

## Maple Grove Citizens Advisory Committee

### Meeting Minutes

February 10, 2021

<b>Call to Order</b>	The February 10, 2021, Citizens Advisory Committee meeting was held online. CAC Co-Chair Harry Kennedy called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.
<b>Members Present</b>	Leslie Bender Steve Maas Don Skoglund
<b>Members Absent</b>	Harry Kennedy Lee Newman
<b>Others Present</b>	Ted Lyons Karen Nickolauson
<b>Minutes</b>	Lorraine Gresser, Bob Joiner, Stephanie Walvatne
<b>Area Reports</b>	Councilmember Kristy Barnett, CAC Staff Liaison Mike Opatz, Fire Chief Tim Bush
<b>CAC 2021 Work Plan Discussion</b>	Motion made and seconded to approve the minutes from the March 11, 2020, regular meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee. Motion passed.
	None. Comment made that city street crews did a nice job getting project done before end of season.
	Ideas provided in packet: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Historical societies in other cities</li><li>• Community survey questions for 2020</li><li>• Census review/equity and inclusion</li><li>• Introduction to CodeRED</li><li>• Introduction to SeeClickFix non-emergency reporting system</li><li>• Arts center update</li></ul>
	Councilmember Barnett mentioned historical society museum under direction of Al Madsen. The society came to council a little over a year ago wanting to expand their current space at the Maple Grove Public Works Facility. At that time the city was in discussions with the Maple Grove Park Board on a Community Center expansion project.
	With an expanded Community Center project, maybe the historical society could be in the building or on the property. There have been conversations about what it would look like and talking to consultants.
	With the location in the Public Safety Facility, we see the need for expansion, but there are some considerations. When will people start going to the museum again? What will the future look like as historical society members are starting to age? Who would be interested in doing

that type of work in 20 to 30 years for the city? Where do we want our historical society to be? Do we see it in the downtown area?

As we talk about the Community Center expansion project, the city is looking at potential sales tax that would go before the the legislature for approval and then be put on a city election ballot to help fund the Community Center project.

Consider what other cities are doing and what is the relationship with their community's historical society? Is it separate? What is the role? Maybe do something similar to what CAC did with the arts center. What type of work and offerings do historical societies have? Do they have a location, public offerings, who runs/staffs it? What could our city do going forward before we make a financial investment?

City Council liked the idea of CAC exploring because we do want to preserve our history and have a program going forward. Where does that fit into the city's future? Suggestion made to look at bonding for historical society and Community Center. The city is looking at bonding for Community Center project.

There is a Minnesota State Historical Society, and there may be some potential funding there the city would like CAC to look at. This is a project the City Council would like CAC to look at. It's time to think about a survey for next year soon as well.

What is the revenue flow for the historical society? The historical society is independent of the city. The city makes a donation each year, but the society is independent. The city provides the space, and they are looking for a financial contribution from the city for an expansion. We don't spend money on the society on an ongoing basis. They operate on their own.

Question: Is there a sense of what the council wants to do or are they open to whatever?

Answer: The city wants to do something with the historical society.

The historical society is very memorabilia based, and there are a lot of artifacts. The group that runs it is very dedicated, and they do get visitors throughout the year. The biggest boom of visitors is during Maple Grove Days. The biggest fear is that people are losing interest because of covid, and as the members of the historical society age out, what happens then? Does the city need to be the one who picks up the ball and carries it forward?

It's possible it could be sustainable if it were more centrally located. Another item is the city is currently part of Minneapolis Northwest

Tourism, and we are looking at either create our own tourism board or join another. If our own, we could then possibly market the historical museum. But again, more visitors if better location. What other programming could be incorporated into the historical society? Maybe use Public Works as storage and then display items in other areas – smaller museum possibly in the area of the Community Center.

Council wants to get an idea of what other cities are doing. Does the historical society track the number of visitors per year? Councilmember Barnett will get info. The majority of visitors are from Maple Grove Days and some boy and girl scout groups. An open house is held monthly, but over the last year pretty the museum has been much shutdown. Membership meetings are held once a month, and the council is invited to events.

Talk turned to the Maple Grove Arts Center. There have been some changes in leadership, and the organization isn't as good at keeping the council informed/included. The council does not have a position one way or the other on the historical society if there is something that could be a better fit prior to a considerable financial investment.

Chief Bush stated a lot of the successful historical societies rotate out their display rather than have all items on display.

Has anyone talked about making it part of Maple Grove schools—possibly get different ages involved? Could possibly be explored as part of this CAC process.

Don't want to step on toes of historical society but want to look at how city can support for the long-term. It might turn out that city does what historical society is requesting, but thought this was a good time to review before making an investment.

## **CodeRED Overview**

Chief Bush explained that CodeRED provides internal and external mass notifications. He stated there are a number of neighboring communities that have this system. He provided the background on the program, enrollment, the types of notifications and ways to receive notifications such as phone and text. Chief Bush shared a YouTube video that he created providing an overview of the system.

CodeRED can also be used internally by city staff for safety or operating issues.

Question: For example, if there was a tornado warning, would there be some coordination with the National Weather Service? There are other agencies who send out notifications, so CodeRED can supplement. The system is another way for the city to communicate with citizens. We've come a long way in the last 10 years in ways to share information with residents and businesses.

Is there an ask of the CAC for CodeRED? This overview of CodeRED is merely informative for the group as is the SeeClickFix and the request.

## **SeeClickFix Overview**

Carol Morris provided a brief overview of the SeeClickFix (SCF) citizen service request system. SCF is a convenient way for citizens to report non-emergency issues including street signal issues, potholes, streetlight outage, and a long list of other issues they might see in their neighborhood or in the community. It replaces the previous YourGov.

SCF provides more of a two-way communication between the person reporting the issue and city staff. Email notifications are provided as the issue is being addressed and also when it is resolved. Those who report a item through SCF can map its location and provide a photo. Completed items will stay on the map for at least one week so that others can see it has been completed and reduce doubling up of reporting the same issue.

There is a detailed article coming out in the spring newsletter.

## **COVID Update**

Chief Bush provided a brief update.

Question: Once achieved immunity (e.g. two weeks after second vaccine), how long will it last?

Answer: Doesn't know how long immunity will last. No answer yet.

Question: Can still be carrier even after vaccine? Since it's new and unknown, they are still telling those who are vaccinated to take the same precautions.

How long have the first people in the trial been vaccinated? Answer: Coming up on a year. It has been an accelerated process, but followed steps along the way as they would normally do with a vaccine.

Chief Bush explained how the flu vaccine differs from the covid vaccine.

Question: Are those who are in the trials getting vaccinated again?

Answer: Don't know as it is a trial and not all in it get the vaccine.

## **Census review/equity and inclusion**

When we get our census numbers, we will see a change in our demographics. Councilmember Barnett had conversations during the election process and topics of equity and inclusion came up, including what is the city doing to be more inclusive.

It doesn't feel like they city excludes anyone. Councilmember Barnett is having dialogues about what could the city do to make people feel more welcome and stated that people of color don't feel welcome in Maple Grove. One statement that came up to Councilmember Barnett during the

election time was that there is not diversity on the council membership. It was stated there are opportunities for involvement in the community, including the council as well as a variety of community organizations if people want to make changes.

We don't want anyone in our city to not feel welcome. What could CAC do and how could the city start looking at ways to make people feel more welcome? Some areas might be through programming at the Community Center and potentially looking at communicating some of our activities in different ways.

Community survey might be a way of asking some questions, but not sure at this time what that might be. Looking at other community surveys and talking to consultants may be helpful. Looking at our census and who lives in Maple Grove could be helpful.

Councilmember Barnett talked to Parks and Recreation Director Chuck Stifter that some programming opportunities at the Community Center might be a way to start.

CAC member Skoglund stated he is appreciative and encouraged that thought has been given to this topic. Survey people in the community. Councilmember Barnett thought it would be a good topic for CAC and see where we could go from. Each city handles differently depending on their needs. It's not a one size fits all solution.

Councilmember Barnett talked to Kristy Janigo, who ran for city council in 2020. Ms. Janigo would be willing to come to CAC meeting to share her ideas.

Community survey is so targeted that some people might get missed. Mike Opatz stated that, if survey is used for input, CAC should rely heavily on consultants as they are helping other communities across the country.

Questions could be used in community survey and other informal surveys that we might do. If you are not careful about how you ask questions, it is easy to offend people when you don't mean to. So working with the consultant and their recommendations would add value to the discussion and the work CAC wants to do.

Age Friendly might have some suggestions about how city could approach.

CAC member Kennedy said the state demographer might be a good idea for a future presentation to CAC. Feedback on that suggestion was positive from the committee. CAC member Kennedy will look into.

The comment was made to have representation from different groups as different races/ethnicities have different ways of responding. Finding leaders in groups who want to have a spot at the table will be important.

**Community  
Survey**

For the 2022 survey, keep survey questions pretty close to previous for benchmarking purposes, but always have sections related to diversity as well as covid impacts. Don't want survey too long or it won't be completed. Use same consultant as they are good at leading the committee through the process. The consultant will also have ideas of new topics/questions for survey. Once a timeframe is established, then we can get engaged with the consultant.

**Arts Center**

Request for Councilmember Barnett to provide update on council action to not fulfill annual funding request from Maple Grove Arts Center. This topic was pulled from consideration at a city council meeting for discussion at city council work session.

It was noted that Lorrie Link is no longer with the Arts Center. The center hasn't been open for about a year because of covid. There was no financial information provided with the Arts Center's annual request for \$2,000. It is felt there is a lack of invitations/interactions between the city/council and the arts center representatives. There is no evidence the Arts Center is working on fundraising on their own. Council decided not to approve funding request. Nothing definitive has been considered for an arts center in Maple Grove.

With regard to CITA project in Brooklyn Park, Councilmember Barnett still is part of that, but the process overall is going slowly. There are several factors that could impact the project process, such as light rail not coming Brooklyn Park as previously expected.

There is somewhat of an identity crisis for the project, and there was consideration given to possibly changing the name but that could get confusing. At this time there seems to be a lack of direction.

City still supports the project but doesn't see how there is going to be room or time overall allocated to residents use of the facility, primarily for community college. The city provided an updated letter of support recently. Question asked about bonding for the project. Councilmember Barnett not sure but doesn't foresee in near-term.

**Other  
business/updates**

CAC member Newman stated he would like to learn more about recycling in Maple Grove. Suggested a tour with recycling company in Maple Grove and see what happens to items collected. Recycling falls under purview of the Engineering Department. Mike Opatz will get a memo

from the department or a possibly a brief presentation as a start since there will be no tours in the near future.

Question: Would it be beneficial for committee members to provide their input to Mike and rank their areas of interest? Councilmember Barnett could weigh in on priorities. At this time the historical society topic is more time sensitive.

Committee members asked to think about their areas of interest and then provide in the next week to 10 days to Mike and Harry.

Councilmember Barnett stated that Chauvin trial coming up and Maple Grove is planning for and providing support for any protests/unrest. Chief Bush stated that police and fire command staff are starting to make plans, and CodeRED will help if any information needs to be shared.

**Adjournment**

Motion made and seconded to adjourn the February 10, 2021, Citizens Advisory Committee. The meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Morris  
Minute Secretary