

Maple Grove Citizens Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

March 10, 2021

Call to Order	The March 10, 2021, Citizens Advisory Committee meeting was held online. CAC member Skoglund called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.
Members Present	Leslie Bender Ted Lyons Steve Maas Lee Newman Don Skoglund
Members Absent	Lorraine Gresser, Bob Joiner, Harry Kennedy, Karen Nickolauson, Stephanie Walvatne
Others Present	Councilmember Kristy Barnett, CAC Staff Liaison Mike Opatz
Minutes	Due to lack of quorum, no action was taken to approve the minutes from the February 10, 2021, meeting.
Area Reports	County Road 30 snowplows have been active, but a lot of privacy fences have been demolished. As the snow goes down, you can see the damage. Can the city review/address with Hennepin County and/or residents?
Historical Societies in Other Cities	<p>Mike mentioned the Maple Grove Historical Preservation Society (MGHPS) website and encouraged CAC members to visit the site. Councilmember Barnett said the City Council would like CAC do something similar for historical societies as the committee did for the study of the arts center. For the committee to go out there and see which cities have historical societies and put together a high-level summary.</p> <p>The council is trying to get a feel for where historical societies are, what they are, what kind of building they have, and what kind of programs they have. Want to get an idea of what the future of historical societies looks like. Getting more information would help determine if the city should be providing the Maple Grove historical society with funding for an expansion of the current location/Public Works building. At this time the City Council does not know how to proceed.</p> <p>The committee should look at and determine what communities would be good choices to contact. At this time the city has not talked a lot about it or thought of any examples. There are no baseline expectations.</p> <p>Mike Opatz stated that at one time the city studied other city boards and commissions. Mike is going to look at matrix from that information gathered to see what historical societies were mentioned. But that information might be from at least 10 years ago—not sure how current it will be.</p>

Question: Does council have an idea of what kind of questions they want answered: Answer: Councilmember Barnett can brainstorm some questions. The historical society came to the city with their interest in expanding the museum, and the city suggested getting an estimate for the proposed expansion. Councilmember Barnett suggested that CAC review, and the City Council agrees but discussion did not go further than that.

The suggestion was made for CAC to formulate questions similar to what was done for the arts center review that CAC previously undertook. Create specific questions and get specific answers to share with the council.

It's a good idea to get an idea of what the Maple Grove historical society does as each society may take a different approach. Maple Grove is very artifact based, but we don't know necessarily what other historical organizations do. Space is a big issue for Maple Grove because there are so many artifacts, but they could rotate displays rather than trying to display everything.

Other cities may take a different approach and be more interpretive or educate people with interactive performances. Seeing or reading about MGHPS may provide CAC with good information before crafting questions.

Eden Prairie, Coon Rapids, and Andover were mentioned as some possibilities. The Minnesota Historical Society might have a list of cities that have their own historical societies.

CAC could craft questions for other societies to answer but have the questions reviewed first by the council. It is important to have a uniform list of questions that are asked of each city/society.

The committee can handle this project similar to the arts center review in which CAC created questions and then CAC members took a city/arts center to get the same questions answered from the various arts centers. For the arts center review, those involved with the centers were more than happy to talk about their center with CAC members. CAC can do the same for the historical society review and have members take a city or two.

Also find out anything that societies do that might be different. Get a better idea of what the city wants for a historical society before proceeding with reaching out to other cities/societies.

The City Council does not know exactly what the Maple Grove society needs or wants are right now. The current group is aging, and there hasn't been an interest shown from younger residents to be involved.

Maybe this would be something the city would have to oversee for a while if there is low or lack of membership.

Maybe a move of the MGHPS to a more central location would get more interest. Right now it's more like a little club, and they do a good job with it. But not sure how many new members they get.

Question: Would it serve the group's purpose to have someone from MGHPS visit with CAC members? The Maple Grove society really wants to stay at Public Works and expand there. Also, CAC needs to first think about questions.

Councilmember Barnett will call Al Madsen with the MGHPS to talk about the idea of having him talk to CAC. The city does not want to take over but wants to look at the long-term future and what they want is the best option as MGHPS is asking for a considerable amount of money.

The city is looking at plans for Community Center expansion, and there could be the potential for MGHPS being a part of that. It is good timing to explore the idea. The goal is finding the best home for MGHPS in the long term and best use of dollars.

The committee will develop questions and bring them to next CAC meeting. Councilmember Barnett will send out an email update after talking to Al Madsen. Maybe he will want to come to the next meeting and participate.

Mike Opatz asked those in attendance about setting up a subcommittee and meeting. The group discussed the possibility of meeting in person. CAC member Skoglund is not available to meet in person due to a commitment at home.

CAC members Maas and Newman and Councilmember Barnett could meet in person to come up with questions and use a conference room that's big enough for social distancing. A hybrid meeting would be set up so CAC member Skoglund could participate as well.

The suggestion was made to determine a date and then Mike can reserve a meeting space. After discussion, March 24 at 7 p.m. was decided for the subcommittee meeting. For those attending online, the group will use Facetime. All CAC members will be invited to attend and participate to gather questions.

A suggestion was offered for the March 24 meeting agenda -- formulate 10 questions from 6 different historical societies in Twin Cities areas. The suggestion was made that a CAC member who is attending the

subcommittee meeting in person chair the meeting as it is easier to do so in person. It was determined that would be CAC member Newman. Progress of this meeting was provided to CAC member Leslie Bender who joined the meeting at 7:45 p.m. His attendance was delayed due to a power outage. CAC member Bender stated he had looked at several historical society websites in advance of the meeting. He thought that Anoka had some good information.

Councilmember Barnett brought up looking at the Minnesota Historical Society website to get a listing of communities/societies. CAC member Bender mentioned that he had looked at Anoka, Brooklyn Park, Little Canada, Wayzata, Wright County, and Hennepin County.

For the March 24 subcommittee meeting, CAC members Bender and Skoglund will attend meet online; others will participate in person in the Council Chambers at the Government Center.

**Other Business
and Updates**

None.

Adjournment

Motion made and seconded to adjourn the March 10, 2021, Citizens Advisory Committee. The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Morris
Minute Secretary