

## **Joint Maple Grove City Council/Park Board work session**

### **meeting minutes**

**May 23, 2022**

#### **Call to order**

Pursuant to call and notice thereof, a joint City Council/Park Board work session was held at 7 p.m. on Monday, May 23, 2022 at the Maple Grove Government Center/Public Safety Facility, Hennepin County, Minnesota. Present was Mayor Steffenson and Councilmembers Karen Jaeger, Phil Leith, Judy Hanson, and Kristy Barnett. Also present were Park Board members Bill Lewis, John Ferm, Debbie Coss, Kelly Cunningham, and Ken Helvey. Absent was none. Present also was City Administrator Heidi Nelson, Community and Economic Development Director Joe Hogeboom, Parks and Recreation Director Chuck Stifter, Superintendent of Recreation Aimee Peterson, Community Center Manager Angie Dehn, and City Attorney Justin Templin.

Mayor Steffenson called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

#### **Review updated Master Plan for the Community Center Renovation and Expansion Project**

Parks and Recreation Director Stifter stated there is an updated Master Plan for the Community Center renovation and expansion project that does not utilize the Life Time Fitness building. He introduced Nancy Blankfard with HGA and noted she would be sharing a PowerPoint presentation with proposed updates to the Master Plan.

Ms. Blankfard provided information and specifications regarding other community centers throughout the metro area in order to provide a sense of scale for the Maple Grove project. She noted that Maple Grove's Community Center is one of the largest, but it also has its amenities in one location whereas other cities had their amenities spread out and located in separate buildings. She talked about the original Master Plan and noted the need to determine what could be done if Life Time Fitness made the decision to stay in its existing facility. She explained that the updated plan maximizes the use of surface parking on the site.

Ms. Blankfard discussed the upper and lower levels of the proposed plan and explained that project costs and the budget are factors in the plan and the decisions that are being made. She noted that the 244,645 square foot alternative plan will evolve and the spaces will change as modifications are made.

Discussion took place regarding the walking track and its proposed location. Ms. Blankfard explained that it is better to have a longer track that requires fewer laps to walk a mile. She noted that the citizen survey showed that an indoor walking track was important to the community. A longer track was achieved by locating it above the aquatics area. She spoke to how the track could be enclosed to prevent it from being in a humid environment and how opaque glass could be used to provide more privacy to those in the aquatics area below.

Several council and board members expressed concern over the size of the conference/banquet area in the updated proposed plan. Ms. Blankfard explained that the goal would be for a space similar to the City of Plymouth's conference/banquet room. While their space isn't much larger, its aesthetics make it feel open and large. She explained that increasing square footage of the building increases costs and required parking.

Discussion continued regarding the flexibility of many of the spaces in the proposed plan that could serve as additional meeting room space.

City Administrator Nelson spoke to the next steps in the process. She stated that tonight's feedback was helpful for staff to revisit the updated Master Plan to look for potential modifications. She also noted that communication would continue with Life Time Fitness and the conveyance of the updated plan to the community.

**Other items as deemed necessary**

None

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by Mayor Steffenson at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Nelson  
City Administrator