

**CITY OF EXCELSIOR
Hennepin County, Minnesota**

MINUTES

City Council Work Session

Monday, May 21, 2012

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Mayor Ruehl called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

Councilmembers present: Caron, Fulkerson, Miller (arrived at 6:08 p.m.), Olson, and Mayor Ruehl

Also Present: City Attorney Staunton, City Engineer Dawley, Public Works Superintendent Wisdorf, and City Clerk

2. Agenda Approval

Olson moved, Fulkerson seconded, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 4/0.

3. Concours d'Elegance Event – Proposal for City Donation

Johnson reported that at the January 17th City Council meeting, J. Marie Fieger presented a proposal to host a Concours d'Elegance Event in Excelsior in 2013. At the meeting, one of the Councilmembers suggested that the City receive a portion of the event entrance fee which the event organizers were agreeable to. Ms. Fieger is here to get the Council's input on donating \$1.00 of the entrance fee to the City, with a portion of the \$1.00 going to the Committee for a Better Lake Minnetonka Bandshell.

Mayor Ruehl said that the City is in the process of looking at the community events. The Commons costs the City a lot of money to maintain; the park is used as a regional park and the City does not receive regional support to help maintain it. The City has a lot of venues that want to use Excelsior's facilities and the City would like to maximize its return on the events.

Mayor Ruehl said that the bandshell project is a regional project and it may not happen. He thinks the City would prefer to have the revenue and then decide how to use it. Without a policy in place all the City can do is ask how much they are willing to give to the City.

Ms. Fieger said this is the first year for the event in Excelsior so there are a lot more expenses. Giving money back to the City is something new. The event is held in a number of cities around the country and none of the proceeds have been given back to any of those cities.

3. Concours d'Elegance Event – Proposal for City Donation – (Continued)

Caron asked if anything was being budgeted for wear and tear. Ms. Fieger said that she has money figured into her budget in case any repairs are needed.

Caron said the City doesn't know how well attended the event will be, so she doesn't think any of the proceeds should be shared with the Bandshell Committee. She also thinks a percentage would be better than a dollar amount, but she isn't sure what the percentage should be.

Miller said the City doesn't have a policy in place, so it's wonderful that the group is willing to give \$1.00 of the ticket price to the City in addition to the permit fee.

Olson said he thinks it's terrible that the City does not have a policy in place and is grateful that the group is willing to donate anything to the City.

Caron said the City should look at beginning the process to develop a policy. Miller asked if the policy would apply to the Art on the Lake or Fourth of July events. Caron said the Contour d-Elegance is a new event and a new usage of The Commons and she thinks it is okay to get creative with new events.

Mayor Ruehl said if the City is thinking of a percentage versus \$1.00 per ticket, the event organizers need to know this up front so it can be incorporated into the budget for the event.

Ms. Fieger said she had received a request from Mr. Schmidt of the Bandshell Committee to assist the group with getting their non-profit status. This then led into a discussion on possibly giving a portion of the money to the Bandshell Committee.

Miller asked what is the cost of the ticket. Ms. Fieger said that an adult ticket will be \$20.00 and kids will be free. There may also be a discounted rate for seniors. When the budget was put together, \$1.00 per ticket for the City was incorporated into the budget. If this event continues into future years the donation might possibly be more.

The Council stated that the City would prefer receiving 5% of the ticket price and that the full amount be given to the City so that the City can decide how to use the funds.

4. Third Street Fire Lane Proposed Landscaping Plan

Fulkerson said that she had asked to have this item on the Work Session agenda. When the subcommittee was established, she had dropped out so that the City did not have to publish the meetings. She is getting a lot of

4. Third Street Fire Lane Proposed Landscaping Plan – (Continued)

questions from residents. She was upset when the postcards were sent out to residents. Then she heard there was a neighborhood get together on the Third Street Fire Lane Landscaping plan and she knew nothing about this. She thought this was preliminary.

Olson said he is worried that the Council Chambers are going to be packed with people because the postcard was sent out. He preferred to talk about the project with the Council and get their feedback.

Miller said when this plan was at the Council last time, his position was that he wanted to see a comparison plan and costs with the pump house taken out. He said it seems like people want different things.

Caron said Councilmember Olson and she have worked through a lot of different variations of the plan and both of them feel good about the plan that has been brought forward. A meeting was held this past Saturday at her house to connect with neighbors who are on both sides of the issue in an effort to keep people in the loop. Three issues were identified. The first issue was how to deal with storm water management and the erosion of the hillside. The second issue was whether to keep the pump house. The third issue was to address how the fire lane was being used.

Caron said that the Council saw one design that was not supported by the public and did not address the issues. The design that is before the Council now addresses the issues. The objective today is to get the Council's input and hopefully support for this design. With this design, the site will be regraded, all of the pipes and concrete will be removed, which solves the drainage issue. It retains the pump house, adds a fence, and provides a walkway to the lake on one side. The slope will be planted with native Minnesota plants that do not require maintenance.

Dawley said that the City has been approved for a grant from the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District for about \$20,000 to assist with the costs.

Miller asked if this is the same water filtration that was used on First Street. Dawley said it is a little different; this system will provide the most water quality.

Miller asked if this system will intercept all of the water. Dawley said that all of the water from the right-of-way will funnel through this.

Caron said that they are also looking at adding decorative security lights similar to what is on Water Street. They have also met with the police several times to get feedback. The main issue that the police had was being able to see if there are people down there. Essentially, the best solution is to

4. Third Street Fire Lane Proposed Landscaping Plan – (Continued)

create an environment that is inviting to people to use and not loiter. Installing a security camera has also been discussed.

Miller asked what the police had to say about having a security camera. Caron said the police wanted to know if the picture would be clear enough to identify the person. When they had discussed a security camera it was to use it as a deterrent.

Miller asked if the cost for a security camera had been added into the costs. Olson said not yet. Caron said there are still some details that need to be reviewed.

Olson said the City is not in this to please everybody. This is about addressing the City's ordinances and dealing with nuisances. If everyone walks away from this 80% happy then they've done their job. The City still has the pump house without the liability, solved the storm water issues, and still provided access to the lake.

Miller said that one of his biggest issues was the cost. He likes this in the sense that there isn't a hiding place anymore. This really comes down to what the police think is the best setup. He likes that someone can still walk up and watch the sunset. Olson said there is a big difference between public parks and an area that is highly restricted between two houses.

Miller asked what the difference in cost is if they take out the pump house. Dawley said that they had to add some costs for slope treatments which is where the additional money comes in. The difference in cost is about \$34,000.

Miller said the question to ask than is whether the design is worth the added costs. In this case, there will be a nice unique area to stand and look out at the lake and the pump house is being preserved; this design is a nicer solution for Excelsior.

Mayor Ruehl said this is a much nicer design. The cost to do the work bothers him, but if the City is going to do the work it pays to do it well. Olson said they are still committed to getting the budget down.

Fulkerson said it would have been good to keep the Council informed on what was happening. She was getting phone calls and emails and she couldn't respond because had no idea what was happening. This started as a safety issue. Caron said there are a lot of people who want to know what's going on.

4. Third Street Fire Lane Proposed Landscaping Plan – (Continued)

Olson asked Fulkerson what she thought of the design. Fulkerson said that lighting creates an issue with boats, so that has to be done very carefully. The plan looks fine, but she doesn't think there should be access to the water.

5. Hourly Restrictions for Construction Activities

Miller moved, Caron seconded, to continue this agenda item to a future Work Session.

6. Other

None

7. Adjournment

Miller moved, Caron seconded, to adjourn the Work Session at 7:00 p.m.
Motion carried 5/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheri Johnson
City Clerk