

CITY OF ST. FRANCIS  
ST. FRANCIS, MN  
ANOKA COUNTY

CITY COUNCIL/MANAGEMENT TEAM WORK SESSION NOTES

MARCH 31, 2014

The City Council held a Work Session on March 31, 2014 at 5:00 pm in the St. Francis Community Center, 23340 Cree Street NW. Present were Mayor Tveit, Council members Steve Kane, Amy Lazere, Tim Brown and Chris McClish. Also present were City Attorney Scott Lepak, ISD #15 School Board Chair David Roberts, City Administrator Matt Hysten, Finance Director Darcy Mulvihill, Public Works Director Paul Teicher, Police Chief Jeff Harapat, and City Clerk Barb Held.

Mayor Tveit opened up the work session at 5:03 pm. Tveit asked Hysten to give a recap of the last work session. Hysten then turned it over to City Attorney Scott Lepak to moderate the work session.

Lepak stated the City Council has not had a lot of work sessions over the past years. The City Council had a retreat this past year that led to the topic of community engagement. The question is how do we improve or get our civic community engaged. The first suggestion was to involve the school district. Another question was what is the role of the City and how can we engage the civic community and get them involved.

Mayor Tveit asked, what does our community need? Possibly have a grass roots type of group made up of concerned citizens, school district and the city but how do we start.

Roberts suggested creating opportunities for families, senior groups and students to volunteer on a project. You need them to buy in on these projects. We need to give the kids something to do and a place to go to. The school can only offer so many activities and the time slot of concern is 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Maybe if we could get the kids connected with local businesses it could be a win for both. The kids may learn a trade by helping out. Lazere suggested that be a topic for a Chamber Business Breakfast. Teicher stated the welding class is already working with the City by building us bike racks and picnic tables. The Bridge Church is also helping with the upkeep of Woodbury Park. Kane asked how can we get the kids involved in volunteering during Pioneer Days. Making the right contacts is the key. Roberts stated maybe start out addressing a need or a project the community can build such as an outdoor basketball court that Lazere has mentioned in the past. Again you need something for them to buy in and be proud of. Lepak asked where do we find out what people want. Lazere stated she has mentioned using survey monkey in the past. Roberts stated people don't always answer surveys. He suggested using Social Media. The group discussed a list of projects that we could see if volunteers are interested. Some of the suggestions on projects volunteers might be interested in were; gardening group to create a flower bed under the Welcome to St. Francis signs, paint the community room, seniors teach kids board/card games and hold it

in the community room, disc golf, and paint the hockey rink boards. These were just few of the items discussed.

Tveit asked how you he (Roberts) handled the naysayers and the residents that don't care to be informed. Roberts said he goes to out to them and answer their questions. He also has his own Facebook page where he corresponds with people too. He has an update to his page after every school board meeting. To stimulate the school board audience growth was to show their meetings via YouTube and that has increased their viewership.

Kane stated he was skeptical at first using Facebook and Pinterest but found out it is huge and they do reach a lot of people.

Harapat stated the discussion of an intern has been brought up and that is great but what happens when the internship is done. Then who does it? Lazere said I think we need to hire someone, a professional. Consensus with the group is to look into this position further.

Lepak stated so we need to move forward with Social Media, have a list of projects the community could complete to feel part of the community. Also we should have a list of school and various organizations contact information so when a project comes does come up we can see if they are interested in helping.

The Work Session ended at 6:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Held  
City Clerk