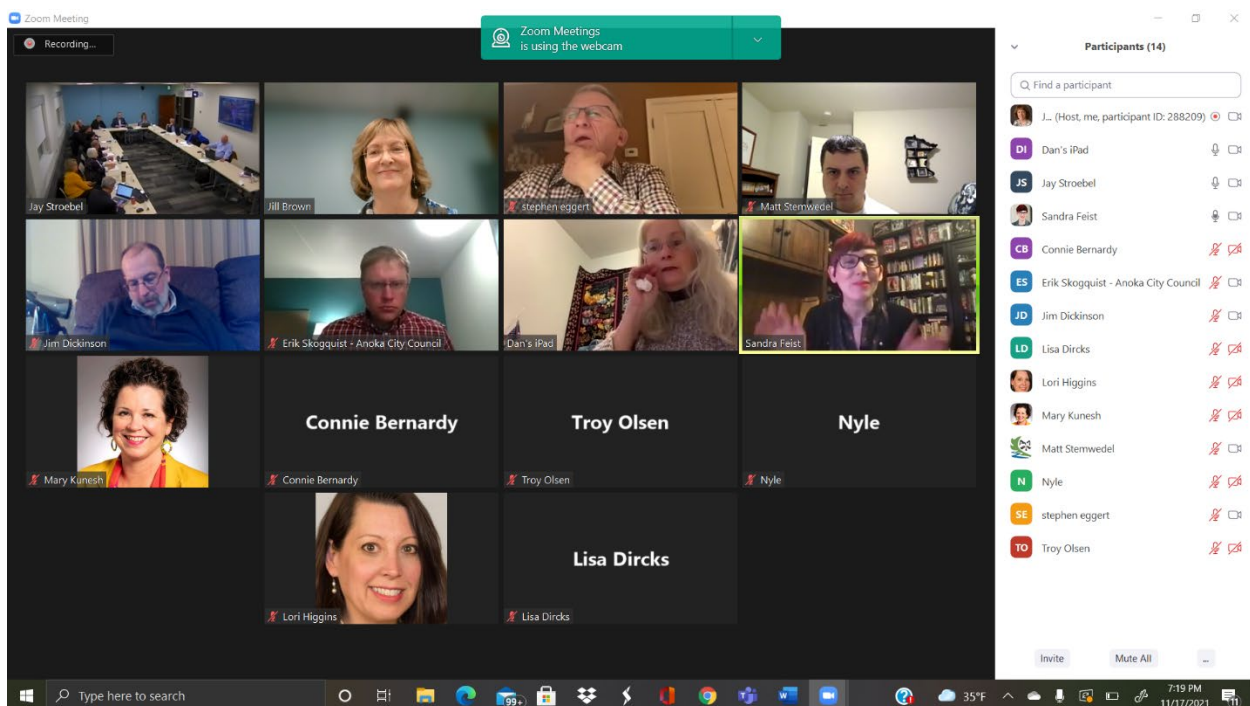
Brooklyn Park Mayor Lisa Jacobson presents. Also pictured are Troy Olsen from Ewald and Spring Lake Park City Councilman Ken Wendling.

2022 Schedule

A 2022 schedule was approved. Mark your calendar for board meetings on the third Wednesday, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Jan. 19, March 16, May 18, Sept. 21, Nov. 16. The Operating Committee for city managers/administrators is the third Wednesday, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Feb. 16, April 20, June 15, Oct. 19, Dec. 21. For the foreseeable future, I expect meetings to be hybrids, Zoom and in person. Locations will be determined at the Dec. 15 Operating Committee meeting in Maple Grove.



Brooklyn Park's Jay Stroebel, Maple Grove's Heidi Nelson, New Hope Mayor Kathi Hemken and Kirk McDonald, New Brighton Mayor Kari Niedfeldt-Thomas New Brighton, and Champlin Mayor Ryan Karasek.



Thank you to cities, legislators, and community partners who participated in the November board meeting.

Reach out anytime with ideas or questions.

Jill Brown, Executive Director

Cell: 612-889-2611

JillCBrown@msn.com

Calendar 30-minute appointments: <https://calendly.com/jillbrownpr/30minutemeeting>