



## GROWING TOGETHER

Maple Grove Community Center Project

1. Introductions
2. Role Of The Working Group
3. Summary Of Community Engagement
4. Summary Of Planning
5. Next Meeting
6. Schedule
7. Attachments

Documents:

[ATTACHMENT A - CCWG MEETING MARCH 15 MEMO.PDF](#)  
[ATTACHMENT B - WORKING GROUP ATTORNEY MEMO 021722.PDF](#)



12951 Weaver Lake Road  
Maple Grove, MN 55369

763-494-6500  
growingtogethermaplegrove.org

**TO:** Community Center Working Group (CCWG)  
**FROM:** Chuck Stifter, Parks and Recreation Director  
**CC:** Heidi Nelson, City Administrator  
**DATE:** March 15, 2022  
**SUBJECT:** Community Center Working Group kickoff meeting – March 15

Thank you all for your willingness to participate in the Community Center expansion and renovation project. You each are invited to bring your knowledge, experience, and passion to engage in the continued planning and design discussion and also to provide input on the public communication effort. This group plans to meet monthly through October in preparation for the local option sales tax vote in early November. The need to continue the work of this group or some form of this group beyond the vote will be decided at a later date.

Meetings will generally include a presentation followed by discussion. The series of monthly meetings kicks off Tuesday, March 15, in the Senior Center at the Community Center. This initial meeting will include CCWG introductions, a message from our legal counsel, a project overview, and finish with discussion. The meetings are scheduled to last no more than two hours. We will also discuss the meeting schedule going forward, so please bring your calendars.

Attached with this memo and meeting agenda is information from the city attorney outlining the importance of how you will communicate to the public as members of the CCWG. Our attorney will present their guidance at the kickoff meeting. We will also hear from the project architect, Hammel Green Abramson, who has provided consultant services throughout the planning and community engagement process.

Prior to this first meeting, we strongly encourage you to familiarize yourself with the project by visiting the website [growingtogethermaplegrove.org](http://growingtogethermaplegrove.org).

Please feel free to contact me at [cstifter@maplegrovmn.gov](mailto:cstifter@maplegrovmn.gov) / 763-494-6501 with any questions or if you are unable to attend.

We look forward to your active participation and especially appreciate your time and commitment. They will be very beneficial as the Community Center expansion and renovation project unfolds.



DATE: January 17, 2022  
TO: Members of the Community Center Working Group (CCWG)  
CC: Heidi Nelson and Chuck Stifter  
FROM: Justin Templin  
RE: Statements about the Local Option Sales Tax

The ballot for this fall's general election will include a question asking City voters whether the City should impose a one-half of one percent local option sales tax to finance \$90 million of the cost of the planned renovation and expansion of the Maple Grove Community Center.

What can individuals representing the City say about that issue during the campaign?

Individuals speaking for themselves can freely express opinions, whatever they may be. But when speaking as part of the CCWG or on behalf of the City, state law imposes limitations. Minnesota law says that the City cannot advertise, advocate for, or promote passing the sales tax referendum. The City and its representatives can only provide facts and data about the impacts of the proposed tax on purchases and facts and data about the proposed project to be funded with the proceeds of the proposed tax.

It isn't always going to be clear whether a particular statement is an individual's opinion or a statement on behalf of the CCWG or the City. Statements given by CCWG or City representatives at official functions could be perceived as the City's official position on the issue. To be sure the City stays in compliance with state law, CCWG members should try to stay away from talking about what *the City* believes or what might be best for *the community* and try to focus on what they believe individually. Regardless whether it is an individual statement or a statement on behalf of the City, CCWG members can make use of the City's resources. The City has a micro site devoted to information about the project and has assembled likely frequently asked questions (FAQs) and answers that comply with the restrictions of state law. Using those resources is a safe and efficient way to communicate about the project.

Individuals can say: "I support passage of the referendum because..." or "I think the local option sales tax is needed because...". But that same individual cannot lawfully make those same statements as a representative of the City or on behalf of the City. Any statement that might be perceived as being on behalf of the City (and not an individual opinion) should stick closely to facts and data and let the voters draw their own conclusions about how they should vote. When in any doubt, using the City's approved resources (the FAQs and the microsite) is the best option for communicating about the issue.