

CITY OF EXCELSIOR
Hennepin County, Minnesota

MINUTES

City Council Work Session
Monday, May 2, 2011
5:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Mayor Ruehl called the meeting to order at 5:42 p.m.

Council members present: Berghorst (arrived at 5:48 p.m.), Fulkerson, Miller, and Mayor Ruehl

Council members absent: Caron

Also Present: City Manager Luger and City Clerk Johnson

2. Agenda Approval

Fulkerson moved, Miller seconded, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 3/0.

3. Interview Applicants for Lake Minnetonka Conservation District Board of Directors Position

Jeff Morris, 150 Bell Street, introduced himself to the City Council. The City Council had a list of interview questions that they asked Mr. Morris.

Peter Kinn, 520 Third Avenue, introduced himself to the City Council. The City Council asked Mr. Kinn the list of interview questions.

Following the interviews, the City Council thanked both individuals for applying for the position and coming in for an interview. The Council asked Morris and Kinn if they were not chosen to serve on the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District (LMCD) Board of Directors if they would be interested in serving on the Park and Recreation Commission. Mr. Morris and Mr. Kinn both stated yes.

The City Council discussed the two candidates. Councilmembers agreed that either candidate would be a good representative for the City. After some discussion, the City Council unanimously agreed to offer the position to Jeff Morris. The decision was based on Morris' previous experience with serving on the LMCD Board of Directors and his work schedule which has more flexibility for him to attend meetings during the daytime.

4. Park and Recreation Commission Appointment

The Council discussed how there are currently two openings on the Park and Recreation Commission. The City has one new application on file and an application for reappointment. There is also the possibility that Peter Kinn would be interested in serving on the Park and Recreation Commission when he learns that he was not successful in getting the LMCD Board appointment.

Miller said that he would be interviewing the candidates along with Michael Wentz, Chair of the Park and Recreation Commission. He said that Chair Wentz and he have discussed whether to reappoint the one commissioner and have decided not to forward a recommendation for reappointment.

4. Update on Visioning Meeting with Representatives from the Excelsior Dock Cinema, Haskell's, former Pizza Hut, and Dunn Bros. Properties

Mayor Ruehl said that the group had met on Thursday, April 27, 2011. The group reviewed a plan that Jon Monson had put together on parking for the area. He noted that Monson took into consideration possible long term plans when he calculated the parking that might be needed. All of the properties will need additional parking if they want to expand their current use. There was discussion on putting underground parking under Water Street to accommodate parking for all of the properties if they were to expand. It was discussed that the parking plan can be used as a platform to build two different projects. The first project may be to develop the theater and former Pizza Hut sites and the second project may be a consolidated mixed use project with all of the properties on the southeast side of Water Street. He stated that the businesses on the southeast side of the street are doing well, so there is no urgency to redevelop these properties.

Mayor Ruehl said that Jon Monson and Matt Mithun, the owners of the Excelsior Dock Cinema property, voiced concern with the redevelopment of the former Pizza Hut property. If the hotel is built so it abuts the sidewalk on Water Street, the sight to the lake from their property would be blocked and could hamper redevelopment for their property. He said that Monson had stated to the group that he and Mithun would be supportive of higher heights for the hotel if the hotel was designed so it did not block their view.

Mayor Ruehl said the goal of having these meetings is to develop cooperative collaborative efforts between the property owners. He had told Neil Webber that he would be happy to set up a meeting with City staff, City Planner Richards, Councilmember Miller, and he to explore suggestions for the development of the former Pizza Hut property.

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5. Other

None

6. Adjournment

Fulkerson moved, Berghorst seconded, to adjourn at 6:44 p.m. Motion carried 4/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheri Johnson
City Clerk