1. 5:00 P.M. Joint City Council And Charter Commission Worksession Meeting Agenda
   Documents:
   
   SEPTEMBER 28, 2020 JOINT CITY COUNCIL AND CHARTER COMMISSION WORKSESSION MEETING AGENDA.PDF

2. 5:00 P.M. Joint City Council And Charter Commission Worksession Meeting Packet
   Documents:
   
   SEPTEMBER 28, 2020 JOINT COUNCIL AND CHARTER COMMISSION WORKSESSION MEETING PACKET.PDF
1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

3. COUNCIL BUSINESS and/or DISCUSSION ITEMS
   3.1 Joint City Council/Charter Commission Meeting – Discussion; Amendments to City Charter; Section 2.07 Salaries & Section 2.05 Vacancies in Elected Office.
   
   3.2 Discussion; Petition to Convert 400 Block of Van Buren St into a Greenway.
   
   3.3 Discussion; October 31st Event Proposal from Anoka Entertainment District.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Some or all members of the Anoka City Council may participate in this City Council Worksession by telephone or videoconference rather than by being personally present. Members of the public can monitor the worksession meeting by streaming it live online, visit the QCTV Anoka web page or watch QCTV Channel 16. Members of the public who desire to give input or testimony during the meeting may do so by calling or texting in comments prior to meeting and live during meeting (612-271-8051) or by email at: remotemeeting@ci.anoka.mn.us.

NOTE: There will be challenges and delays as we attempt this option. It is highly recommended to leave comments on this voicemail system prior to the meeting.

The number to call is: 612-271-8051.

Meeting by telephone or other electronic means in accordance with Minnesota Statute 13D.021.
City Council Agenda - Worksession  
Monday, September 28, 2020, 5:00 p.m. 
Council Chambers 

(meeting will be cablecast)

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

3. COUNCIL BUSINESS and/or DISCUSSION ITEMS
   3.1 Joint City Council/Charter Commission Meeting – Discussion; Amendments to City Charter; Section 2.07 Salaries & Section 2.05 Vacancies in Elected Office.
   3.2 Discussion; Petition to Convert 400 Block of Van Buren St into a Greenway.
   3.3 Discussion; October 31st Event Proposal from Anoka Entertainment District.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Some or all members of the Anoka City Council may participate in this City Council Worksession by telephone or videoconference rather than by being personally present. Members of the public can monitor the worksession meeting by streaming it live online, visit the QCTV Anoka web page or watch QCTV Channel 16. Members of the public who desire to give input or testimony during the meeting may do so by calling or texting in comments prior to meeting and live during meeting (612-271-8051) or by email at: remotemeeting@ci.anoka.mn.us.

NOTE: There will be challenges and delays as we attempt this option. It is highly recommended to leave comments on this voicemail system prior to the meeting.

The number to call is: 612-271-8051.

Meeting by telephone or other electronic means in accordance with Minnesota Statue 13D.021.
Meeting Date: September 28, 2020
Agenda Section: Council Business and/or Discussion Items
Item Description: Discussion; Proposed Charter Amendments (Salaries & Filling Vacancies)
Submitted By: Amy Oehlers, ACM

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

At your December 16, 2019 and February 24, 2020 meetings the Council reviewed proposed amendments to the City Charter relating to Salaries of Elected Officials and Vacancies in Elected Office.

At that meeting, the Council did not come to a consensus on the changes proposed by the Charter Commission and requested that the item be sent to a future Worksession for discussion and that the Charter Commission members be invited to attend the Worksession. An invitation to the Charter Commissions has been sent.

As an overview, the Charter Commission made the following recommendations:

Section 2.07 Salaries.

The Mayor and members of the Council shall receive such compensation for their services as may be prescribed by ordinance adopted by the vote of four-fifths of all members of the Council. Other officers and employees of the City shall receive such compensation as may be fixed by the Council. A review of the Mayor and Councilmember salaries shall be conducted by the City Council every three (3) years.

Staff is suggesting that this section be further amended to change the last sentence as follows:

A review of the Mayor and Councilmember salaries shall be conducted by the City Council every three (3) years.

A review of the Mayor and Councilmember salaries shall be conducted by the City Council in June of every odd numbered year.

Section 2.05 Vacancies in Elected Offices.

A vacancy in an elected office shall be deemed to exist in case of the failure of any person elected thereto to qualify on or before the date of the second regular meeting of the Council in the month of January following his/her election, or by reason of his/her death, resignation, removal from office, for malfeasance, or nonfeasance, removal from the City, conviction of a felony before or after his/her qualification, or for reasons prescribed by State Law. In each such case, the Council shall, by Resolution, declare a vacancy to exist and shall forthwith appoint an eligible person to fill the vacated seat.

At the next regular City election, the vacated seat shall be placed upon the ballot for the purpose of filling the vacated office for the remainder of its original term. The appointed person shall serve until the person elected qualifies for such office. If the vacated office would have normally been filled at the next regular City election, the appointed person shall serve until the newly elected individual’s term commences in January following the election and they have qualified for such office.
If the Council is unable to agree on an appointment to fill the vacancy within thirty (30) days from the occurrence of the fact giving rise to the vacancy, the Mayor shall appoint a person to fill the vacancy.

If the Council is unable to unanimously agree on an appointment to fill the vacancy, a Resolution passed by an affirmative vote of a majority vote of the Councilmembers present at the meeting at the time the vote is taken, shall be required to fill the vacancy. In the event of a tie vote, the Mayor shall appoint one of the voted upon eligible persons to fill the vacancy.

Council has requested to discuss both of these sections further.

Included in your packet is information provided by Councilmember Skogquist, relating to how other cities handle filling vacancies in elected offices.

Also included in your packet is information how the City handled it’s most recent filling of a vacancy on the City Council.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT**

N/A

**REQUESTED COUNCIL DIRECTION**

Request the Council provide direction to staff on how to proceed with these recommendations by the Charter Commission.
Sec. 4.5. - Vacancy of municipal elected office.

4.5.1 When a vacancy in an elected office of the city occurs with 365 days or more remaining in the term of the vacated office, there shall be a special election held within 90 days after the vacancy occurs to elect a successor to serve for the remainder of the unexpired term of the office vacated.

4.5.2 The city clerk shall give at least 60 days published prior notice of such special election, except as set forth under 4.5.5 of this section.

4.5.3 The procedure at such election and assumption of duties of elected officers following such election shall conform as nearly as practicable to that prescribed for other municipal elections under this Charter.

4.5.4 In the case of a vacancy where there remains less than 365 days in the unexpired term, the council shall, by a majority vote, appoint a successor to serve for the remainder of said term. In the case of a tie vote of the council, the mayor, or acting mayor if the office of mayor be vacant, shall make the appointment from the candidates involved in the tie vote.

4.5.5 Office vacancy when less than eight weeks prior to primary election.

4.5.5.1 Special election. When a vacancy in an elected office of the city occurs when there is less than eight weeks prior to a primary election there shall be no primary election, except as provided in section 4.5.5.3 below. The special election to fill the vacancy shall coincide with the regular Municipal Election and the notice of such vacancy shall be published as soon as is practicable.

4.5.5.2 Vacancy in offices to be voted on in the regular Municipal Election. If a vacancy occurs less than eight weeks prior to the primary election, in the office of the mayor or the council members whose seats are to be voted on in the regular Municipal Election, said vacancy shall be considered not to exist for the purpose of the regular Municipal Election. The person elected to fill the vacancy in the regular Municipal Election, if approved by unanimous vote of the sitting council, may assume the duties of the office to which elected on the first business day following the city clerk’s issuance of a certificate of election to said person.

4.5.5.3 Vacancy in an office not to be voted on in the regular Municipal Election. If a vacancy occurs in the office of the mayor or a councilmember not standing for election in the regular Municipal Election, a special primary election and a special election shall be held in January of the subsequent year following the vacancy to fill said vacancy. The election procedures for the special primary election and the special election shall be those election procedures for municipal office candidates as prescribed in Minnesota Statutes and this Charter. Notwithstanding section 2.3.1 of this Charter, which provides for a
four-year term for the mayor and council members, the term of the mayor and/or a councilmember elected pursuant to this subsection will be for the remainder of the vacant term.

4.5.6 If there are insufficient numbers of candidates in a regular or special election to fill expiring or vacated municipal offices, the city council shall fill said offices by appointment until the next regular municipal election. In the case of a tie vote of the council, the mayor shall make said appointment from the candidates under consideration.

(Ord. of 1-24-2001; Ord. No. 04-47, § 1(Subd. 3), 11-23-2004; Ord. No. 09-18, § 2, 12-8-2009)
Sec. 2.05. - Vacancies in the council.

A vacancy in the council shall exist in case of:

1. The failure of any person elected thereto to qualify on or before the date of the second regular meeting of the new council; or
2. The death, resignation, removal from office, removal from the city, continuous absence of any councilmember from the city for more than three (3) months; or
3. The failure of any councilmember without good cause to perform any of the duties of membership in the council for a period of two (2) months; or
4. The conviction of any such person of a crime for which a sentence of imprisonment for more than one year may be imposed, whether before or after such person’s qualification.

If a vacancy on the council is for a period of more than twelve (12) months, the council shall by resolution declare the vacancy to exist and shall by resolution call for a special election as provided in this section.

If a vacancy on the council is for a period of less than twelve (12) months, the council shall by resolution declare that the vacancy exists. Within the next forty-five (45) days, the council shall by resolution appoint an eligible person to the existing vacancy. The appointee shall serve until January 1 following the next regular municipal election, or until his/her successor is elected and qualified. At the next regular municipal election, the office will be filled for the unexpired term.

The council may by resolution waive its right to appoint to fill a vacancy and may call a special election to be held as soon as legally permissible. If a vacancy on the council is not filled by appointment within the forty-five (45) days following the declaration of the vacancy, the council shall call a special election as provided in this section.

CHAPTER 2
FORM OF GOVERNMENT

Section 2.01. FORM OF GOVERNMENT. The form of government established by this charter is the "Council-Manager Plan". The Council shall exercise the legislative power of the City and determine all matters of policy. The City Manager shall be the head of the administrative branch of the City Government and shall be responsible to the Council for the proper administration of all affairs relating to the City.

Section 2.02. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS. There shall be no separate administrative board of health, library board, park board, or any other administrative board or commission, except for civil service commissions and boards and for the administration of a function jointly with another political subdivision. The Council shall itself be and perform the duties and exercise the powers of such boards and commissions. The Council may, however, establish boards or commissions to advise the Council with respect to any municipal function or activity, to investigate any subject of interest to the City, or to perform quasi-judicial functions.

Section 2.03. ELECTIVE OFFICERS. The Council shall be composed of a Mayor and four Council members who shall be registered voters of Brooklyn Center, and who shall be elected at large. Each Council member shall serve for a term of four (4) years. The Mayor shall serve for a term of four (4) years. The Council shall be canvassers of the election of the Mayor and the Council members.

Section 2.04a. INCOMPATIBLE OFFICES. No member of the Council shall be appointed City Manager, nor shall any member hold any other paid municipal office or employment for the City; and until one (1) year after the expiration of the member's term or the member's resignation as Mayor or Council member, no former member shall be appointed to any paid appointive office or employment for the City except as provided in Section 2.05.

Section 2.04b. PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT. No former Mayor or Council member may, within one (1) year after leaving the position, appear or participate in proceedings before the Council except to represent the former member's own personal interests as a private citizen of the City of Brooklyn Center.

Section 2.05. VACANCIES IN THE COUNCIL. When, for any reason, a vacancy should occur in the City Council or office of the Mayor, the City Council must publicly declare such vacancy and specify the date of occurrence of the vacancy within ten (10) days of its occurrence. Notice of the vacancy shall be posted at City Hall and sent to the official city newspaper on the next business day. The Mayor or Council member shall forfeit the office for (1) lack at any time during the term of office of any qualification for the office prescribed by this charter or by law, (2) violation of any express prohibition of this charter, (3) conviction of a crime involving moral turpitude, (4) failure to attend three consecutive regular meetings of the Council without being excused by the Council, or (5) departure of residence from the City. If the unexpired term of the Council vacancy is less than one year from the date of the occurrence of the vacancy, the Council by a majority vote of all its remaining members may either appoint a qualified person to fill the vacancy or call for a special
election. If the unexpired term of the Council vacancy is one year or longer, a special election shall be called by the Council or by the City Clerk if the Council fails to act within thirty (30) days of the occurrence of the vacancy. Notice of the vacancy, with a description setting forth the minimum set of legal qualifications to hold public office shall be posted at City Hall and sent to the official city newspaper on the next business day. A quorum of the Council consists of three (3) members; if at any time the membership of the Council is reduced to fewer than three (3) members, the remaining members may by unanimous action appoint additional members to raise the membership to three (3) without following the procedures set forth in Section 2.05b.

Section 2.05a. PROCEDURES TO FILL COUNCIL VACANCIES BY SPECIAL ELECTION. If the unexpired term of the council vacancy is one year or longer, or if the unexpired term of the Council vacancy is less than one year and the Council chooses not to fill the vacancy through the appointment process, a special election shall be called by the Council or by the City Clerk if the Council fails to act within thirty (30) days of the occurrence of the vacancy. The special election shall be held not sooner than sixty (60) days and not later than two hundred (200) days following the occurrence of the vacancy. Except as provided in this Section and Section 4.03 of the City Charter, all of the provisions of the Minnesota election law are applicable to the election as far as practicable.

Section 2.05b. PROCEDURES TO FILL COUNCIL VACANCIES BY COUNCIL APPOINTMENT. If the unexpired term of the council vacancy is less than one year, the Council by a majority vote of all its remaining members may appoint a qualified person to fill the vacancy. Notice of the vacancy, with a description setting forth the minimum set of legal qualifications to hold public office shall be posted at City Hall and sent to the official city newspaper on the next business day and shall include the following description of the application and appointment process, which shall be followed by the City Council:

1. Uniform applications in a form approved by the City Council must be received by the City Clerk, no later than twenty-one (21) days from the date of the declared vacancy. Application forms submitted by the applicants are public documents. Applications shall request, at a minimum, all information required by Minnesota Statutes of candidates filing for the office. Additional information forms may be adopted by the City Council and shall be required of each applicant uniformly. The applicant may submit a resume, in addition to the uniform application forms.

2. Tentative interview scheduling shall be completed and posted at City Hall no later than twenty-five (25) days from the declared vacancy. Applicants shall be responsible for requesting schedule changes.

3. Interview process shall not start earlier than twenty-eight (28) days from the declared vacancy.
   a. Applicants shall be interviewed by the Council, in accordance with the State of Minnesota open meeting laws.
b. A uniform list of initial questions to be asked of all applicants shall be made available to the public and the applicants in advance of interviews. To the extent reasonably practicable, questions asked of all applicants at the interviews shall be uniform.

4. Selection Process. Upon completion of the interview process, the Council may call for a vote to appoint an applicant. Each Council member may cast only one vote for a preferred applicant on each called-for vote to appoint. No vote, which does not result in a majority vote for one candidate, shall result in elimination from consideration of any candidate. Written ballots listing the applicant(s) shall be used. Each Council member’s vote shall be recorded. A simple majority of the Council votes shall appoint that applicant to the City Council.

5. If the Council pursues the appointment process but then fails to fill a vacancy within forty-five (45) days from the occurrence of the vacancy, the City Clerk shall call a special election to fill the vacancy. The special election shall be held not sooner than one hundred five (105) days and not later than two hundred (200) days following the occurrence of the vacancy. Except as provided in this Section and Section 4.03 of the City Charter, all of the provisions of the Minnesota election law are applicable to the election as far as practicable.

6. The City shall comply with the Minnesota Data Practices Act in all respects in the collection, management, and dissemination of data on applicants for City Council vacancies.

Section 2.06. THE MAYOR. The Mayor shall be the presiding officer of the Council, except that the Council shall choose from its members a president pro tem who shall hold office at the pleasure of the Council and shall serve as president in the Mayor's absence and as Mayor in case of the Mayor's disability or absence from the City. The Mayor shall have a vote as a member of the Council and shall exercise all powers and perform all duties conferred and imposed upon the Mayor by this charter, the ordinances of the City, and the laws of the State. The Mayor shall be recognized as the official head of the City for all ceremonial purposes, by the courts for the purpose of serving civil process, and by the Governor for the purposes of martial law. The Mayor shall study the operations of the City government and shall report to the Council any neglect, dereliction of duty, or waste on the part of any officer or department of the City. In time of public danger or emergency the Mayor may, with the consent of the Council, take command of the police, maintain order and enforce the law.

Section 2.07. SALARIES. The Mayor and the members of the Council shall receive payment as set by ordinance. No change in salary shall take effect until the January 1 following the next succeeding municipal general election. The City Manager and all the subordinate officers and employees of the City shall receive such salaries or wages as may be fixed by the Council.
CHAPTER 2
FORM OF GOVERNMENT

Section 6. FORM OF GOVERNMENT. The form of government established by this charter shall be known as the "Council-Manager Plan."

Section 7. ELECTIVE OFFICES. The council shall be composed of a mayor and four council members who shall be qualified electors, and who shall be elected at large in the manner hereinafter provided. The four council members shall serve for a term of four years and until their successors are elected and qualified. The Mayor shall serve for a term of two years and until a successor is elected and qualified. The council shall be judge of the election of the mayor and council members. (Ordinance No. 1466, passed December 15, 2003) (Ordinance No. 1300, passed April 10, 1995)

Section 8. INCOMPATIBLE OFFICES. No member of the council shall hold any paid municipal office or employment under the City of Columbia Heights, and until one year after the expiration of that member's term as council member no former member shall be appointed to any paid office or employment under the city which office or employment was created or the emoluments of which were increased during that member's term. (Ordinance No. 1086, passed June 11, 1984)

Section 9. VACANCIES IN THE COUNCIL. A vacancy in the council shall be deemed to exist in case of the failure of any person elected thereto to qualify on or before the date of the second regular meeting of the new council, or by reason of the death, resignation, removal from office, cessation as a resident of the city, continuous absence from the city for more than three months, conviction of a felony of any such person whether before or after qualification, the failure of any council member without good cause to perform any of the duties of membership in the council for a period of three months or for any other cause as may be provided for in Minnesota Statutes, as amended. In each such case, at the next regular meeting following receipt of notice by the council of one of the foregoing conditions, the council shall by resolution declare such vacancy to exist unless further investigation is required. Notice of said vacancy shall be posted at city hall for a period of two (2) weeks from the date of the adoption of the resolution declaring said vacancy. Notice shall also be published in a designated city newspaper for a period of two (2) weeks as soon as possible after the date of the adoption of said resolution, with the publication being completed no later than thirty (30) days from said date. Applications shall be sought and accepted from individuals interested in filling the vacancy, which applications shall be submitted to city hall, to the attention of the City Clerk, within 45 days from the date of said resolution. The council shall interview each of the applicants within 30 days from the close of the application period, and shall conduct said interviews in an agreed upon uniform manner as a council. After said 30 day period, the council shall make its appointment from the pool of applicants within 15 days, whether done so at a regular council meeting or a special meeting. The individuals so appointed shall fill said vacancy until the next regular municipal election, when the office shall be filled for the unexpired term by an eligible person elected at large in the manner hereinafter set forth; provided, however, that if a vacancy is declared by resolution after March 31st in the year of a regular municipal election, then the appointment process as set forth herein shall not take effect and any such vacancy shall continue to
exist until said election, at which time the vacancy shall be filled for the unexpired term by an eligible person elected at large in the manner hereinafter provided. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, any vacancy resulting from a recall election or from a resignation following the filing of a recall petition shall be filled in the manner provided in such case. (Ordinance No. 1331, passed September 23, 1996) (Ordinance No. 1086, passed June 11, 1984)

Section 10. THE MAYOR. The mayor shall be the presiding officer of the council, and shall exercise all powers and perform all duties conferred and imposed upon the mayor by this charter, the ordinances of the city, and the laws of the state. A president pro tempore shall be chosen who shall serve as president in the mayor’s absence, and who shall, in the mayor’s absence, exercise all powers and perform all duties conferred and imposed upon the mayor by this charter, the ordinances of the city and the laws of the state. In the absence of both the mayor and the president pro tempore, the council member with the most seniority (as determined by consecutive uninterrupted years of service to date) shall exercise and perform said powers and duties. The mayor shall have the appointment, control, and direction of all police officers of the city, and shall be recognized as the official head of the city for all ceremonial purposes, by the courts for the purpose of serving civil processes, and by the governor for the purposes of the military law. In the event of a vacancy in the office of mayor, whether by death, resignation, or any other cause, the council shall order a special election to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term except in the case of a recall, the vacancy shall be filled in the manner provided by this charter. (Ordinance No. 1389, passed April 26, 1999) (Ordinance No. 1086, passed June 11, 1984)

Section 10A. (Deleted per Ordinance No. 1584, passed August 23, 2010)

Section 11. THE CITY MANAGER. The city manager shall be the chief administrative officer of the city. The city manager shall be chosen by the council solely on the basis of executive and administrative qualifications and the choice shall not be limited to inhabitants of the city or state. The city manager shall be appointed for an indefinite period and shall be removable by the council at any time. If removed at any time after one year of service, such person may demand written charges. Such demand shall be in writing and shall be served upon the mayor or any member of the council within one week after the date of the resolution of suspension or removal and written charges shall be served upon the city manager within fifteen days after the service of such demand upon the mayor or any member of the council and public hearing shall be had on said charges before the city council within thirty days after the service of such charges, but the city council and the city manager may consent to a hearing on said charges at a later date, but the removal of the city manager shall not take effect until such hearing shall have been held, but pending such hearing the city council may suspend the city manager from office. During the absence or disability of the city manager, the duties of that office shall be performed by some properly qualified person designated by the council. (Ordinance No. 1086, passed June 11, 1984)

Section 12. OATH OF OFFICE. Every officer of the city shall, before entering upon the duties of the office, take and subscribe an oath of office in substantially the following form: I do solemnly swear [or affirm] to support the constitution of the United States and of this state, and to discharge faithfully the duties devolving upon me as ______________________ of this city to the best of my judgment and ability. (Ordinance No. 1086, passed June 11, 1984)
CITY COUNCIL POSITION
2018 ELECTION - FILLING VACANT POSITION

2018 Election - General Information:
- Candidate filing opens May 22\textsuperscript{nd} and ends at 5:00 p.m. on June 5\textsuperscript{th}.
- Filing cost is $20

We will have on the ballot:
Mayor’s seat: 2 yr term
Councilmember seat (Weaver’s seat): 4 yr term
Councilmember seat (Anderson’s seat): 4 yr term
Councilmember seat (Wesp’s seat): 2 yr term

Filling Vacant Seat (Carl Anderson’s seat):
Estimated/Proposed Schedule:

March 19 - Carl announced he is moving to Champlin and will need to vacate his position on the Anoka City Council.

April 11 – Carl submits a letter of resignation

April 16 – Carl Resigns (last meeting). Council accepts his letter of resignation

April 23 – Worksession: Council discusses filling the Council vacancy (or May 29\textsuperscript{th})

May 7 - The Council adopts a resolution declaring the vacancy, the resolution includes the process to fill the vacancy

May 8 – Advertisement of the vacancy

June 4 – Applicants Address the City Council

June 4 – Council Appoints Applicant (hidden ballot?)

June 5 - The vacated seat is temporarily filled until December 31, 2018. Appointed person (knowing that they are now appointed) will still have time to file as a candidate in the 2018 elections (must file by 5pm June 5\textsuperscript{th}).
Here is the process we followed to fill Steve Schmidt’s seat in 2016:

**11/21/2016 Regular Mtg**

New Business Item. City Manager advised Council that Councilmember Schmidt submitted his resignation on November 17, 2016 and provided information to the Council regarding the necessity to adopt a resolution declaring a vacancy and appointing an eligible individual to fill the remainder of the term, as well as other related information (scheduling a discussion on the vacancy process for the Nov worksession, and making appointment at the following regular meeting, December 5th).

**11/28/2016 Worksession**

Attorney Baumgartner advised the Council on the process to fill the vacancy, stating that the Council by resolution declares the vacancy and makes an appointment to fill the vacancy.

Staff was directed to advertise appointment for the upcoming vacancy on the City’s website, which was done on 11/29/2016. The notice directed interested parties to contact the City Clerk. A deadline of 10:00 a.m. 12/1/2016 was stated in the notice in order for information on interested parties to be included in the Council mtg packet for the next regular meeting. Tracy Kelly, Erik Skogquist and Brian Wesp expressed interest. Interest was submitted via an email message to the City Clerk (emails were provided to the Council in their meeting packet)

**12/05/2016 Regular Mtg**

During Section 9 of the Agenda, prior to the consideration of the resolution declaring the vacancy and making an appointment, the Mayor invited the interested parties to address the Council regarding their interest.

The Council provided their selection by ballot.

Council adopted the Resolution declaring the vacancy and making the appointment.

**12/19/2016 Regular Mtg**

Oath of Office was administered to the appointed individual, Brian Wesp.
CITY COUNCIL VACANCY
Proposed Schedule

March 19 - Carl announced he is moving to Champlin and will need to vacate his position on the Anoka City Council

April 16 - Carl Resigns (last meeting). Council accepted Carl Anderson’s resignation

April 23 - Worksession: Council discusses filling the Council vacancy. Also discusses vacancies on other Boards/Organizations (LRRWMO, NWACC, QCCC)

May 7 - The Council adopts a resolution declaring the vacancy, the resolution includes the process to fill the vacancy

May 8 - Advertisement of the vacancy (Official City Posting, Website, Post in Official Newspaper on 5/11)

May 23 - Deadline for interested parties to inform the City of their interested in being appointed

June 4 - Applicants Address the City Council

June 4 - Council Appoints Applicant (ballot process)

June 5 - The vacated seat is filled until December 31, 2018. Appointed person (knowing that they are now appointed) will still have time to file as a candidate in the 2018 elections (must file by 5pm June 5th).

June 18 - Appointed Person is sworn in at the beginning of the meeting and takes their seat with the City Council
CITY CHARTER:

Section 4.03 Primary Elections.

If more than two persons are nominated or have filed as a candidate for the office of Mayor, or if persons more than twice the number of Councilmembers to be elected for terms expiring on the same date are nominated, or have filed as a candidate, there shall be a primary election for selection of two candidates for the office of Mayor or the selection of Councilmember candidates equal to twice the number of Councilmembers to be elected for terms expiring on the same date. The primary election, when necessary, shall be held on the day designated for the State primary election. Notice of the time and place of holding such primary election and of the officers to be elected, shall be given in accordance to Minnesota Election Law. Failure to give the notice of election shall not invalidate such election.

Section 4.04 Special Elections.

The Council may, by resolution, order a special election and provide all means for holding it. Notice of the time, place, and purpose of such special election shall be given by publication of a notice at least once each week for two weeks prior to the date of the election and by posting the notice at a conspicuous place in the City Hall. The procedure at such special election shall conform as nearly as possible to that prescribed for regular municipal elections.

This means:

**CAUSES FOR A PRIMARY**

* If more than 2 people file for Mayor, we will have a primary election for the Mayoral seat on the August 14th ballot.

* If we have 5 or more individuals file for the 4 yr Councilmember seats, we will have a primary election for those seats on the August 14th ballot.

* If we have more than 2 people file for the 2 yr Councilmember seat, we will have a primary election for that seat on the August 14th ballot.

**CAUSES FOR NOT HAVING A PRIMARY**

* If only 1 or 2 people file for Mayor, we will not have a primary election for the Mayoral seat, it will be on the November 6th ballot.

* If 4 or less individuals file for the 4 yr Councilmember seats, we will not have a primary election for these seats, they will be on the November 6th ballot.

* If only 1 or 2 individuals file for the 2 yr Councilmember seat, we will not have a primary election for this seat, it will be on the November 6th ballot.
CITY COUNCIL VACANCY QUESTIONS
06-04-2018

1. Please introduce yourself to the City Council.

2. Why are you interested in being appointed to the Anoka City Council?

3. What is your vision for the future of the City of Anoka?

4. Are there any immediate goals you would like to implement?
Possible Statements / Questions to Pose to Candidates Seeking to Be Appointed to the Vacant City Council Chair

- Introduce yourself to the City Council
- Why are you interested in being appointed to the Anoka City Council
- What is your vision for the future of the City of Anoka
  (Example: In 1997 Councilmember Freeburg submitted to the citizens his visionary goals on what priorities how he would work to improve Anoka if he were elected)
- Are there any immediate goals you would like to implement?
Hi Mayor and City Council,

The following is information pertaining to Councilmember Anderson’s anticipated resignation and filling the vacant seat. This information has been requested and shared with Hannah Covington of the Star Tribune.

I will also share the anticipated plans to fill the vacancy with residents that have indicated to me that they would be interested in applying for the vacancy. To date there has been one interested party I am aware of. The exact process for filling the vacancy will be discussed by Council at the April Worksession on 4/23, and officially declared at the regular City Council meeting on May 7th. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Thanks
Greg

ANDERSON’s COUNCIL HISTORY
Special Council meeting held on January 14, 2005, in which the Council voted to appoint Councilmember Anderson to fill the vacancy.

On January 18, 2005 in Regular Mtg, Council adopted a resolution formalizing the appointment of Councilmember Anderson, with a term to expire December 31, 2006.

A the November 7, 2006 General Election Councilmember was elected as a Councilmember, with term to expire on December 31, 2010.


ANTICIPATED NEXT STEPS FOR -Filling Vacant Seat (Carl Anderson’s seat):
Estimated/Proposed Schedule:

March 19 - Carl announced he is moving to Champlin and will need to vacate his position on the Anoka City Council.

April 11 – Carl submits a letter of resignation
April 16 – Carl Resigns (last meeting). Council accepts his letter of resignation

April 23 – Worksession: Council discusses filling the Council vacancy

May 7 - The Council adopts a resolution declaring the vacancy, the resolution includes the process to fill the vacancy

May 8 – Advertisement of the vacancy

June 4 – Applicants Address the City Council

June 4 – Council Appoints Applicant

June 5 - The vacated seat is temporarily filled until December 31, 2018. Appointed person (knowing that they are now appointed) will still have time to file as a candidate in the 2018 elections (must file by 5pm June 5th).

**PROCESS FOLLOWED FOR FILLING THE LAST VACANT SEAT**

Here is the process we followed to fill Steve Schmidt’s seat in 2016:

**11/21/2016 Regular Mtg**

New Business Item. City Manager advised Council that Councilmember Schmidt submitted his resignation on November 17, 2016 and provided information to the Council regarding the necessity to adopt a resolution declaring a vacancy and appointing an eligible individual to fill the remainder of the term, as well as other related information (scheduling a discussion on the vacancy process for the Nov worksession, and making appointment at the following regular meeting, December 5th).

**11/28/2016 Worksession**

Attorney Baumgartner advised the Council on the process to fill the vacancy, stating that the Council by resolution declares the vacancy and makes an appointment to fill the vacancy.

Staff was directed to advertise appointment for the upcoming vacancy on the City’s website, which was done on 11/29/2016. The notice directed interested parties to contact the City Clerk. A deadline of 10:00 a.m. 12/1/2016 was stated in the notice in order for information on interested parties to be included in the Council mtg packet for the next regular meeting. Tracy Kelly, Erik Skogquist and Brian Wesp expressed interest. Interest was submitted via an email message to the City Clerk (emails were provided to the Council in their meeting packet)

**12/05/2016 Regular Mtg**
Link to this meeting
http://qctv.org/city_meeting/anoka-city-council-12-5-2016/#t=4699

During Section 9 of the Agenda, prior to the consideration of the resolution declaring the vacancy and making an appointment, the Mayor invited the interested parties to address the Council regarding their interest.

The Council provided their selection by ballot.

Council adopted the Resolution declaring the vacancy and making the appointment.

12/19/2016 Regular Mtg

Oath of Office was administered to the appointed individual, Brian Wesp.
BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Van Buren Street Greenway Conversion Concept “2017”
The Van Buren Street neighborhood residents have shown interest in turning Van Buren Street, which their homes front on to a pedestrian boulevard. The idea is to access the affected houses and businesses from the existing public alleyway. Van Buren Street would remain a public right-of-way under City ownership. The street would become an extended landscaped boulevard area with a trail running through the neighborhood/boulevard.

On August 15, 2017 at a Planning Commission Work Session a discussion occurred with the Planning Commission residents of the neighborhood.

The Planning Commission determined through its discussion that issues need to be investigated and a framework would need to be developed to carry out a greenway street conversion concept.

On September 11, 2017 a letter was sent to the neighborhood providing direction and criteria to move forward.

Continued Van Buren Greenway Discussion in “2020”
In 2020, this concept has surfaced and had triggered discussion from petition that has been submitted to the City. The residents of the 400 block of Van Buren Street ask the Anoka City Council to consider a request to remove Van Buren Street between 4th Avenue and 5th Avenue and replace the street with a greenway.

History of the Minneapolis model known as “Milwaukee Railroad Historic District”
A similar concept exists in Minneapolis and is known as the Milwaukee Historic District and has been referenced during discussions. Enclosed is some articles that provide some history and an understanding of how this neighborhood came to be and how it functions. This neighborhood was the first PUD in Minneapolis which included creating a Home Owners Association to manage the expense and maintenance of the neighborhoods greenway corridors and neighborhood park lots which serve the neighborhood.

Current Anoka Regulations

Chapter 58 “Subdivision” of the Anoka City Code:

- **Alley** means a public right-of-way which affords a secondary means of access to abutting property

- **Block** means an area of land within a subdivision that is entirely bounded by streets, or by streets and the exterior boundaries of the subdivision, or a combination of the above with a river or lake.

- **Street, local** means those streets which are used primarily for access to abutting properties.
• *Street* means a **public right-of-way affording primary access by pedestrians and vehicles to abutting properties**, whether designated as a street, highway, thoroughfare, parkway, throughway, road, avenue, boulevard, lane, place, or however otherwise designated.

**Chapter 58 Sec. 58-96. - Lots.**

• (d) **All lots must have at least the minimum required frontage on a public dedicated street.**

**Chapter 78 “Zoning” of the Anoka City Code:**

• *Alley* means a public right-of-way 33 feet or less in width, affording a **secondary means of access to abutting property**.

• *Lot* means land occupied or to be occupied by one principal building or use and its accessory buildings, together with such open spaces as are required under the provisions of this chapter, having not less than the minimum area required by this chapter for a building site in the district **in which such lot is situated and having its principal frontage on a street**, or a proposed street approved by the city council.

• *Lot frontage*. The **front of a lot shall be that boundary abutting a public right-of-way**.

• *Street* means a public right-of-way 34 feet or more in width, **affording a primary means of access to abutting property**.

• *Street, local*, means a **street intended to serve primarily as access to abutting properties**.

• *Street frontage* means the **proximity of a parcel of land to one or more streets**. An interior lot has one street frontage and a corner lot has two frontages.

• *Street, private, means a street* on the interior of a development which is **jointly owned, constructed and maintained** by the developer or **homeowners’ association**, is designed and constructed in conformance with the specifications determined by the city engineer, and is **not an essential part of the circulation plan of the city**.

**Variables that should be explored if considering a “Street Greenway Conversion Concept”. There may be other variables that are not mentioned below**

• Legality of Closing an Existing Street

• Traffic Pattern Impacts and Counts

• Impact on Surrounding Land Uses and Their Operations

• Neighborhood Parking

• Delivery, Trash, Postal Services, Etc.

• Utilities, Drainage, and Alley Design

• Public Safety Response Times and Access
• Maintenance and Related Expenses Post Construction Both Short and Long Term

• Where else could this happen in the City?

  Examples: 400 Block of Van Buren (Subject Area)

  2nd Avenue between East Main and Jackson Street (Downtown)

  Jackson between 5th Avenue & 6th Avenue (St Stephens Church)

FINANCIAL IMPACT
NA

COUNCIL DIRECTION REQUESTED
City Council provide direction on this issue.
Let’s preserve our history...

• Anoka is a city of neighborhoods, much like Minneapolis and St. Paul, on a smaller scale, but no less grand. The city's quaint Main Street district is what attracts tourists. But travel a few blocks away -- in any direction -- and you step into history. *Star Tribune, December 27, 2011*
...and showcase Anoka’s first Heritage Preservation District

• “The town, years ago, kind of got chopped into different sectors”, said Bart Ward of the city’s Heritage Preservation Commission. "Swede Town was a natural."  *Star Tribune, December 27, 2011*

• Swede Town is easy to spot by looking for the sandwich boards -- which started appearing in 1998. The signs are impossible to miss, particularly on Van Buren street between Second and Fifth avenue.

• “An area with a lot of Swedish immigrants who were craftsmen and artists, the neighborhood was settled in the 1880s and 1890s”, said Bob Kirchner, Anoka’s community development director.  *Star Tribune, December 27, 2011*
Like Minneapolis....

MILWAUKEE AVENUE HISTORIC DISTRICT

1880s: Creation of the Workers’ Houses

These modest brick and clapboard homes, with their rhythmic gabled roofs, arched windows and gingerbread porches, were built during the industrial heyday of Minneapolis. In 1883, a real estate speculator, William Ragan, maximized his investment by platting this 2-block area into 4 half-blocks on quarter-sized lots. To economize further, Ragan then used identical house plans and uniform materials to construct most of the houses.

The avenue’s first residents were mainly of Northern European origin. These immigrants worked as bakers, shoemakers, carpenters and blacksmiths, and also labored in the nearby railroad yards and industrial shops. Highlighting its proximity to the Milwaukee Railroad Yard, the street’s name officially changed from 22½ Avenue to Milwaukee Avenue in 1906. Milwaukee Avenue bustled with working-class families until the mid-30th century, when it fell into decline.

1974: National Register of Historic Places
1975: Local Historic Designation
let us celebrate our history...
and create an oasis for all.
Let’s not just fix a road, but turn this...
...into this!

Welcome to the Historic Van Buren District
Why do this?

**Opportunity:** To develop a unique greenspace without sacrificing development

**Pedestrian friendly:** A safe and inviting route to downtown for eventgoers and employees

**Showcase:** A chance to feature Anoka’s first Heritage Preservation District

**Feasibility:** Van Buren is not a through street and residents have access to garages via alleyways
* Petition to Convert the 400 Block of Van Buren Street to a Greenway *

We, the undersigned, residents of the 400 block of Van Buren Street ask the Anoka City Council to consider our request for removal of the roadway between 4th and 5th Avenues and replacement with a greenway.

Rationale:

➢ Provide an opportunity to develop a unique greenspace without sacrificing development
➢ Pedestrian friendly - A safe and inviting route to downtown for event goers and employees
➢ Provide an opportunity to feature Anoka’s first Heritage Preservation District
➢ Feasibility - Van Buren is not a through street, and residents have access to garages via alleyways

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Printed Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone #</th>
<th>Email Address</th>
<th>Signature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patricia Bellows</td>
<td>410 Van Buren St</td>
<td>763-421-6374</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kpbell16@q.com">kpbell16@q.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack Van Buren</td>
<td>410 Van Buren St</td>
<td>763-421-6374</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kpbell17@qq.com">kpbell17@qq.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Lilly</td>
<td>127 Van Buren St</td>
<td>612-454-9981</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jmliley@comcast.net">jmliley@comcast.net</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michelle Hardesty</td>
<td>415 Van Buren St</td>
<td>763-639-4058</td>
<td><a href="mailto:michelle.s.hardesty@gmail.com">michelle.s.hardesty@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allen Hardesty</td>
<td>415 Van Buren St</td>
<td>763-692-3452</td>
<td><a href="mailto:allen.s.hardesty@gmail.com">allen.s.hardesty@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colleen Hansen</td>
<td>432 Van Buren St</td>
<td>763-486-0596</td>
<td>colleenhansen3@ tục.com</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Boeckler</td>
<td>224 Van Buren St</td>
<td>763-300-6934</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bhaupert@yahoo.com">bhaupert@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Hauptert</td>
<td>420 Van Buren St</td>
<td>763-300-3134</td>
<td><a href="mailto:julie@teacouchier.com">julie@teacouchier.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
* Petition to Convert the 400 Block of Van Buren Street to a Greenway *

We, the undersigned, residents of the 400 block of Van Buren Street ask the Anoka City Council to consider our request for removal of the roadway between 4th and 5th Avenues and replacement with a greenway.

Rationale:
- Provide an opportunity to develop a unique greenspace without sacrificing development
- Pedestrian friendly - A safe and inviting route to downtown for event goers and employees
- Provide an opportunity to feature Anoka's first Heritage Preservation District
- Feasibility - Van Buren is not a through street, and residents have access to garages via alleyways

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Printed Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone #</th>
<th>Email Address</th>
<th>Signature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Casey &amp; Laura Orgin</td>
<td>2207 5th Ave.</td>
<td>763-257-2824</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lwoys1542@gmail.com">lwoys1542@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Sved</td>
<td>409 VanBuren St.</td>
<td>612-396-3661</td>
<td><a href="mailto:e.sved2100@hotmail.com">e.sved2100@hotmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kristina Wilberg</td>
<td>405 Van Buren St.</td>
<td>763-413-6045</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kristinawilberg@gmail.com">kristinawilberg@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laurie Elwig</td>
<td>427 Van Buren St.</td>
<td>912-604-9981</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jrliley1@comcast.net">jrliley1@comcast.net</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bjorn Skogenist</td>
<td>408 Van Buren St.</td>
<td>763-688-4167</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bjorn.skogenist@ravelon.com">bjorn.skogenist@ravelon.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CALL TO ORDER:

The Work Session of the Anoka Planning Commission was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioners present: Chair Don Kjonaas, Sandy Herrala, James Cook, Borgie Bonthuis, Karna Brewer, Peter Rech, and Manley Brahs

Commissioners absent: none

Staff present: Community Development Director Borglund

AGENDA

Discussion:

1. Comprehensive Plan Update Discussion:
   a. Van Buren Street to Conversion Concept

   Audio started after meeting began…Chair Kjonaas commented they need to determine who would mow the grass, and look at the intersections at these projects regarding the traffic counts and what it joins. There are two fairly busy intersections and they need to consider how they will be affected.

   In response to Commissioner Brahs, Community Development Director Borglund pointed out where there is an existing sidewalk and where the trail would go. The trail would be replacing the existing sidewalk that was there.

   Commissioner Brahs inquired if vehicles would be able to drive down the existing street. Community Development Director Borglund responded no, they would need to have alley access.

   Commissioner Brahs expressed concern with two cars passing in narrowness of the alley, snow in the winter, and the close proximity of garages.

   Chair Kjonaas commented neither alley is serviced with curb and gutter and it would need to be added for proper drainage. The uniqueness of this property is every residence has access to their garage through the alley.

   Commissioner Rech commented another issue to consider is the parking impact for St. Stevens church. There is a lot of traffic from the church coming from the west and parking on Van Buren.
He inquired if the concept is that the street would be meandering street. Community Development Director Borglund pointed out how it will meander through the neighborhood.

Chair Kjonaas inquired who will pay for all the street lights and extras to the grass and sidewalk extensions.

Commissioner Brewer inquired what the advantage is to do this project. Chair Kjonaas responded the advantage is to the homeowners, but they need to consider if it creates a disadvantage to others.

Commissioner Brahs stated they need to determine how this will affect other areas of the City if this is allowed.

Commissioner Brewer inquired where visitors would park if they are not allowed to park on the street.

Chairs Kjonaas stated they need to consider how this will affect the post office. They may need to include a bank of post office boxes at the end of the street.

Commissioner Bonthuis inquired if this is the only street that has no driveways going on to it. It may not work with other streets if they have driveways. Community Development Director Borglund responded they have not done a full analysis of the City, but this is one of the few areas that presents this opportunity.

Commissioner Cook suggested they begin by doing a traffic count in this area. Chair Kjonaas commented it helps them determine how traffic is going to be affected and if it gets rerouted to a different neighborhood.

Chuck Hanson, resident on the corner of Fifth and Van Buren, commented the snow is already being plowed off to the side in the alley. Van Buren needs replacement and he believes this plan may cost less and will be assessed to the homeowners.

A resident commented this adds a unique space and neighborhood to Anoka’s character, and is an advantage to the entire City.

Michelle Hardesty, 415 Van Buren, commented they are near the County building, the car show is hosted nearby, and St. Stevens attendees can come after church and enjoy community in this space. They personally would not be affected with guests parking elsewhere because they have a larger driveway.

Kristina, expressed concern with moving the mailboxes and having packages delivered to the back of her home. She would not be able to get to the mailboxes or get packages up her stairs into her home. She needs to have packages delivered to her front door. She is also concerned about the tax
burden, and where guests will park. There are businesses that run out of some home, and large trucks occasionally block the entire alley at least once a week. She inquired if the park will be patrolled because drunk people from the bars and people regularly walking through the park. If the area is grass, it is inaccessible for her.

Michael Svercl, 409 Van Buren Street, commented he is concerned with access for emergency vehicles. The alley they live in contains four small businesses, which already complicates parking. He dislikes the entire concept and inquired when it was developed. Chair Kjonaas responded the City had an open meeting to the public to discuss the Comprehensive Plan update. At that meeting, some neighbors expressed interest in this concept. The job of the Planning Commission is to set criteria on how to address this concept.

Christina Wilberg, resident on the corner of Van Buren and Fourth Street, commented they have only lived there for four months. Their driveway is on Fourth Street, and she inquired about parking at the County lot. They may need to look at changing restrictions on what people can have regarding the alley and trucks. Her husband, who is a police officer, expressed concern with lighting, benches, and the bar. She sees this proposal as a City park with a path through it. The best solution would be to also make it a street for emergency vehicles can access it. There are easy ways to fix what might seem to be a larger problem. They attend St. Stevens and she believes people travel on Van Buren out of habit. It would be easier to use Golf Street to get to the church and parking on the next street would not be an issue. The remaining question is still about taxes and how much this will cost.

Laura Schnoor, 421 Van Buren, commented she likes the concept. She visited a neighborhood in Minneapolis that has the same concept. The homeowners she talked to like the concept and do not mind parking and walking a short distance to their homes. They have a trash can, and a sign that says talks about the history of the area and that the park closes at 10:00 p.m. They pay an association fee to help maintain the grounds. They also had an emergency path that was wide enough for emergency vehicle access. This concept may reduce the number of pedestrians at night because there would be no street to walk on.

Ms. Wilberg commented this would also be a benefit for County worker to have a path and space to use. Regarding traffic, most people use Harrison and Tyler because it has a traffic signal.

John Berglund, owner of the law office building, commented his lot was rezoned for commercial. They tore the old house down and the City required them to rebuild it like a house to fit into the neighborhood. The City helped them to design the building with parking. They are not on the alley and they only have access to their small parking lot from Fourth and then out on Van Buren. They also own the lot next to their building that has access off of Van Buren. They have two accesses to Van Buren that cannot be closed. They have a ramp in the back for elderly clients to access their building and they cannot park a couple of blocks away.
Erik Skogquist, 408 Van Buren Street, commented the way it is set up, there was an additional 30 feet that makes their lot into an L Shape. In order to not have variances, it needed to maintain a certain width in the front. Twenty of the 30 feet was sold to them, and the neighboring property retained 10 feet. There are usually several cars parked in that area, and the access for it goes over their property to get to the neighboring property. In the long run, the access is not going to be feasible.

In response to a question from a resident, Mr. Skogquist pointed out the access he was describing.

?? 32:00 ?? They could still do a side path or road between sidewalk to sidewalk to have a road into the parking lot on to Fourth Street.

A resident commented there is a two-hour limit during the day and no overnight parking on Van Buren Street.

Alan Hardesty, 415 Van Buren, commented there is parking across the street from the law office. He is one of the business owners that was previously referred to and there is ample parking in the alley. He suggested they just move Van Buren Street and make it Golf Street since they are both about the same size. If there is access in the back, mail can still be delivered there. There is a six-foot variance on either side of the street, so they could make it a little wider.

A resident commented the mail is hand delivered and they would not have to do anything different.

Colleen Hanson, 432 Van Buren Street, commented this is a unique area. Most streets in Anoka have driveways on them and it would disqualify them from being able to do this.

Chair Kjonaas commented they Planning Commission is not taking a position on this. It is up to them to come up with criteria to apply if a neighborhood requested for this to be done.

Community Development Director Borglund clarified that only emergency vehicles would be allowed on Van Buren if it became a parkway.

Commissioner Brahs inquired if there is enough room for two vehicles to pass in the alley and if the parkway would be one-way.

A resident responded the alley is tight, but there is a six-foot variance on either side that the City could take.

Community Development Director Borglund stated the City would still own the property, but there would not be access for cars and it would not matter if it is one-way.
Commissioner Rech inquired if Van Buren Street was included in the Street Replacement Program. Community Development Director Borglund responded it is slated for reconstruction in 2018.

Commissioner Rech commented there would be an assessment to replace the old utilities under Van Buren street as well as when they fix Golf Street. There will be a lot of cost to each individual homeowner to bring this concept to life.

A resident commented nothing special needs to happen with the alleys. They would have the same function as they do now after the project is completed.

Joe Riley, 427 Van Buren Street, commented he likes this concept. They are going to have to pay for a project in 2018 and he would like to see the cost of this project versus the cost of repaving Van Buren. He inquired what the next steps are for this project.

Community Development Director Borglund stated they will talk about next steps internally, but will keep the residents informed. At this point, it is being looked at from a comprehensive standpoint. They need to determine if it makes sense to do something like this, weigh out the pros and cons, consider if there are other opportunities for this in the City, and consider if they want to include it in the City’s policy. This falls under land use, parks, and transportation in the Comprehensive Plan.

Commissioner Brewer commented the pressure is on to make a decision since Van Buren is slated to be redone in 2018. She inquired if they should hold off on redoing the street until a decision is made on this project. If they decide to take away the street, they will have to consider drainage and where the water runoff from the houses will go.

Commissioner Rech inquired if the alley north of Van Buren has any utilities under it or stormwater catch basins along it.

Community Development Director Borglund commented the timing of the construction will need to be discussed.

A resident responded there is no stormwater in the alley; there is a gas line, and an alley light.

Commissioner Rech inquired if stormwater drainage is necessary in the alley.

Community Development Director Borglund pointed out an area where they could address stormwater and they would have to look at the alley.

Commissioner Cook inquired if properties will have to remain R-1 in areas where this concept is considered.
Chair Kjonaas stated it is part of the criteria they will have to consider.

A resident commented this proposal came up because of the proposed street renewal and she would support removing Van Buren from the street renewal list in order to research this option.

A resident commented whenever there is an event downtown, people park in the alleys. She requested to know the cost for reconstruction and what the association fee would be. Ideally, it is a really nice concept. When her daughter has friends over, there are four extra cars parked in front of her home.

Ms. Schnoor responded she only brought an association fee up because that is what was done in another neighborhood. It does not mean it must to be done here as well.

Commissioner Brewer commented they need to ask if there are underlying causes for bringing the proposal to them that could be addressed in a different way. The real problem might be traffic, parking and infringement on the property owners.

Commissioner Bonthuis inquired if they ever considered moving Van Buren to the alley.

The residents confirmed the alley is already used as a street.

Commissioner Herrala applauded the neighborhood for bringing this forward. It represents the future-thinking and planning they are looking at and it is a great concept.

Chair Kjonaas commented along with criteria, they need to come up with what the process is. This would include when should it be done, how should it be done, how is it paid for, and how it affects the other neighborhoods. This would require public hearings.

Commissioner Herrala stated whenever they look at these types of projects, they do consider people with disabilities.

Commissioner Cook inquired if this area had just recently been rezoned. Community Development Director Borglund responded they had talked about rezoning on Main Street near 7th and down by 5th and Main Street.

Chair Kjonaas closed this agenda item and stated they will begin working on it in future meetings.

Chair Kjonaas recessed the meeting at 6:56 p.m. and reconvened at 7:00 p.m.

Break in Audio…
Commissioner Rech commented the timing is tough due to the 2018 street removal. They do not want to redo the street, then tear it up and build a park.

Chair Kjonaas stated when St. Stevens added on to the school and church, they requested to close Jackson Street. The neighborhood was opposed to it because it would have routed more traffic through their streets.

Commissioner Herrala asked if this was a historic block. Community Development Director Borglund responded it is part of a historic neighborhood.

b. Review Comprehensive Plan Goals and Policies

Community Development Director Borglund reported they will review the goals and policies of the 2030 Comprehensive Plan to determine if they are still valid and if there are new goals that need to be included.

Goal 1: Consider physical development within a community-wide framework which recognizes the unique aspects of the City’s setting and ensures top quality design of new construction and development.

- Promote the application of urban design considerations which define and enhance the City’s unique character. Urban design deals with the quality of the built environment—how it looks, feels, functions and how it embodies local culture and context. It is the City’s intent to define and improve the City’s desired physical characteristics and form, visual quality and order, and overall image and identity. Urban design concerns both the built environment and the effects of the urban development on the natural environment and the quality of life.
- Support programs and activities that foster community spirit and identity.
- Improve the image and appearance of existing commercial and industrial areas, with particular emphasis on the appearance of buildings, signage, and landscaping.
- Ensure that commercial and industrial sites and buildings are adequately maintained, and that corrective maintenance is undertaken as required.

Chair Kjonaas suggested they add wording under the third bullet that shows it also conforms to a historical nature. The Council has indicated that the historic preservation of Main Street in downtown is very important. The Commission agreed.

The Commission discussed an item that was previously on a Council agenda and commented they only spent 10 minutes on it before they denied it. Community Development Director stated Mr. Butler who owns the building did not even show up to the Council meeting because he knew it would be denied. He is now looking at selling the building to a tenant for $50,000 and the repairs are still needed.
Chair Kjonaas inquired if the City has any recourse requiring the repairs to get done because it affects Main Street and something is needed over the sidewalk. Community Development Director Borglund responded they would have to go through the hazardous building process, similar to what was done at 309 Monroe Street.

Commissioner Cook inquired why this goal only focuses on commercial and residential. Community Development Director Borglund stated residential may be covered under a different goal. If it is not, they can add it.

Chair Kjonaas inquired where these goals and policies came from. Community Development Director Borglund responded they came from the City’s current Comprehensive Plan, which does have a separate housing chapter.

Commissioner Cook inquired if the goal should state, “Consider physical commercial and industrial development…”

Commissioner Bonthuis stated she did not understand it to only include commercial.

Chair Kjonaas suggested the fourth bullet point state, “Ensure that commercial, industrial, and residential sites are adequately maintained and that corrective maintenance is undertaken as required.” The Commission agreed.

Goal 2: Encourage a land use balance within the City to promote the efficient provision of City Services, the generation of revenues to cover the cost of those services, and a mix of employment and housing opportunities. Land use balance refers to an appropriate mix of various land uses that are interdependent and mutually supportive.

- Ensure that public properties are maintained in a timely manner.
- Improve and upgrade older public utility and infrastructure facilities through a program of schedule improvements.
- Continue to expand and continue to diversify the economic base.
- Encourage the provision of life cycle housing.

Community Development Director Borglund explained life-cycle housing is housing for all ages.

Commissioner Bonthuis pointed out the words “life cycle” should be hyphenated.

Community Development Director Borglund stated they may end up coming back to these goals as they develop the Chapters.

Goal 3: Assure that the City’s land development regulations provide for efficiency, compatibility, compliance, variety, flexibility, and innovations.
Grant zoning changes only when it can be demonstrated that rezoning will result in a community or neighborhood benefit that outweighs any potential adverse impact upon surrounding properties. Conformance with policies of the Community Plan and other adopted City plans may be used to demonstrate community or neighborhood benefit.

Incorporate performance standards, where appropriate, into land development regulations and criteria.

Periodically review City ordinances and development regulations and amend, if necessary.

Commissioner Cook referred to the first bullet point, and inquired if they need to include that a zoning change will only result in a benefit instead of harm.

Commissioner Brewer commented it seems some of the policies do not even relate to the goal. The goals should be supported by the bullet points. Goal 4 refers to maintaining neighborhoods, which belongs under zoning, and the goals include words that do not make sense.

Community Development Director Borglund explained efficiency and compatibility makes sure the land uses work together when next to each other. Compliance and variety allows for a variety of different uses within the different districts.

Commissioner Brewer stated Goal 3 is referring to land development regulation and the policies following it should deal with land development.

Commissioner Bonthuis referred to the first bullet and stated the second sentence is not needed. Community Development Director Borglund agreed it is not clear which plan it is referring to. Chair Kjonaas suggested they remove that sentence.

Commissioner Bonthuis referred to the second bullet, and inquired about performance standards. Community Development Director Borglund responded performance standards refer to design criteria and other items that are built into the zoning.

The Commission agreed to remove the following sentence under the first bullet: “Conformance with policies of the Community Plan and other adopted City plans may be used to demonstrate community neighborhood benefit.”

Goal 4: Protect and maintain the stability and diversity of the City’s neighborhoods.

- Prepare Neighborhood Master Plans.
  Development of each Master Plan will include development of a generalized map which includes proposed uses, transportation systems, utility systems, drainage systems, and open space. Each plan should also establish minimum and maximum densities. The actual use of the land and existing zoning should be considered in preparation of master plans. Adoption of a Master Plan by the City Council may result in changes in the land use
designations and zoning districts. In those instances, the Land Use Plan and Zoning Ordinance will be amended to reflect the change(s).

- Involve affected neighborhoods and property owners in proposed land use, development, and capital construction projects.
- Recognize and support the unique physical character and development patterns of neighborhoods.
- Ensure zoning changes in neighborhoods are compatible with the scale and character of the neighborhood.
- Encourage discussion between developers, the neighborhood, and the City where appropriate, as part of the process of determining land use changes in neighborhoods.
- When reviewing master plans and rezoning requests, consider the impact on nearby neighborhoods, including neighborhood integrity, change in traffic volumes and patterns, changes in surface drainage, the effect of lighting levels, and other changes that produce a clearly undesirable effect.

Commissioner Herrala referred to bullet six, and inquired if they should include something regarding noise.

Commissioner Brewer commented noise might be desirable.

Chair Kjonaas recalled the noise with the car wash on Round Lake Boulevard.

After discussion, the Commission agreed to add “…the effect of lighting and noise levels…”

Goal 5: Promote, reinforce, and maintain the Central Business District as the heart of the City and as a center for business, government, culture, arts, and special community events.

- Preserve, maintain, and enhance the historic character of the Central Business District as an important and irreplaceable community asset.
- Invite pedestrian activity, exhibit visual and physical quality in design to attract visitors and residents, and support economic vitality.
- Promote easy access to the Central Business District from all parts of the City.
- Strengthen the circulation and parking system in the Central Business District to provide safe and convenient vehicular travel that complements and enhances pedestrian movement.
- Encourage rehabilitation of buildings that are in disrepair.
- Further link and utilize the riverfront in and near the Central Business District.
- Conduct beautification efforts in the Central Business District.
- Continue landscaping in public areas.
- Provide general maintenance in the Central Business District.

Chair Kjonaas referred to bullet five, and suggested it state, “Enforce rehabilitation of buildings…” The Commission agreed.
Chair Kjonaas inquired what bullet nine referred to.

Community Development Director Borglund responded there are flower pots, planting beds, and enhancements that have been added to the downtown area.

Commissioner Bonthuis inquired if maintenance referred to fixing a broken curb.

Commissioner Brewer suggested they use the word enhancement. It covers beautification and maintenance, and would include the flags on the poles and painting things that are rusted.

The Commission agreed that bullets seven, eight and nine could be combined and should state, “Continue landscaping, beautification, and maintenance efforts in the public areas of the Central Business District.”

Commissioner Cook referred to bullet five and inquired if that area has been maxed out. Community Development Director Borglund responded it referred to the Riverwalk project, which is not yet completed.

Goal 6: Develop the Commuter Rail Transit Village

- Consider economic development, housing needs, and other land use needs in the city when developing the plans and determining future land use of these areas.
- Provide a compatible mix of land uses that support and complement transit oriented development near the station area.
- Concentrate a mix of complementary, well integrated land uses within walking distance of the transit station.
- Provide uses of a density and configuration that will capitalize on the presence of commuter rail service.
- Encourage a mix of commercial/office/light industrial uses that will create new jobs, generate tax revenue, attract new residents, and provide new amenities.
- Encourage development of higher-density housing options.
- Incorporated standards for security (CPTED).
- Use urban design to enhance the community identity of the station area and make the area attractive, safe, and convenient.

Commissioner Herrala referred to bullet six, and inquired if it could state, “…owner-occupied, high-density housing options.”

Community Development Director Borglund commented the Council discussed having owner-occupied housing at the river site on Fourth, and rentals on Fourth and Grand. There has not been much interest by the transit site. The City has owned the land for a while and they are working with one developer who wants to do 80 percent market rate housing and 20 percent affordable
housing. Kwik Trip is the only real strong development opportunity in that area, and Volunteers of Anoka still have an option on their last phase.

Commissioner Brewer commented development in that area is based on whether the commuter rail will be successful and bring people into Anoka. She inquired what the City is doing to advertise there is a light rail station in Anoka. She suggested they add a bullet that the City should be promoting the rail to enhance the land value.

Chair Kjonaas agreed with Commissioner Brewer. He commented the rail is full when there is a baseball game downtown. Also, the rail is not performing at the level they had hoped because gas is cheap. If gas prices go up, people will be on the train.

Commissioner Cook referred to an area in Ramsey where they are building apartments and have successfully filled them. There are areas zoned for apartment buildings and they have to find a developer to build them and make sure they are all owner-occupied.

Commissioner Herrala agreed the vision is to have high-density owner-occupied apartments and an urban design that prohibits a plain 10-story building.

Commissioner Rech commented Sherman Builders is building two large high-density apartment building in Coon Rapids. Community Development Director Borglund stated because these apartment buildings are rentals, they get the tax credits and a large grant from the Metropolitan Council. Ownership is very limited as far as funding. A smart developer uses an investor’s money to do a project.

Commissioner Cook inquired if a co-op is considered to be owner-occupied. Community Development Director Borglund responded it is, but they have to go through HUD for special financing which can be a challenging process. They also have to achieve a level of guaranteed level of sales.

Chair Kjonaas commented they should also consider high-end rentals. It will bring in people that will be community minded, and spend money in the area. He clarified they want market rate or owner-occupied housing in that area.

Commissioner Brahs inquired about the development near Pleasant Street and Ferry Street along the river. Community Development Director Borglund stated the City owns a couple of lots, but it is privately owned property.

Commissioner Cook commented high-density market value apartments will reflect the value of the river access and proximity to the downtown area.
Commissioner Brahs inquired if young professionals like to own or rent. Community Development Director Borglund responded millennials are not buying real estate, but they want high-end.

The Commission agreed to the addition of the following: “Develop a marketing strategy to enhance the use of the North Star that will bring value to City property.” They are also willing to include owner-occupied and market rate rentals with high-end looking buildings that are complimentary to the community’s existing assets including the river, downtown, and North Star light rail.

Commissioner Brahs inquired how the City promotes Anoka to developers and if the City is promoted with its assets in mind. Community Development Director Borglund responded through brokers that work for the City, networking, and people searching for sites. The first thing people recognize with Anoka is the downtown area, rivers, and easy access to freeways.

**Goal 7:** Development a master plan for the City owned land north of Bunker Lake Boulevard and west Seventh Avenue.
- Complete market studies to determine appropriate uses.
- Consider economic development, housing needs, and other land use needs in the city when developing the plans and determining future land use of the areas.
- Consider uses that compliment the conservation area.
- Consider access and traffic impacts.
- Consider design standards to encourage quality buildings.

Commissioner Brewer pointed out the first word in Goal 7 should be “develop,” not “development.”

Community Development Director Borglund commented there are still 14 acres to develop in this area. He has introduced this area to developers and cannot get any interest. Nothing is happening in Andover in this area either.

Commissioner Brewer commented even though Bunker Lake Boulevard is a separate item in the Comprehensive Plan, they spend an equal amount of time on the Green Haven development. Community Development Director Borglund stated he does not know why this area is called out separately. This plan was developed in 2008, and the Green Haven plan was not approved until 2012.

Commissioner Brewer stated before this was written, the homes were not there and it was prime land. They were concerned about what they would be pressured into doing and wanted something specific in the plan to appropriately guide the area. She suggested they consider including a separate goal for the Green Haven development.
Commissioner Brahs stated he thought the Metropolitan Council was requiring affordable housing for the area across of 7th in Andover. Community Development Director Borglund commented there is a sign in that area for commercial development and he is unsure of what the Metropolitan Council requires for Andover.

Commissioner Herrala suggested they combine Goals 7 and 8, and title it “Evaluate future use of City owned lands. The Commission agreed.

Commissioner Herrala commented it would be nice to have the Comprehensive Plan goals at Planning Commission Meetings. She requested to have the updated goals available at future meetings. Community Development Director Borglund stated he will update them with the changes discussed and provide them at future meetings.

Commissioner Bonthuis inquired if the Armory was going to move. Community Development Director Borglund responded he did hear that a while ago, but has not heard anything new.

**Time of Adjournment: 8:00 p.m.**
**Submitted by Stephanie Rouse, Associate Planner**
AGENDA

1. Comprehensive Plan Update Discussions:
   
   a. Van Buren Street Conversion Concept

   b. Review Comprehensive Plan Goals and Policies
STAFF REPORT

Date: August 15, 2017

To: Planning Commission Members

From: Doug Borglund, Community Development Director

RE: Van Buren Street Conversion Concept

BACKGROUND

The Van Buren Street neighborhood residents have shown interest in turning Van Buren Street, which their homes front on into a pedestrian boulevard. The idea is to access the affected houses from the existing public alleyway. Van Buren Street would remain a public right-of-way under City ownership. The street would become an extended landscaped boulevard area with a trail running through the neighborhood/boulevard.

A framework would need to be developed to carry out the street conversion concept. The framework may include but is not be limited to the following:

- Properties having access to an alley should be considered.
- Percent of participation by the neighborhood should be considered.
- Maintenance
- Trail design still allowing public safety access to the boulevard area.
- Landscaping
- Lighting

This is a citizen driven concept and is unique as well. It is appropriate to address this issue through the Comprehensive Planning process. This item came up during the Comprehensive Plan Kick-off meeting.

Enclosed for your review is an aerial photo, which identifies the street/neighborhood area. Also enclosed is a concept drawing provided by a local resident.
Van Buren Street Conversion

August 8, 2017

1:1,200

Disclaimer: Map and parcel data are believed to be accurate, but accuracy is not guaranteed. This is not a legal document and should not be substituted for a title search, appraisal, survey, or for zoning verification.
September 26, 2017

Dear Resident,

Thank you for your recent inquiry about the possibility of converting the 400 block of Van Buren into a Street Trail and Green Space. As previously discussed, the timing for such a project would logically need to be incorporated into an upcoming Street Renewal Project (SRP). Due to a variety of factors, the timing of the “Swede Town” SRP (which includes the 400 block of Van Buren Street), has been postponed to 2022-2023.

The proposed conversion of Van Buren Street to a trail/green space is presently being evaluated as a part of the City of Anoka Comprehensive Plan process. If this proposal is determined to be viable, the following steps will be necessary to move the proposal forward:

1. The neighborhood would have to complete and submit a petition for the proposed conversion that includes 100% support from the effected property owners.

2. Said petition would be presented to the City Council for review and consideration.

3. If City Council determines the process should continue, a set of standards would be developed for this type of project and be approved by City Council.

4. The City would set a public hearing date. Public hearing notices would be sent out to affected residents in the neighborhood and surrounding area.

5. City Council would hold the public hearing to solicit input.

6. As a result of the public hearing, City Council would determine how to proceed.

If you have further questions, or wish to discuss this item in detail, please contact Mark Anderson (763-576-2921) or Doug Borglund (764-576-2723).

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Anderson             Doug Borglund
Public Services Director  Community Development Director
MILWAUKEE AVENUE HISTORIC DISTRICT

1970s: Rehabilitation of the Historic District

By the 1960s, generations of heavy use had taken a toll on the houses. Fewer families remained. Many homes became rental properties for students and artists. As front porches were enclosed and deteriorated brick was covered with stucco, the area’s architectural integrity further diminished. A 1970s urban renewal plan called for demolishing nearly 70 percent of the housing in the surrounding neighborhood, including every home along Milwaukee Avenue.

A grassroots group, the Seward West Project Area Committee, fought to preserve Milwaukee Avenue and won its listing on the National Register of Historic Places. With public agency funding and their own sweat and labor, homeowners restored the houses. The narrow street became a pedestrian way. Today, Milwaukee Avenue serves as a Seward Neighborhood landmark and a unique example of Minnesota’s social heritage.

Erected by the Milwaukee Avenue Homeowners Association, 2015
**Clear results**

**PID:** 3602924210376  
2227 Franklin Ave E  
Minneapolis, MN 55404

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Owner/Taxpayer</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Owner:</strong></td>
<td>Milwaukee Av Homeowner Assoc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Taxpayer:</strong></td>
<td>MILWAUKEE AV HOMEOWNER ASSOC C/O GARRETT PETERSON 2015 MILWAUKEE AVE MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55404</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tax Parcel</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Parcel Area:</strong></td>
<td>2.5 acres 109,026 sq ft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Torrens/Abstract:</strong></td>
<td>Both</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Addition:</strong></td>
<td>Milwaukee Mall Addn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lot:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Block:</strong></td>
<td>Lots 1 And 2 Blk 1 And</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Milwaukee Avenue Historic District

Transforming Residential Streets into Car-Free Greenways

By Randall Arendt

A two-block section of Milwaukee Avenue in Minneapolis, Minnesota—about 1,200 feet in length—was converted into a pedestrian greenway through joint efforts of residents and city officials after the area was designated a historic district at both the national and municipal levels. Removing vehicles from this part of the street has created a small linear park providing an extremely pleasant ambience. The conversion project works well because the 19th century lots facing Milwaukee Avenue are all served by rear lanes providing garage and surface parking access. This transformation, increasing livability while reducing infrastructure costs, provides a double win that could serve as a model not only for other older residential neighborhoods with alley access, but also for new development.
The Milwaukee Avenue Conversion

Historically, Milwaukee Avenue was platted as an alley serving lots facing 22nd and 23rd Avenues. In 1883, however, the avenue was re-platted as a narrow street (originally called 22½ Avenue) by developer William Ragan, who then created smaller lots along it for modest worker cottages. These lots, ranging from 2,200 to 3,000 square feet, are about half the depth of those in adjacent blocks, where lots average approximately 7,500 square feet. Most of the small lots along Milwaukee Avenue were occupied by Scandinavian immigrants, many of whom worked in local brickyards or for the Milwaukee Railroad. Although the lots on the west side of Milwaukee Avenue are served by a rear alley, those on the east side are not. Residents there pay the homeowners association for the use of several small parking areas, which the HOA created and maintains.

The street-conversion story began during the early 1970s, when city officials announced plans to demolish 70 percent of the homes within a 35-block area south of the downtown (including all houses on Milwaukee Avenue), using funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Many of the houses on Milwaukee Avenue had been neglected during the Great Depression and World War II, and had fallen into disrepair. Most were also nonconforming in terms of lot size and setbacks. HUD’s public process required that a project area committee, or PAC, be formed to provide public input. The PAC was the official group representing residents and other concerned citizens. Many of the PAC members were new arrivals—college professors, students, and artists—who had been attracted by the Victorian architecture and the relatively low house prices. Instead of endorsing the city’s proposal as officials had hoped, PAC members vociferously opposed it.
Angered by the demolition proposal, the PAC proposed rehabilitating the homes instead, ensuring that they all had indoor plumbing and central heating. City officials, arguing that this would cost more than razing and replacing the nonconforming buildings, essentially ignored them. This energized the opposition, which secretly filed an application for federal designation as a National Register Historic District, receiving critical assistance from the Minnesota Historical Society, which informed the PAC that approval by the Minneapolis Housing and Redevelopment Authority was not needed to obtain this protective designation.
The federal designation, granted in 1974, effectively blocked the MHRA from using HUD funds to demolish the homes and construct their planned four-story, walk-up rentals, which would have negatively affected surrounding property values. Rehabilitation was coordinated and assisted by two nonprofit groups—the Greater Minneapolis Metropolitan Housing Corporation and the Milwaukee Avenue Community Corporation—with much of the actual work performed by residents, who contributed vast amounts of sweat equity, individually and during numerous “gutting parties” that also served to further bring the community together.

Although nine severely decrepit homes were razed and replaced with replicas, 98 others were thoroughly rehabilitated, including Improvements such as new basements, plumbing, heating systems, and electrical service, plus new front porches. The houses were given historic exteriors and completely modern interiors. Although it had originally opposed the street conversion, the MHRA eventually offered low-interest mortgages and restoration grants, allowing some long-time residents to remain in their homes.
The play area is located midway down the mall, where a pedestrianized section of East 22nd Street intersects it.

Photo by Garrett Peterson.

After the local (municipal) historic district was created in 1975, and with the urging of neighborhood residents, the city agreed to create the Milwaukee Avenue mall by vacating the street’s two-block length and part of a cross-street (East 22nd Street). The PAC requested the city also designate the area as a four-block planned residential district, which included properties abutting Milwaukee Avenue’s rear yards, essentially relaxing most dimensional and area standards.

In 1976, using municipal funds that had been received from HUD for urban clearance and “renewal,” the city replaced the street pavement and curbing with a central mall or greenway and a small playground on the site of the former intersection of Milwaukee Avenue and 22nd Street. The pedestrian walkway, lawn area, trees, sidewalks, and play area were designed by PAC architectural staff in collaboration with public agency engineers, and are owned and maintained by the Milwaukee Avenue Homeowners Association, which was formed in 1978 and has about 80 member homes.
Homes in the Milwaukee Avenue Historic District front two broad, parallel footpaths that frame the central greenway. Click image to view larger size. Photo by August Schwerdfeger, courtesy Wikimedia Commons, CC BY 4.0.

Deed covenants were attached to each property, mandating the homeowners association with assessments required of each member to pay for common area maintenance, including such items as lawn mowing, tree trimming/replacement, gardening, and sidewalk snow-blowing. There is an in-ground sprinkler irrigation system for the lawn and garden areas. Annual dues are currently $600 per household. Architectural review of exteriors is performed by a MAHA architecture review committee. Volunteer clean-up days occur each spring and fall.

Despite the smaller sizes of the homes and their yards, and the reduced privacy, property values per square foot are said to be higher along Milwaukee Avenue than in other nearby neighborhoods where lots are two to three times larger. This is due to the fact that this neighborhood is unique, has architectural controls, and provides a quiet, safe, car-free walking environment along its central mall.
This 300-foot long mini-park, onto which ten homes face, is located in the Baldwin Park neighborhood of Orlando, Florida. Its 18,000 square feet of greenspace adds significant value to these homes, and cost less for the developer to create than a traditional street. Designed as a greenway with sidewalks along the front lot lines, the space between them has been landscaped with grass, shrubs, and shade trees. It is owned and maintained by a homeowners association. *Click image to view larger size.*

Photos courtesy Randall Arendt.

**Precedents in Other Car-Free Pedestrian Precincts**

The process of creating the necessary covenants and conveying the public street right-of-way to the Milwaukee Avenue Homeowners Association was long and difficult, but precedent exists in many cities to convert sections of streets (typically in downtown commercial areas) into car-free pedestrian precincts, closing them to vehicular traffic and replacing the asphalt with brick paving, shade trees, and benches—all paid for and maintained with municipal funds. In residential neighborhoods that are under-served by public parks, such street conversions could provide green oases, similar to pocket parks that are occasionally created on vacant lots or leftover spaces in downtown areas such as in Lewisburg, West Virginia, and Auburn, California.
This three-block street in Mashpee Commons (in Mashpee, Massachusetts) known as “Central Square” provides a car-free pedestrian connector 450 feet in length between North Street and Fountain Street. A small open area, quarter-circular in shape, provides an additional focal point where this walkway crosses Steeple Street. It is notable as being one of a relatively small number of pedestrian streets in New Urbanist developments. 

*Click image to view larger size.*

Photo by Randall Arendt.

This novel concept has almost unlimited potential if also applied to new development when alleys are provided, and could become part of the municipal regulatory standards governing the design of new neighborhoods and commercial areas. Indeed, many new urban communities have included such elements, from the car-free street section in Mashpee Commons in Mashpee, Massachusetts, to the short sections of “green streets” in Baldwin Park in Orlando, Florida. This concept is not at all new, as the following photo of Belgravia Court, dating from the late 1880s in Louisville, Kentucky, demonstrates. In new developments, this concept could be extended over a dozen or more blocks to create greenways thousands of feet in length, connecting neighborhoods with schools, parks, and shops. One big advantage for developers is that this open space does not consume land that could otherwise be used for homes.
Belgravia Court, an early example dating from the 1880s in Louisville, Kentucky, shows that the central greenway-as-street is not a new idea. The “street” consists of two sections, each about 400 feet in length, and is intersected by St. James Court, with its impressive 50-foot-wide boulevard median. Click image to view larger size.

Photo courtesy Randall Arendt.

This design approach reduces costs to developers (providing only sidewalks and landscaping is less expensive than paving streets and installing curbs), and also enables them to charge lot premiums, as they are not only more desirable places in which to live, but also appreciate more quickly due to the adjacent greenspace. Cities spend less on them even if they are not turned over to homeowner associations, as they do not require periodic repaving or winter snowplowing. This approach also reduces impervious cover and therefore stormwater runoff, and can provide locations to install landscaped “rain gardens” to help infiltrate runoff from roofs and sidewalks.

Such examples have been described by architect Ross Chapin as “pocket neighborhoods,” defined as “cohesive clusters of homes gathered around some kind of common ground within a larger surrounding neighborhood” where “a dozen or so neighbors may interact on a daily basis around a shared garden, quiet street or alley.” They are built at a scale “where meaningful ‘neighborly’ relationships are fostered . . . . It is the physical basis for creating community with one’s neighbors.”
Slightly sunken landscaped areas designed to capture and infiltrate stormwater, sometimes called “rain gardens,” reduce urban runoff and could be provided in central greens such as at Conover Commons in Redmond, Washington, which exemplifies on form of “pocket neighborhood,” where homes in a small housing group face each other across common open space. Click image to view larger size.

Image courtesy Ross Chapin Architects.

Milwaukee Avenue residents report that their green “street” functions like a continuous front yard, with this shared social space creating a relaxed, friendly atmosphere where spontaneous encounters and interactions occur fairly often among the neighbors. Community spirit is high, with volunteer workdays in both spring (winter cleanup and planting) and fall (leaf raking). Summer events have included puppet shows and neighborhood nights out in August, with a winter potluck in February.

To help more neighborhoods follow the Milwaukee Avenue example, municipal governments could lower the legal and institutional obstacles facing local residents interested in taking over ownership and maintenance of such street conversions, which the city would initially create. As the University of Minnesota’s Minnesota Design Center director Thomas Fisher says:
What if other blocks in the city served by alleys did what the residents of Milwaukee Avenue accomplished: forming a homeowners’ association, taking over the street in front of their houses, and converting the road to green space, play grounds, bike paths, and pedestrian walks, with visitor parking at either end of the block? How many homeowners already have the equipment needed to clear snow, cut grass, and rake leaves in front of their property, and who wouldn’t want more space in which children can play and nature can thrive?

Randall Arendt is a landscape planner, site designer, author, lecturer, and an advocate of “conservation planning”. He is the founding president of Greener Prospects and serves as senior conservation advisor at the Natural Lands Trust in Media, Pennsylvania. In 2003 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Town Planning Institute in London, and in 2004 he was elected as an Honorary Member of the American Society of Landscape Architects. Among his six books are Rural by Design: Planning for Town and Country, entirely updated and greatly expanded in April 2015, for the American Planning Association.

Read Randall Arendt’s Unsprawl case study of the Village Place concept in Pinehurst, North Carolina, also appearing in Terrain.org.

Header photo by Donna Sexton, courtesy Donna’s New Day.
VARIETY

Streetscapes: Milwaukee Avenue a model for change

A couple of picturesque residential blocks along Milwaukee Avenue could be the key to funding the upkeep of local roads.

By THOMAS FISHER Special to the Star Tribune | DECEMBER 6, 2014 — 1:26PM

A 2014 book written by local preservationist Robert Roscoe gives a detailed account of how a group of residents in Minneapolis’ Seward Neighborhood saved two-block-long Milwaukee Avenue and its historic houses from demolition in the 1970s. While an excellent history of the early years of historic preservation, the book — and Milwaukee Avenue itself — has renewed relevance today as cities struggle to maintain their aging infrastructure and extensive road networks.

When Milwaukee Avenue became a “Planned Residential District” in the 1970s, the city closed the street to cars, and the homeowners’ association took responsibility for the design and maintenance of the common. Walk down that avenue today and you will find a quiet, tree-shaded, pedestrian corridor, lined with front porches and featuring a playground and benches, with shared parking lots for residents and visitors and half the residents without an alley.

You will also see a possible future for many streets in the city.

Most blocks in Minneapolis — and St. Paul — have alleys for garages and trash removal, which leaves the streets for visitor parking and extra car storage. That represents a convenience for the property owners on these streets, but it ignores the fact that most municipalities do not have enough money to pay for the maintenance and repair of our roads.

Gasoline taxes, for example, go toward state and federal highways, not local roads. And according to a recent study by the Tax Foundation, fuel taxes and other tolls and user fees pay, on average nationwide, only half of what it costs to build and maintain our road system.

In Minnesota, gas taxes cover only 42 percent of the cost, placing us in 32nd place in the U.S. Most of the rest of our spending on roads comes from general tax revenues, competing with all of the other demands on public funds. Meanwhile, the new Republican majority in the Minnesota House of Representatives has pledged to invest more in our roads and bridges, although not necessarily increasing the gas tax, according to Majority Leader Kurt Daudt, which means that other areas of state spending will take a hit as a result.

While no one questions that our road infrastructure needs attention, too few have asked: How many roads do we need? Having fewer roads to maintain and repair will obviously make what limited public funds we have for this purpose go a lot further. Which brings us back to Milwaukee Avenue: It represents an alternative to our road-repair dilemma that deserves more attention.

What if other blocks in the city served by alleys did what the residents of Milwaukee Avenue accomplished: forming a homeowners’ association, taking over the street in front of their houses, and converting the road to green space, play grounds, bike paths and pedestrian walks, with visitor parking at either end of the block? How many homeowners already have the equipment needed to clear snow, cut grass, and rake leaves in front of their property, and who wouldn’t want more space in which children can play and nature can thrive?

Skeptics might ask: Why would homeowners take on this extra responsibility while reducing access to their property by car?
As Milwaukee Avenue shows, the replacement of the street with a greenway has led to a safer and less noisy environment for residents and to a strong sense of community among the homeowners responsible for collectively maintaining the space they share.

But there exist economic incentives as well. A recent study of real estate values across the country shows that residential areas that increase their “walk score” see improved housing values, which also aids local governments by increasing property tax revenues, while lowering infrastructure costs.

While many cities have car-free commercial zones, closing residential streets to traffic has occurred mainly in historic districts. If it’s such a good idea, why hasn’t it spread like wildfire?

Roscoe’s book offers one answer as to why this hasn’t happened to more residential streets: When it came to turning the public right of way over to Milwaukee Avenue’s homeowners’ association, he writes, the “legal steps necessary to establish deed covenants and its related aspects were excruciatingly difficult.”

The legal challenges to street closure remain an issue, but only if the cities want it so. The residents of Minneapolis and St. Paul — as well as the cities themselves — would be much better off if we saw Milwaukee Avenue not as an outlier, but as a model of a modern city street.

Thomas Fisher is dean of the College of Design at the University of Minnesota and active in the college’s Metropolitan Design Center.
Milwaukee Avenue Historic District

Boundaries: Located along Milwaukee Avenue and bounded by Franklin Avenue and 24th Street.

Neighborhood(s): Seward

Date of Local Designation: 1975

Date of National Designation: 1974

Historic Profile: The Milwaukee Avenue Historic District is a contiguous two-block development of 19th century homes constructed for working class families. Stretching from Franklin Avenue on the north to 24th Street on the south, Milwaukee Avenue bisects 22nd and 23rd avenues, and was initially labeled 22½ Avenue. Originally platted as an alley, real estate agent William Ragan developed it as a street for speculative purposes in 1883. This intent is reflected in the lot sizes, which are small in depth and width. Building clusters of modest homes on small narrow lots was a method often employed for housing lower class residents in the industrial period. Milwaukee Avenue is the earliest "planned workers’ community" in Minneapolis.

During the late 19th century, the population of Minneapolis grew rapidly. Between 1880 and 1890 alone, the population increased by 351 percent. This increase included a considerable number of immigrants who needed low-cost housing during their first years in Minnesota. City directories of 1885 and 1886 show most of the residents of Milwaukee Avenue to be Scandinavian immigrants.

Representing the "common man's architecture" popular in the later 19th century, houses along Milwaukee Avenue were constructed of brick veneer on timber frame between 1884 and 1890. Only a few residential areas built in Minneapolis during this era had such a significant number of neighboring brick houses. From certain angles, the proximity of the homes gives the impression of row houses. They are close together with very narrow side yards and no front yards. The houses share common architectural treatments such as uniform roof slopes, uniform separation on lots, modified flat arch windows and open front porches.

Due to severe deterioration in the building material, the houses on Milwaukee Avenue were nearly demolished in 1970. Remarkably, many of the original design characteristics survived intact. Defending the district’s historic integrity, the neighborhood fought the proposed total demolition project. In 1974, the district was listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and it was later rehabilitated from its battered state. As a result of its "rescue," Milwaukee Avenue became the first planned unit development in the City of Minneapolis.

Photo Credits:
COUNCIL WORKSESSION MEMO

Meeting Date: September 28, 2020
Agenda Section: Council Business and/or Discussion Items
Item Description: Discussion; October 31, Event Proposal from Anoka Entertainment District
Submitted By: Pam Bowman, Communications Manager

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Anoka Entertainment District representatives and the Anoka Lions submitted a proposal to host an outdoor Halloween Event on Saturday, October 31, 2020, in the downtown entertainment district. Attached are the related emails providing the event details and our response to the event organizers.

Staff has discussed the proposed event. Assuming that the current Governor’s Executive Orders remain in place on October 31st, we do not see how this event could occur without violating the order of not having more than 250 people in attendance at an outdoor event. Should the Executive Order change prior to October 31st, staff would reconsider the proposed event.

Executive Order 20-74:

vi. Restaurants, food courts, cafes, coffeehouses, bars, taverns, brewer taprooms, micro distiller cocktail rooms, farm wineries, craft wineries, cideries, golf courses and clubs, dining clubs, tobacco product shops, and other Places of Public Accommodation offering food, beverages (including alcoholic beverages), or tobacco products for on-premises consumption, may provide indoor and outdoor service, provided that they adhere to the following requirements:

A. Occupancy of any indoor space must not exceed 50 percent of the normal occupant capacity as determined by the fire marshal, with a maximum of 250 people in a single self-contained space.

B. Occupancy of any outdoor space must ensure that the number of customers at any one time is limited to the number for whom physical distancing of 6 feet can be maintained between tables, not to exceed 250 people.

FINANCIAL IMPACT
N/A

COUNCIL DIRECTION REQUESTED
Staff is requesting Council direction on how to proceed.
Events Committee,
Please discuss this proposal
Thanks
Greg

Hello Greg,

Anoka Entertainment District met this week to discuss Halloween. We agreed that even considering the current climate, we would need door persons at each bar to control indoor capacity and ensure guests remain seated due to covid restrictions. This is going to leave many guests on the streets, possibly waiting in lines.

How would the City feel about shutting down Jackson and 2nd Ave for Halloween? We would also be OK if Anoka Halloween wanted to have a beer truck outside since they will be missing out on the tent revenue this year. In addition, The Plott Hounds are available to play music outdoors. But I am unsure of the City's comfort level with this due to COVID.

Overall, some level of the above would help disperse the crowd. We could also market it as a Masquerade encouraging everyone to wear the scariest/best/funniest mask even outdoors.

Thoughts?

Anoka Entertainment District
10K Brewing
201 Tavern
Ambi Wine Bar
Billy's Bar & Grill
Casa Rio
Dannos
MaGillycuddy's
Pizza Man
Serum's Good Time Emporium
Good morning Pam and Jesse-
This is follow-up to my phone call with Jesse @ 10k this morning regarding outdoor beer and entertainment at Halloween
The Anoka Lions will move forward, working with the bar owners and entertainment district, regarding a street event in downtown Anoka.
The Anoka Lions will NOT be providing a tent, as Jesse describes this as more of an open air event. Jesse will be contacting a band that he has already discussed this with, and the Anoka Lions can help with stage, etc. We would probably use our 4 tapper, and a small enclosed trailer so it would be minimal set up.
Please include the Anoka Lions (me) in all further discussions. I will also alert Liz McFarland (Anoka Halloween Inc) this afternoon so that we can get this into their advertising as well, but do not see this as a Anoka Halloween Inc event (in other words, as in the past, we will not share revenues with them).
Pam (and Lisa)....please do NOT order garbage, porta-potties, etc until we discuss and work out the logistics, locations, etc. I will get a liq license and special event permit paperwork going and get the application to you next week

Thank you,

In Lionism,
Lion Vicki Violet
Anoka Lions KidSight Chair
Anoka Lions Halloween Event Chair
Anoka Lions Past President
763.442.5455
Vicki and Jesse,

Staff has discussed your proposed event on Halloween. Assuming that the current Governor’s Executive Orders remain in place on October 31st, we do not see how this event could occur without violating the order of not having more than 250 people in attendance at an outdoor event. Should the Executive Order change prior to October 31st, we would certainly reconsider your proposed event.

We have added this topic to the Monday, Sept. 28th City Council Worksession Agenda for discussion (agenda attached). Please join us if you wish to discuss this in more detail with the Council.

Executive Order 20-74:

vi. Restaurants, food courts, cafes, coffeehouses, bars, taverns, brewer taprooms, micro distiller cocktail rooms, farm wineries, craft wineries, cideries, golf courses and clubs, dining clubs/tobacco product shops, and other Places of Public Accommodation offering food, beverages (including alcoholic beverages), or tobacco products for on-premises consumption, may provide indoor and outdoor service, provided that they adhere to the following requirements:

   A. Occupancy of any indoor space must not exceed 50 percent of the normal occupant capacity as determined by the fire marshal, with a maximum of 250 people in a single self-contained space.

   B. Occupancy of any outdoor space must ensure that the number of customers at any one time is limited to the number for whom physical distancing of 6 feet can be maintained between tables, not to exceed 250 people.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you.
Pam Bowman