PARK SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT PLAN
PUBLIC FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 28, 2021
6:00 PM
Fridley City Hall, 7071 University Avenue N.E.

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. by Staff Liaison Daniel Tienter.

Members Present: Ron Ackerman, Rachel Schwankl, Walter Smith, Lee Pao Xiong, and Steve Schmit

Members Absent: Alesia Thompson, Scott Brinkhaus, and Warren Stock

Others Present: Daniel Tienter, Staff Liaison

OLD BUSINESS

1. Information Requested by the Public Finance Advisory Committee

Mr. Tienter reviewed the information provided to the Committee in their packets. He briefly reviewed the items requested from Committee members previously at the September 14, 2021 meeting. Specifically, they reviewed a revised, preliminary bond run with several options providing different term lengths and its corresponding data.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Proposed 2021-2032 Financial Plan Alternatives and Potential Franchise Fee Analysis

The Committee reviewed the funding option plans provided by Mr. Tienter. There was discussion regarding the ways the City could raise funding. Mr. Tienter stated a Community Engagement Coordinator was hired a couple of years ago, noting some of the fundraising and community engagement programs may just be getting off the ground but there are some options they can explore.

Regarding the amenities the Committee wants to put funds into, Mr. Smith stated it should be taken into consideration how the shelters in the parks are only used a few months out of the year and because they are outside and they endure the weather, it might not be the best idea to put a ton of money into the budget for those items.

Ms. Schwankl stated she proposes they move forward with the $18 million with a 15-year term plan. She also stated the community said they wanted environmentally sustainable parks and equipment and noted in 15 years they can always bring the park system back to the drawing board.

Mr. Xiong stated his background is in the non-profit sector and other cities have organizations like Friends of Brooklyn Center that help do fundraising for projects the City wants and needs; he suggests Fridley create a "Friends of Fridley" organization that could do the same and help bridge any gaps for projects the City wants to do but funds are not in the plan. The Committee expressed that they like that idea as well.

Mr. Smith stated when considering the amount people will need to pay in taxes, they need to look at people on a fixed income because they may not have a few extra dollars to contribute towards these fees, but there may be people who would want to cover that extra portion for them. He stated he thinks they need to reach back out to the community maybe do a survey to find out how this might affect people.

Mr. Tienter stated they do have some programs within the City that could help, and they have programs such as where people can round up on their utility bills and that extra amount could be put towards the parks fund. Mr. Smith stated if it's a community issue that they should be able to ask the community to be involved and they might be happy to help.

Mr. Tienter stated he thinks there is a consensus for $18 million bond and asked if anyone disagrees. Ms. Schwankl stated that is correct. She noted they want to keep the impact as small as possible for residents while achieving what needs to be done immediately and $18 million would accomplish that. The rest of the Committee echoed her sentiments.

Mr. Tienter mentioned that staff would be more supportive of a $20 million bond issue, which would give the City more flexibility when it comes to project implementation. He stated that one of the financial plans allows the City to deliver the Plan in seven rather than 10 years, but it would require a $20 million bond issue to avoid financial pressure on the City.

Mr. Schmit asked what impact these will have on business taxes. Mr. Tienter stated essentially, they will be double the resident amounts. Mr. Schmit stated Fridley is very business friendly and he would have no problem investing back into the City after they have given him and others businesses the opportunities they have.

There was a consensus to have Mr. Tienter draft a report to include the non-profit organization, a donation program, agreement to spend $30M, hire a Project Manager, and a soft consensus to move forward with a $18 or $20 million bond issue with a 15-Year Term.

Mr. Tienter stated the next meeting will be in two weeks on October 12th, 2021 and thanked everyone for their time this evening.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

None.

OPEN FORUM

None.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Michaela Daniels-Kujawa, Recording Secretary