

## SPECIAL BROOKLYN PARK CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, August 5, 2019  
6:00 p.m.

Community Activity Center  
5600 85th Avenue North

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Lunde

**PRESENT:** Mayor Jeffrey Lunde; Council Members Tonja West-Hafner, Susan Pha, Terry Parks, Wynfred Russell and Lisa Jacobson; City Manager Jay Stroebel; Community Engagement Manager Josie Shardlow; Claudia Diggs, Brooklyn Intern Angela Young; Program Assistant Marlene Kryder and City Clerk Devin Montero.

**ABSENT:** Council Member Mark Mata.

**ALSO PRESENT:**

**Budget Advisory Commission:** Trelawny Grant, Mena Xiong Vue, Kim Riesgraf, Akeem Adeniji, Eric Pone, Teshite Wako; Staff Liaison LaTonia Green.

**Charter Commission:** Mary Ann Bishman, Gordy Aune, Jr., John Irvin, Beatrice Achieng, Barbara Bor; Staff Liaison Devin Montero.

**Community Long-range Improvement Commission:** Kathy Fraser, Kaade Wallace, Etta Gbeizon-Bornor, Devale Hodge, Cory Funk, Yordanos Kiflu-Martin, Robin Turner, Tom Hayes, Amy Meuers, Laura Sell; Staff Liaison Jesse Struve.

**Human Rights Commission:** Cindy Shevlin-Woodcock, Chris Eriksen, John Hostetler, Scott Volltrauer; Staff Liaison Wokie Gbogba-Freeman.

**Planning Commission:** Syed S Husain, Carol Vosberg, John Kiekow, Amy Hanson; Staff Liaison Cindy Sherman.

**Recreation and Parks Advisory Commission:** Cindi Matthew, Monica Dillenburg, Aslam Tajim Hayat, Mark Nolen, Jane Wilson, Patricia Dominguez-Mejia, Christy Sandberg, Lang Vang, Francis Killen, Deb Everson, Staff Liaison Jody Yungers.

**Shingle Creek/West Mississippi Watershed Commission:** Steven Chesney

### B. GENERAL INFORMATION

#### B.1 Commission Recognition Dinner

At 6 p.m. the Council, Commissioners, and staff Liaisons had dinner.

At 6:20 p.m., Mayor Lunde welcomed the Commissioners for their time and efforts on being on Commissions. He introduced each Commission. Council Members Pha, West-Hafner, Russel, Jacobson, and Parks also provided comments and thanked the Commissioners.

At 6:32 p.m., City Manager Stroebel thanked the Commissioners for their great work and he provided the agenda for the meeting. Dinner, Commission Photos, Commission Updates, and Census 2020 presentation with table conversations and report out to large group.

At 6:37 p.m. The Commissioners took a group photo outside the Community Activity Center garden area.

At 6:49 p.m. the Commissioners and staff returned to the Gardenview Room to continue the Joint Council Commission meeting.

At 6:50 p.m. City Manager Stroebel stated the Commissions would give an update on their activities.

1. **Budget Advisory Commission.** Chair Eric Pone gave the following Commission update:
  - **Highlights from last year:**
    - Completed our process reforms.
    - Acted in a consulting role for Council creating a closer partnership.
    - Focus placed on the voice of the taxpayer.
  - **Items on the horizon for this coming year:**
    - Looking for ways to make government more efficient.
    - Look for waste and inefficiency to create money for reinvestment.
    - Special projects as assigned by Council
2. **Charter Commission.** Vice Chair Gordy Aune, Jr., gave the following Commission update:
  - **Highlights from last year:**
    - **Council Salaries** – Reviewed the Council salaries and made a recommendation to the Council. The ordinance was adopted by the Council in July 2018.
    - **Community Long-range Improvement Commission** – Submitted an Ordinance to the Council to change the Citizen Long-range Improvement Committee to the “Community Long-range Improvement Commission.” The ordinance was adopted by the Council in March 2018
  - **Items on the horizon for this coming year:**
    - **Publication Requirements in the City Charter** – Reviewed all Charter Chapters regarding the publication requirements in the newspaper and also posting to the city’s website. The Charter ordinance amendment was forwarded to the Council for adoption.
    - **Write-In Candidates** – Recommended adding a provision in the Charter that requires candidates for city offices to submit a written request to the City Clerk to count their write-in votes. The Charter ordinance amendment was forwarded to the Council for adoption.
    - **City Manager’s Population Report** – In March and April the Commissioners evaluated the population growth statistics and discussed whether to recommend adjusting Council Member district boundaries. After the evaluation and discussion, the Commissioners recommended to the Council to not redistrict the boundaries.
    - **Community Long-range Improvement Commission** – Continued to collaborate with the CLIC members and Council on their revised mission and responsibilities.
3. **Community Long-range Improvement Commission.** Chair Kathy Fraser gave the following Commission update.
  - **Highlights from last year:**
    - **Age-Friendly Brooklyn Park initiative**

- Held joint meeting with RPAC to discuss park system plan related to Age Friendly initiative
- Reviewed Age Friendly draft report/recommendations and provided feedback
- Presented verbal report on Age Friendly recommendations to Council
- **Communications**
  - Reviewed Community Engagement plan and discussed partnerships/multicultural outreach
  - Received updates from new Communications Manager and her areas of focus
  - Received updates on website redesign and provided feedback
- **Housing Continuum**
  - Engaged HRC to review and discuss their efforts around housing
  - Defined CLIC's area of focus to avoid duplication of efforts
  - Reviewed Draft of BP fair housing policy, housing data and comprehensive plan housing chapter
- **Development/Redevelopment**
  - Reviewed and commented of development/redevelopment opportunities
    - Welcome Project, Center for Innovation & Arts (CITA), Brooklyn Blvd Trail project etc...
  - Discussed and commented on the Temporary Plaza and Bottineau Wayfinding projects
  - Stayed engaged with latest updates on the BLTR project
    - Two members appointed to Metro Blue Line Extension Community Advisory Committee (CAC)
- **Charter Changes**
  - Engaged Charter Commissions to review/discuss CLIC charter and guidelines
  - Identified and prepared a draft of the necessary changes to the charter
- **Items on the horizon for the coming year:**
  - **Age-Friendly Brooklyn Park initiative**
    - Stay engaged with the progress and implementation of the Age Friendly recommendations
  - **Communications**
    - Prepare recommendations on how communication is used and presented both internally and externally
    - Participate in usability testing of new website
    - Support launch of new website and provide ongoing feedback
    - Discuss the design and branding presented for future water towers
  - **Redevelopment**
    - Monitor and provide input for the 252 Reconstruction
    - Monitor BLRT progress and examine long term effects of light rail, gentrification, and connection to the system (east – west mobility)
    - Review and recommend development opportunities within the Village Creek area
  - **Housing Continuum**
    - Focus on addressing various long-term housing needs within the community

- Partner with HRC on their housing effort
  - Review Census data, EDA Annual review, Stable Neighborhood Action Plan (SNAP) and other housing resources to inform and guide our efforts
  - **Future Planning**
    - Review and comment on the Comprehensive 2040 Plan and CIP/CEP
4. **Human Rights Commission.** Chair Christian Ericksen gave the following Commission update:
- **Highlights from last year:**
    - Strategic planning shifted the work of the commission away from building visibility toward concrete activities in support of advocacy for human rights and our role of advising the Council.
    - In support of this shift, the commission engaged numerous City departments and agencies to determine areas of focus for the 2019-2020 commission:
      - Brooklyn Park Police
      - Brooklyn Park Community Engagement Team
      - Brooklyn Park Community Development Team
  - **Items on the horizon for the coming year:**
    - 2019-2020 Workplan focuses on research and action supporting and advising the Council in three areas:
      - Housing
        - Advising city staff on upcoming housing policies
        - Planning training event for landlords/managers on tenant mental health
        - Reviewing current housing policies and making recommendations to Council
      - Economics/Employment
        - Planning staff roundtable on removable barriers to hiring diverse candidates
        - Research and advise on economic equality activities of other communities
      - Human Rights Training
        - Plan training event on human rights for commissioners, Council, city staff
      - Upcoming Events:
        - September 11, 2019 – Human Rights Training for HRC Commissioners, City Council, City Staff
        - September 26, 2019 – Brooklyn Park Community Assembly focused on domestic violence.
        - TBD – Roundtable with City leaders and staff on Removable Barriers to Hiring Diverse Candidates
        - October 2019 – Purple Lights initiative to raise awareness around domestic violence
5. **Planning Commission.** Chair Amy Hanson gave the following Commission update:
- **Highlights from 2018:**
    - 11 Regular Meetings
    - 5 Work Sessions
    - 24 Public Hearings

- 26 applications including:
  - 33 actions
  - One five hour long hearing
- 73 new home sites
- 5 Code changes
- 12 Commercial actions
  - 1 new free standing restaurant
  - 1 new financial institution
  - 2 new indoor recreation facilities
- **Items On the horizon for the coming year:**
  - Land Use Applications (15 to date)
  - Begin Zoning Code Review Work
  - Work with EDA on Redevelopment Opportunities
  - Training with City Attorney
  - Opportunities
  - Business/Hotel Tours
- 6. **Recreation and Parks Advisory Commission.** Chair Monica Dillenberg gave the following Commission update:
  - **Highlights from 2018:**
    - RPAC's 2019 priorities driven by 2018 Park System Plan & Bond Ref. Projects.
    - In 2018, RPAC led effort in working with the Trust for Public Land and Conservation MN in the "Get Out the Vote Campaign". 63% Voted Yes!
  - 2018-2019 Highlights:
    - RPAC approved and advanced to City Council Park System Plan priorities, including:
      - Approval of River Park Master Plan
      - Approval of Natural Resource Master Plan
      - Approval of Historic Eidem Farm Master Plan
      - Approved Final Joint Master Plan for Mississippi Gateway Regional Park/Environmental Nature Area
      - Guidance on New Contract Agreement with D'Amico & Refresh of Ed. USA Clubhouse - Grand Opening of "The Brooklyn"
      - Reviewed Youth Services Plan, including Cities United Comprehensive Safety Plan in Partnership with PD Dept. and pilot of Youth Outreach Team
      - Provided Input on CITA Partnership with NHCC on Feasibility Study and Pre-Design Plan
      - Review of Age-Friendly Report and encouraged the City to move forward with this important work
      - Supported City Entering into a Partnership with ISD 279 for development of Dome/Synthetic Turf at Park Center HS
  - **On the Horizon 2019-2020**
    - Support Implementation of Phase I of the Parks Bond Priorities:
    - Master Planning and Redevelopment of Hartkopf, Lakeland and Norwood Parks
    - Recreation building expansions at Northwoods, Monroe and Willowstone (day camp sites)
    - Kitchen additions on existing shelters at River and Central Park

- Review Interpretive Plan for Historic Eidem Farm
- Implementation of Phase I Natural Resource Master Plan
- Support Grand Opening of Dome at Park Center in Partnership with ISD 279
- Implementation of Hometown Ballfield Improvements
- Continue to advance priorities of Parks and Recreation System Plan, including:
  - River Park Phase I Construction (Spring 2020)
  - Finalize Partnership Agreement with Three Rivers Park District for joint development and operations of Mississippi Gateway Regional Park
  - Design Development Mississippi Gateway Regional Park/Env. Nature Area
  - Support expanded Youth Outreach Team efforts within apartment complexes, in partnership with Police
  - Review and advancement of Inclusion/ADA Plan for the Dept. and City
  - Support advancement of priority goals within the CU Comprehensive Safety Plan
  - Support acquisition of Old Hennepin County Library on CAC Campus

At 7:20 p.m. Community Engagement Manager Shardlow gave a presentation on Census 2020. She presented on: Census 101, Why it Was Important to Brooklyn Park, Brooklyns Count 2020 Coalition, Current Environment, More Response Options, and Being Part of the Brooklyns Count 2020 to get the word out. She asked the group to discuss the following questions and each group would report on their discussions:

- *What are some things we know need to be done in preparation for Census 2020?*
- *What do you think will be the most challenging aspect of counting every Brooklyn Park resident?*
- *Why is Census 2020 outreach so important in Brooklyn Park specifically?*
- *What can the City Council, commissions and/or you individually; do to support Census outreach?*

At 7:40 discussions were held on the questions.

At 7:55 p.m. the groups reported on their conversations.

Comments by the participants:

- Census is challenging on how families are counted when individuals are not part of the nuclear system.
- Should look to key leaders to help those not connected to be counted. Immigrants not eligible to work with census count. (have to be US citizen)
- Need to let people know the reason to be counted. (Get federal money and makes a difference for the community.)
- Start Census outreach early. Go to religious institutions, communities, and recreational activities to get the information out.
- Important to tell and explain to people why the census matters.
- Use other languages to reach out to residents for their comfort level.

- Have a special list where the federal money goes to, a projects list, to tell residents
- When going door to door, have brochures to provide to residents.
- Have volunteers who speak in different languages go out with the Census counters
- Have Census Days at City Hall for residents to come and fill out a census and get help if needed, also at schools, grocery stores.
- It's the law, the quicker they do it there would be no reason to get reminded by the Census.
- Have children encourage families to do the Census and let them know how important it is to fill it out. Children can get information at the schools to take home.
- Is there a threshold needed to receive census counts in Brooklyn Park?
- Do Census videos: role play on what the Census counting looks like to normalize the process.

At 8:10 p.m. CEI Shardlow thanked everyone for participating in the Census conversations.

ADJOURNMENT - With consensus of the Council, Mayor Lunde adjourned the meeting at 8:11 p.m.

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JEFFREY JONEAL LUNDE, MAYOR

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DEVIN MONTERO, CITY CLERK