

CITY OF FALCON HEIGHTS
City Council Workshop
Joint Meeting
Parks & Recreation Commission
City Hall
2077 West Larpenteur Avenue

MINUTES
April 3, 2024
6:30 P.M.

A. CALL TO ORDER: 6:35 PM

B. ROLL CALL:

GUSTAFSON X LEEHY X MEYER
WASSENBERG X MIELKE X

YAGER X BRADBURY X* BRENTON X
FAUST X LUNDELL X
HAIGHT WILLIAMS X

(*Bradbury arrived at 7:31 p.m.).

STAFF PRESENT: LINEHAN X NELSON X

C. POLICY ITEMS:

1. Community Park Renovation - Interior / Exterior Finishes

Haley Koesters of HCM Architects presents proposed exterior and interior material selections for the new Community Park building. For the exterior, two brick selections are shown, one just slightly darker than the other. In addition, two Hardie Board panels in blue tones are shown as examples.

The design team slightly prefers the lighter brick and darker paint as well as the darker shingle example for their recommendations. Councilmembers and Commissioners agree.

For the interior, Koesters says that in the Flex Room, they recommend a rubber flooring material that will be durable against ice skates (combined with rubber mats) and have the appearance of concrete, but resist cracking over time.

Koesters says that a decision still needs to be made for flooring in the Community Room, depending on the overall look and use of the room, whether it is carpeted or the vinyl flooring extends in there. Gustafson, Leehy and Wassenberg prefer carpet tiles, as do Parks and Rec Commissioners.

Koesters says another area to gain feedback from is a feature wall in the lobby. Designers included a mockup of a wooden slat wall.

Linehan says that, in speaking to Valerie Castile and the Castile family, they have clay hearts that were created by Philando's former students. Linehan says they'd like to include some of the clay hearts on this wall.

Koesters says the hearts could be hung on the slatted wall that the designers presented for the lobby's feature wall.

Leehy volunteers to look at the clay hearts that the City would like to incorporate in the new park building.

Koesters continues walking the commission and council through material selections, including wall colors, wall tile and ceiling materials. She says that you could either do concrete or epoxy floors in the mechanical room.

Leehy says that the good thing about epoxy is that it absorbs water better than concrete.

Mielke shows Koesters a photo and asks what flooring material Roseville used in their building.

Koester says it looks like a tinted concrete floor, which is more expensive.

Mielke says this is looking like a high-end event space rather than a parks and rec building.

Koesters says she thinks it's yoga by morning, Zumba by afternoon and Grandma's 75th birthday party by evening. It's both.

Wassenberg is a big fan of carpet tiles.

Leehy likes carpet but does think of ADA compliance too when determining the flooring material. Carpeting is easier to stand on for long periods of time.

Commissioner Williams asks about the padding underneath the carpet.

Koesters says that thicker pads tend to cause carpets to degrade faster.

Leehy adds that more pad holds onto more mold as well.

Koester says all of these materials are low VOC.

Lundell also likes the carpet tiles and thinks it would help the way sound bounces.

Koester says either ceiling option has acoustic benefits.

Brenton says that a carpeted room helps acoustics for speaking events.

Williams has a question about lighting. Is there a way to diffuse the light?

Koester says that the lighting that is shown would be in the form of multiple lights, which are downlights.

Wassenberg says that he likes the cove lighting shown.

Leehy says we should consider the longevity of the lighting.

Lundell says that even with perimeter lighting, we would still need some sort of lighting in the center as well.

Williams sees the wall in the Community Room wall having a projector, TV or rotating art.

Linehan says a key point to renting the room will likely always be AV.

Leehy says to be mindful of technology changing over time when considering AV equipment in the Community Room.

Lundell likes the idea of mixing in some wood elements along with white walls.

The commission and council look closely at the materials and further discuss them.

Linehan brings up the subject of geothermal. He met with geothermal experts and they discussed whether it would be a good fit. Yes, it would be a good fit. It would reduce electric use by one-third. At current pricing, we would never recover the investment though because electricity, even when reduced by 1/3, still costs more than natural gas. The benefit is moving away from natural gas. Linehan says they discussed the possibility of installing solar panels on the roof of a future outdoor picnic structure as well.

Koesters says their engineer will do a bit of modeling to determine costs, longevity, etc.

Lundell thinks it would be very forward-thinking to include geothermal and solar.

Williams asks about the investment cost difference.

Leehy wants to ask the question in another way. If you never pay it back (the cost of the geothermal technology), does it eventually become more expensive?

Linehan says it's important to be strategic; there are grant opportunities out there.

Yager mentions doing a canopy over the parking lot.

Linehan says the canopy idea came up on the geothermal call as well, but the cost of it was much higher...approximately \$1.5 million.

Faust says he thinks residents would support the effort to do geothermal.

Linehan says there are a lot of pros to it. But, are you doing it for a cost-savings or because it's the right thing to do?

ADJOURNMENT OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION: 7:59 PM

Commissioners Bradbury and Lundell
motioned to adjourn;
Approved 6-0

2. Future Agenda Items

Linehan says the Council will have an upcoming goal-planning and strategic meeting coming up in April at the Council Retreat and asks if there any other topics Council would like to include on the future agenda items list.

Linehan shares that Mielke has suggested adding door-knocking, outreach and renter's rights to the list.

Wassenberg wonders if the Larpenteur-Snelling Corridor Study should also be included.

Linehan says it will still take months for them to put the information together. Then, we will have to begin putting the 2030 Comprehensive Plan together. This will be a good lead in to it.

Wassenberg says it would be good to review the (Les Bolstad) golf course for a possible future sale.

Linehan explains that if the U of M owns and maintains it, they can largely do what they want to with it. That would be without our jurisdiction. But, if they sell it to a developer, it then goes to the municipality to zone it.

Wassenberg suggests maybe working through a mock exercise to work through what we would do if this were to occur in two years, as an example.

Linehan says we don't have quite enough volunteers wanting to join the State Fair Task Force 2.0 just yet, but we will be adding two new members to four returning members. In theory, Linehan says that Council could put it on the agenda next week for appointment and get started. The Council could continue to appoint members as they apply. The Council agrees that it should be added to the agenda and get going.

Wassenberg would like to revisit the Sister Cities proposal.

Mielke says that the Community Engagement Commission said they didn't have interest in moving forward at this time.

Leehy and Mayor Gustafson say that maybe we'll wait a couple of years and revisit Sister Cities then.

Mielke suggests updating ordinances and policies.

Mayor Gustafson reminds Linehan that the Council was going to take a look at the assessment policy for Falcon Woods.

Wassenberg says it would be difficult to create an assessment formula that is fair to all.

Leehy says that it's time to revisit the Council's goals.

Linehan says that all employees and Council will attend the first part of the April retreat with Third Sphere presenting and continuing training.

Linehan reminds Council that Town Halls will wrap up on April 18th and says we have received 146 survey responses so far. He shares that he has sent invites to multifamily units and says that the City will present at the Hendrickson tomorrow. We will then go to Town Square on April 11.

Leehy says the challenge is that the survey closes on April 12.

Linehan says that we can pick up the surveys and staff can enter them on April 12.

Mayor Gustafson asks about the PMP project on the next council agenda.

Linehan says that the two project bids (sanitary sewer lining and pavement management project) came in very different. We are going to recommend accepting both bids.

Linehan adds that the sanitary sewer came in approximately \$20,000 over budget so that will be a policy item for Council to authorize spending for.

Linehan says that we could do Fair Housing Month as well.

Mayor Gustafson asks if we could do a standing thing that April is Fair Housing Month.

Linehan says that maybe the CEC could dig into that and build out a calendar.

Mayor Gustafson asks about No Mow May.

Linehan says that it's now an ordinance so we won't have to discuss that next week.

The Council discusses the upcoming paper-shredding event and mentions that electronics recycling has also been added.

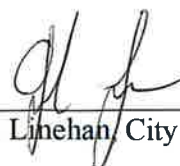
D. ADJOURNMENT: 8:29 PM

Councilmember Mielke motions to adjourn the meeting; approved 4-0.

DISCLAIMER: City Council Workshops are held monthly as an opportunity for Council Members to discuss policy topics in greater detail prior to a formal meeting where a public hearing may be held and/or action may be taken. Members of the public that would like to make a comment or ask questions about an item on the agenda for an upcoming workshop should send them to mail@falconheights.org prior to the meeting. Alternatively, time is regularly allotted for public comment during Regular City Council Meetings (typically 2nd and 4th Wednesdays) during the Community Forum.


Randall C. Gustafson, Mayor

Dated this 10th day of April, 2024


Jack Linehan, City Administrator