

# Maple Grove Citizens Advisory Committee

## Meeting Minutes

April 14, 2021

<b>Call to Order</b>	The April 14, 2021, Citizens Advisory Committee meeting was held online. There was no quorum official call to order.
<b>Members Present</b>	Ted Lyons                      Steven Maas???
<b>Members Absent</b>	Don Skoglund                  Stephanie Walvatne
<b>Others Present</b>	Leslie Bender, Lorraine Gresser, Bob Joiner, Harry Kennedy, Karen Nickolauson
<b>Minutes</b>	Councilmember Kristy Barnett, CAC Staff Liaison Mike Opatz
<b>Area Reports</b>	As there was no quorum, the minutes were not approved from the February 10, 2021, regular meeting nor from the March 10, 2021, regular meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee.
<b>Historical Societies Discussion</b>	None.
	The purpose of the meeting is to talk about questions and target cities/societies to contact. Mike Opatz stated that City Administrator Nelson requested that CAC also look into the organization of the Maple Grove Historical Preservation Society (MGHPS) as considerations need to be taken into account particularly for insurance purposes. A consideration might be that the city formalizes a use agreement with the historical society since they are operating out of City of Maple Grove facility/property.
	CAC member Lee Newman did a tour of historical society with Al Madsen, president of the MGHPS, and Lee will provide a summary of that at tonight's meeting.
	Councilmember Barnett was asked about timeline for this project as well as a need for report. Councilmember Barnett stated that CAC co-chair Harry Kennedy suggested to her that CAC meet quarterly because the group does not have a full plate. Changing to quarterly meetings would not work for this historical society project.
	While the City Council does not have exact deadline, the council can't move forward with MGHPS request for expansion or other considerations such as a move to community center area or the council taking no action. If CAC were to meet only quarterly, this would put the project and considerations far out. CAC can discuss adjusting the meeting schedule after the historical society project is completed.
	The question was asked about what this project will look like in the end. Councilmember Barnett stated a report summarizing findings and then

maybe an exhibit (chart/write-up) or presentation and provide the information for each historical society and data collected.

Councilmember Barnett wants to help guide, but can't be too involved or look like she helped shape the project as she will be included in the vote for any action taken for the MGHPS request regarding their current site.

There are a lot of possibilities but don't really know what those are at this time.

CAC member Lee Newman and wife recently visited with MGHPS president Al Madsen at the history museum. Lee said Al is very engaged. The MGHPS started in 1995 and 1996. It is a 501c3 organization. Lee thought Al had been president since its inception. Lee said he doesn't think the MGHPS is looking for any financial contribution from the city. He said the big stressor that concerns Al is leadership as all the people who are active in the guidance of the organization are seniors (age 70+). Lee said that Al stated that in the last month three of the members have passed away. Lee is not sure how CAC can contribute to the organization. His impression was that Al doesn't seem to be the individual seeking anything other than leadership. It appears the society did not receive any money from the city except for \$2,000 a couple of years ago since the city gave the arts center the same funding.

Councilmember Barnett asked Lee if Al brought up that the society wanted city to pay for addition/renovation. Lee said he brought it up Al, but Al said they were not looking for that.

With regard to the historical society space, there is 1,500 square feet for display in the Public Works Facility on Forestview. Inventory area of two levels of 1,000 square feet total. MGHPS is looking to do an expansion within the same building of another 1,000 square feet. Part of the problem is they have hundreds of items on display and thousands in storage.

With regard to visitors – not taking 2020 into consideration -- during Maple Grove Days have about 250 people at open house. Monthly open houses get 50 to 60 visitors at each. Outreach to school three to four times a year; most of the visitors are between grades 1 and 6. Al provided Lee with some informational brochures.

As a policy, the MGHPS started to turndown donations that duplicate items they have. If people donate items, they want to see them on display, and the society doesn't want to duplicate items on display. They can only keep so much, and duplicates might be taking up room for other unique items. The group has done a good job cataloging items.

Lee said it was an eye-opening tour with a lot of history. Lee asked Al about presence of Native American people in the artifacts, but there was only one item and it was not authentic. Lee stated he would like to see authentic Native American items displayed.

The group thanked Lee for taking the time to tour the MGHPS.

Councilmember Barnett stated that she was confused that Al told Lee that MGHPS had no financial need from city. In 2020, MGHPS came to City Council work session with a proposal to add space with addition costing about \$350,000. In 2021, Ken Ashfeld, city engineer, got another bid that was closer to \$700,000.

When Councilmember Barnett talked to Al Madsen, the impression was the society is looking for the city to cover those costs, and the society would like to get some donations from a local business. With such a cost investment, the council wants to make sure this is the right place. Maybe somewhere closer/more high traffic space be better. And take into consideration the best options for display.

MGHPS is not looking for ongoing funding, but substantial funds to expand on the property. The city is not sure if they want to expand the space at Public Works should the society not continue in the future, and then that space might not work for future city use. Councilmember Barnett wants to clarify there is a huge financial request from the society.

Best way for CAC to contribute to the future of the society is to research similar other organizations around the Twin Cities.

In a conversation with Al Madsen, Councilmember Barnett stated that Al is not supportive of the CAC research project. She says that if the city is to contribute, then the city needs to do due diligence of how funds would be spent. Al stated that a number of societies are closing. The council should be asking why societies are closing particularly if funds are being spent.

Question asked what is the intended outcome/goal of this project. It is important to have this established. How are the societies organized? Are they a nonprofit? What is their designation?

Councilmember Barnett stated, in the survey of other societies, the city would like to know programming. Do they have a standalone building or attached to something? How involved is the city they are located in?

CAC member Newman brought up the questions that have been gathered and suggested the group look at a whittle them down to 10. Mike brought up the list of 20 questions for the group to view.

After questions finalized, then find six societies to answer the questions.

Before proceeding with question review, it was brought up to address the outcome/goal/mission of this project. What is the function/format of the MGHPS? It was that that the group might have a better ability to establish the goals/mission of project after selecting questions. Share the information/research gathered and then forward to the City Council to make the decision on the MGHPS request.

Question 1 Keep

Question 2 Keep

Question 3 Keep

Question 4 Keep

Question 5 Can be incorporated into question 4

Question 6 Keep

Question 7 Keep

Question 8 CAC can determine

Question 9 CAC can determine

Question 10 Keep – 3, 10 and 14 can be combined into one question

Question 11 Roll into 3, 10 and 14

Question 12 Keep

Question 13 Keep

Question 14 Roll into one question with 3 and 10

Question 15 Keep combine with 1

Question 16 Cut

Question 17 Keep combine with 2 or 7

Question 18 Keep combine with 2

Question 19 Keep

Question 20 Keep combine with 19

Consider adding question asking about what challenges their organization is facing aside from COVID-19.

If possible, take 30 to 60 minutes of society members who are surveyed.

Mike will add a question about insurance. Councilmember Barnett said for CAC members who are surveying other societies to request a pamphlet (if available) that the historical society representative could mail.

Mike gathered a comprehensive list of historical societies that is organized by county. The suggestion made that CAC members present take two of interest to them or selected targeted ones. Focus on societies that reflect the Maple Grove community and target those for CAC survey/questions via phone and/or website. When asked, Councilmember Barnett said looking at cities of comparable size to Maple Grove would be useful.

Suggestion to narrow the large list of societies down and then CAC members select two from there and make the request of those absent. The group selected Eden Prairie, Brooklyn Historical Society, Golden Valley, Excelsior-Lake Minnetonka, Hopkins, Plymouth, St. Louis Park, Wayzata, Roseville, White Bear Lake, Shakopee, Woodbury, Stillwater, Chaska, Lakeville, Sibley Historic Site, and Anoka County.

CAC members were asked if any of them had have a special interest? After discussion the following allocations were made: Stephanie—Anoka, Woodbury; Lee – Eden Prairie, Brooklyn Historical Society; Ted—White Bear Lake, Wayzata; and Don—Golden Valley, Plymouth.

Mike will send to all CAC members the questions and list of historical organizations to be surveyed. The request will be made for other CAC members to select one or two organizations to contact. Each member can decide how they want to proceed—phone, email, or visit website first to garner information before directly contacting the society.

No timeline for completion, but CAC members should move ahead with the inquiries to the organizations.

## **Adjournment**

Motion made and seconded to adjourn the April 14, 2021, Citizens Advisory Committee. The meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Morris  
Minute Secretary