

## COMMUNITY CENTER WORKING GROUP

Thursday, June 2, 2022

Maple Grove Community Center

6:30 p.m.

- Meeting** The Meeting was started by Parks and Recreation Director, Chuck Stifter at 6:30 p.m.
- CCWG Members Present** CCWG Members were: Kristy Barnett, Joyce Deane, Rachelle Johnson, Ken Kumpula, Phil Leith, Al Madsen, Andy Mielke, Lee Newman, Lise Spence-Parsons, Chuck Skajewski, and Colin Steen.
- CCWG Members Absent** CCWG Members absent were: Brett Angell, Jan Cariveau, John Ferm, Steve Fischer, Ted Lyons, Randy Marchessault, Andy Mielke, Pat Shepard, Deb Stock, Martha West, and Ryan Wilson
- Also Present** Also present at the meeting were: Heidi Nelson, City Administrator; Chuck Stifter, Parks and Recreation Director; Angie Dehn, Community Center Manager; Aimee Peterson, Recreation Superintendent; Carol Morris, Communications Coordinator; Cara Anderson, Admin Secretary of the Parks & Recreation Department; and Nancy Blankfard, of HGA (Community Center Architect).
- Plymouth Community Center Tour** Director Stifter welcomed the group and provided a recap of the Plymouth Community Center (PCC) tour that took place on May 19. He thanked those who were able to attend and requested feedback. Many highlighted the banquet room as one of the top features. They liked the size, higher ceilings, wetland view, natural light, and overall first-class quality of it. The layout, flow, and designated entrances of the center were also highlighted. Additionally, the sensory room and large play area features impressed some of the group members.
- Modified Master Plan Presentation** Nancy Blankfard, representing HGA, presented an updated master plan to reflect the project without the Life Time Fitness real estate. She first reviewed the Plymouth Community Center layout and key features. She then showed the footprint of other local community centers in comparison to the Maple Grove Community Center. Ms. Blankfard went over the portion of the current building that will be included in the demolition stage of the master plan. She also did a brief

review of the community engagement research which was conducted in 2019. The research was gathered through a community wide survey and open house. The top three priority areas that resulted from the open house were: an expanded senior center, a new center for the arts, and expanded aquatics. The community wide survey noted fitness/workout spaces, expanded aquatics, and an expanded senior center as the top three needs.

Ms. Blankfard provided a summary of the updated master plan in comparison to the original master plan. The new plan would still include a walking track, 3<sup>rd</sup> sheet of ice and team rooms, as well as dedicated space for the arts. In comparison to the original master plan, the banquet room, teen center, and active adult spaces would have less square footage.

She went through the modified layout, highlighting various areas on the upper and lower level. She also broke down the area square footage of the base program elements, in comparison to the existing specs. Ms. Blankfard ended her presentation by explaining the construction and project costs, then opened it up for questions.

Phil Leith noted the main differences he saw between the old and new plan would be the banquet room barely increasing in capacity, less meeting rooms, and a smaller teen center.

Colin Steen inquired about the situation with Life Time. Director Stifter stated the city has been in conversation with them in the years preceding Covid. The city did make Lifetime a offer to purchase their facility, which Lifetime did not accept. Director Stifter noted discussion has continued, though no progress has been made.

Kristy Barnett noted two new gyms have opened up in Maple Grove since pre-Covid. These new gym offerings may affect Lifetime's decision, as well as the fitness needs of the new Community Center. The cost of classes at the new gyms are lower than the city can offer.

It was reiterated that Lifetime is in partnership with the city for the use and operation of the indoor and outdoor pool. The

outdoor pool renovation would be the responsibility of Lifetime.

Lee Newman inquired as to why does the city wants to compete with the new fitness places. Recreation Superintendent Aimee Peterson responded that fitness classes are a big part of the recreational offerings provided by the Parks and Recreation Department. Currently, some of these offerings are housed in rented space due to the lack of available space within the community center. The new community center would allow the department to bring these classes in house rather than pay rent for additional space. Director Stifter noted how incorporating fitness in the master plan is a way to generate revenue to help offset the cost of operating the community center. Ms. Barnett suggested looking at the space to fitness revenue data and value. It was also noted how the pools add great value and revenue.

Rachelle Johnson inquired about utilizing the community ramp, which is owned by the county. There was some discussion around this as a possibility, which might allow for less designated parking lot space.

Ms. Barnett inquired if the plan presented will be the plan released to the public. Director Stifter responded that there are still some things that need to be adjusted prior to release. He also noted the responses to the recent resident survey should be available mid-July. City Administrator Heidi Nelson commented how the team will be going back to the drawing board as they develop the plan for release, using feedback gained over the next few weeks. It was noted the recommendation from RAPP Strategies was to settle on the plan at least 90 days prior to the election. Ms. Nelson provided late July/early August as the timeframe for releasing the plan to the public.

Ms. Johnson asked if the plan were to pass the vote, would it change at all as it is executed. Ms. Nelson commented how the ballot language would be key in order to define what the funds can be used on. Director Stifter added that the messaging would contain the overall master plan concepts and programs rather than details.

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Director Stifter reminded the group there will not be a meeting in July. The next meeting will be August 4 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting ended at 7:45 p.m.