

# Falcon Heights City Council Workshop

City Hall  
2077 W Larpenteur Ave.  
6:30 p.m.

## MINUTES Wednesday, March 2, 2016


### 1) Curtiss Field Recommendations

- Call to order – 6:30. Mayor Lindstrom
- General discussion on history of Curtiss Field going back to 2014. Council members discussed results from survey/open houses. Sack Thongvanh provided a brief history of parks planning and updates from 2013-current. Council asked general questions regarding recent progression of Curtiss Field. City Administrator moved on to discuss results from surveys and open houses. He explained the process of how the commission solicited desires of residents.
- City Administrator Sack Thongvanh moved on to discuss the top priorities provided through the survey results. They include a park building, greenspace, beautifying the park, and providing amenities for all ages. Council discussed utilizing parks as destinations rather than utilizing all amenities at all parks. Council asked general questions regarding what primary uses would be for a new building. Staff explained it would primarily be used for programming, rentals and special events.
- City Administrator Sack Thongvanh explained staff is looking for direction from council for next steps. The letter of recommendation included multiple priorities to consider. Without discussing specific options or costs, the city administrator explained funding options including tax abatement. Tax abatement is a mechanism that ‘captures’ property taxes and allocates to specific funds.

This can be redirected to parks specific funds. The city can bond for parks improvements and equipment, but not for a building. A bond could be placed on an election. Council members asked how the message would be shared with residents and were concerned that raising taxes without a clear message would be undesirable. Ultimately, bonding can be done with or without a ballot. Council expressed concern with bonding on individual projects (parks) as opposed to all long term bonding projects (street improvements, reclaim, etc...)

- City Administrator Sack Thongvanh discussed that ongoing strategic planning includes long term budget planning. Council will need to establish priorities for staff.
- Council members expressed understanding that staff is looking for direction for next steps. This can be cost related info... more
- Council expressed concern with a building as it might limit greenspace at the park.

- General discussion on long range planning with the budget including streets, parks, and capital purchases.
- City Administrator Sack Thongvanh explained that once council gives direction to staff, council can consider estimates and prioritize options going forward.
- Discussion on building including plumbing and what type of access the public would have to bathrooms.
- Council asked whether we receive complaints about activities at Curtiss Field at night. Council expressed that it is well patrolled by SAPD.
- Council expressed it would be beneficial to have costs associated with the recommendations. Having a more tangible set of recommendations makes considerations easier to understand.
- Council suggested that there could be a range of facilities (size, amenities, how it general functions...)
- Council expressed needing more data to consider more priorities.
- Council expressed interest in hearing costs associated with desires recommended by the Parks Commission.
- Council also expressed interest in community organizations becoming a part of planning including landscaping.
- Staff will respond to requests to find costs associated with recommendations; staff will move forward on better understanding all costs associated with short term projects including completing sidewalks and exploring landscaping options.

  
Peter Lindstrom, Mayor

Dated this 2nd day of March, 2016

  
Sack Thongvanh, City Administrator