

REGULAR BROOKLYN PARK CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Monday, June 3, 2019
7:00 p.m.

Steve Lampi Meeting Room
5200 85th Avenue North

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Jeffrey Lunde

PRESENT: Mayor Jeffrey Lunde; Council Members Terry Parks, Susan Pha (arrived at 7:18 p.m.), Lisa Jacobson, Mark Mata and Tonja West-Hafner; City Manager Jay Stroebel; City Attorney Jim Thomson; Community Development Director Kim Berggren; Recreation and Parks Director Jody Yungers Community Development Director Kim Berggren; Economic Development Housing Director Breanne Rothstein; Operations and Maintenance Director Dan Ruiz; Planning Director Cindy Sherman; Parks and Facilities Manager Brad Tullberg, Police Chief Craig Enevoldsen; and City Clerk Devin Montero.

ABSENT: Council Member Wynfred Russell (Excused).

C. DISCUSSION ITEMS/GENERAL ACTION ITEMS:

C.1 Discuss 93rd Avenue from Zane Avenue to Noble Parkway

City Engineer Jesse Struve briefed the Council on 93rd Avenue from Zane Avenue to Noble Parkway. He briefed on the history, existing road conditions, existing pedestrian facilities, location map, considerations for the reconstruction of a roadway, condition, Boone Ave (N. of 63rd Ave), Candlewood Drive, Regent Ave, Setzler Parkway, Xerxes Avenue, 93rd Avenue, safety, capacity, speed data – Regent to Noble, Intersection 93rd/Noble, MSA condition rating list, how MnDOT determines the regulatory speed limit, and recommendations.

Council Member Jacobson stated that 93rd Avenue to Noble to Regent was 12th on the rating list. She stated when she looked at the other 11 prior, to it didn't necessarily assume any of them were adding more people to that road.

City Engineer Struve stated a lot of segments in didn't have new development in those areas except for Oakgrove Parkway. He stated there was still room for development, which could increase the traffic. He stated there were still normal growth on those roads experiencing 3 to 5 percent of road expansion, as other things filled in would see a typical growth of traffic on many of those collector roads.

Council Member Jacobson stated that being 12th did not factor in the additional things that were happening right now, what is being built, how many more people were using it and how many more trips were driven every day.

City Engineer Struve stated that when they based it on condition, that was only one of the items they factored in when they rated the roads for reconstruction. He stated that based on the condition today and when they went through the CIP they did factor that in. He stated if they started to see safety concerns, safety trumped condition.

He stated that sometimes the conditions contributed to some of the safety issues, but would generally prioritize safety over condition in many of those cases. He stated they did look at development and at each type of roadway as kind of certain capacity limits based on numerous studies and what was shown out there.

Mayor Lunde stated Candlewood had a group and he went to a group meeting and about 50 residents showed up to talk about Candlewood.

Operations and Maintenance Director Dan Ruiz stated that originally Candlewood was scheduled out further to 2021/2022 and moved to next year.

Mayor Lunde stated he had a small group contact him mostly about kids wiping out when the bikes caught those ruts.

City Engineer Struve stated they evaluated the conditions every year. He stated last year they had Candlewood on 2022, and after the spring, it moved up and was anticipating with the new updated CIP that it would be a 2020 high project.

Council Member Mata stated that besides 93rd Avenue, all five photos of the roads had curb and gutter and sidewalks and some had two sidewalks. He stated 93rd Avenue had no sidewalks. He stated he didn't see any safety concerns for Candlewood Drive or the others because people could safely walk, ride a bike or use a wheelchair on the sidewalk. He stated there were no safety concerns on those roads. 93rd Avenue was a safety concern and was the only one there without curb and gutter. He stated the road might look a little better because everything drained off to the side of the road, wouldn't pool there and cleared off nicely. He stated when he went through the list of 24 roads, and 19 was the road in question, he was trying to find another road of the 24 that did not have curb and gutter. He asked if there were any other lists with those roads that didn't have sidewalks and curb and gutters.

City Engineer Struve stated most of them had curb and gutter and to remember that was a condition assessment and was not safety and all other factors.

Council Member Mata stated that it was said safety trumped condition, but sometimes conditions caused safety. He stated in the list, all of those had sidewalks except the one in question.

At 7:18 p.m., Council Member Pha arrived.

Council Member West-Hafner asked if the long-term goal for 93rd Avenue was to have it look like the intersection at Regent to Noble, smaller and at 30 mph.

City Engineer Struve stated they would design it to shrink the lane widths to minimal levels to provide off street pedestrian facilities. He stated they would be talking about ways to incorporate items such as potential medians in certain spots to help and try to reduce speeds. He stated he didn't see how they were going to be able to design that section of road to get it to 30 mph and thought 40 mph would be a realistic goal to try to get to. He stated it was a tough situation where it was flat, straight and limited ability to put in some curbs to try to slow people down. He stated they could try to get it closer to 30 mph but thought a reasonable expectation was a 40 mph speed limit.

Council Member West-Hafner asked if the expectation would be to bring it down to 30 mph in the other section like it was now.

City Engineer Struve stated that would be a challenge too because some were urban sections.

He stated if it was defined as an urban section, the city did have the ability to reduce it to 25 mph, and that section did not meet the requirements for that in their view point.

Council Member West-Hafner asked about the requirements and what that would look like.

City Engineer Struve stated urban sections required so many access points based at various points on a section of a road and the curvature was factored in. He stated they didn't feel it would qualify for that segment once they did the speed studies. He stated that even if directed by the Council to reconstruct 93rd Avenue, that \$2 to 2.5 million was only for Zane to Regent. He stated the other section was still in reasonably good shape and they had seen some stripping but would facilitate more toward a mill an overlay during which they could restripe it differently and it tightened things. He stated they didn't think they would be able to get the speed down to 30 mph by looking at the speeds studies they had done, maybe 35 mph, but it would be closer to 40 mph based on how people traveled through that area.

Council Member Mata stated that because the road was flat and straight, they couldn't make it 30 mph. He asked what they did with 63rd Avenue by the Crystal airport because it was at 30 mph. He stated he could go through the map and name many places that had 30 mph that were straight and flat.

City Engineer Struve stated the difference between 93rd Avenue and 63rd Avenue was the number of access points it had in there and the characteristic of the roadway. He stated the section of 93rd Avenue between Zane Avenue and Regent, which they just constructed, there was one access point there now, one for the gas station, and the one for 94th Ave was just constructed and was potentially one more access point there. He stated three access points on that section was different than a residential type area on 63rd Avenue. He stated they could incorporate it if directed to reconstruct that road and would do what they could to try to put in design elements to reduce the speed. He stated that after it was constructed, they did a MnDOT speed study and that determined the speed limit.

Council Member Mata stated he asked at the last meeting to bring it up and not to move the project forward that would cause tax payers money. He stated if the road was 30 mph right now and did a speed study, it would be close to 30 mph, but right now it was 50 mph and if they did the speed study, it was close to 50 mph. He stated what he was trying to do was move people because an apartment complex was just built and the shopping and eating area for those apartment complexes and rest of the neighborhood was to go down to 93rd Avenue. He stated there were no sidewalks to go down there. He stated he was asking if the city had the ability as a city to put up signs to change the speed and now were told that the city was not able to enforce it. He stated to move on to the enforcement side because the average person wouldn't know the difference and was going to slow the speed down. He stated the area mocked the other side to Noble Parkway. He stated he realized staff was coming forward with their studies and data but unfortunately that was why there were four votes to change it and said what they want to do. He stated he knew Senator Hoffman had been involved in it and was the one that would go to MnDOT until they did do something. He stated Commissioner Opat wasn't going to write a letter about the intersection at Noble because they had to start something, had to discuss it and say the city wanted to do something, or say the city wanted to do a light without them and the County would come back to agree with it.

Council Member Jacobson stated she was talking about pilot projects this summer and asked if

that was something they could do right away based on the fact there was a lot of construction going on and a lot more traffic than the norm now.

Council Member Pha stated she had a concern of posting a speed limit that the city couldn't enforce. She stated the residents wouldn't know what was enforceable because the city put a sign up that was not enforceable. She stated she didn't want to set that standard across the city. She asked if the city could put up a sign it couldn't enforce rather than going the route of getting it changed to enforce it.

Police Chief Enevoldsen stated the concern of putting up a sign that couldn't be enforced was exposing the city to liability should an accident happen. He stated if the police were not going to be there enforcing the speed limit, asked what the recourse was when something significant bad happened when going above the city decided speed limit and not the MnDOT speed limit.

Mayor Lunde stated he drove on that road three times a day and didn't see pedestrians. He stated he saw one or two in weeks and had not heard from anyone about 93rd when he was door knocking. He stated if it was Candlewood, the residents would pack a room. He stated he didn't see the need for the speed limit. He stated the speeds were rated, and in the future yes, when the other complex went up and got some other residential with development. He stated he would rather wait and didn't want to put up signs. He stated he guaranteed people would petition the Council to ask for stops signs and speed changes on their streets and asked what the Council would say. The Council did it on roads where there were no houses but in their front yard where it was 30 mph, will not say yes.

City Attorney Thomson stated the city couldn't prosecute someone for violating speeds. He stated it meant the city couldn't give a ticket. He stated there was a potential for liability if the city put up a sign that was not authorized. He stated he was not too concerned about the liability factor, it was more that the police couldn't prosecute someone. He stated it was not much different than for private roads and townhouses and condos. Some of them put up stop signs, but if someone runs that stop sign, his understanding was that it was not enforceable because it was on private property and not a public street. He stated there was potential liability and someone could sue the city because it put up a sign that wasn't authorized but would have to show some causation between that and the accident. He stated it was mostly the lack of the ability of the police to prosecute it.

Police Chief Enevoldsen stated that was where the liability issue came in. If they went to an area and wrote tickets and was not enforceable, why would they be there. He stated he heard from engineering about the speed on the streets and there were three things: engineering, education, and enforcement. He stated on what they immediately could do, didn't know if they could ticket their way out of that issue. He stated the temporary solution from an engineering perspective was to slow the traffic until it came time to redo the road.

Operations and Maintenance Direct Ruiz stated they did do temporary speed signs this past summer for construction purposes and didn't know if it slowed it down. He stated that was something immediate they could do if construction was there. He stated the other immediate thing was that they were in the process of getting prices for designing a traffic signal at 93rd/Noble Parkway. He stated that was where the data was showing to put money for safety.

He stated that was where there were 21 accidents in the five years versus one on that other stretch.

City Engineer Struve stated that adding a light on 93rd/Noble might encourage more people to jump off TH610 and use 93rd because they had a much easier left-hand turn because every 90 seconds it turned green. He stated they could turn left versus now where Noble got busy and that left-hand turn was more difficult. He stated that based on the 21 accidents, he recommended to move forward with the traffic signal just for the accident purposes.

Council Member Pha said they talked about talking to MnDOT on reducing that speed and putting in a request. She stated she was for reducing the speed to 30 mph or 40 mph instead of 50 mph and asked how they would petition it. She asked about the speed study to be done and asked if they could go through that avenue.

City Engineer Struve stated they could do that speed study on 93rd Avenue, but cautioned that the expectation would result based on the speeds they saw out there. He stated with how 93rd Avenue was changing, they did have a new access point on 94th Avenue, the apartments, potentially another access point would be showing up. He thought they could make the argument and even though the 85th percentile showed 50 mph, it was fast in that area without reconstructing the road. He stated he would expect to get 5 mph off on the speed limit down to 45 mph if they went through the process of that segment from Zane/Regent and would be reduced 50 to 45 mph based on some new conditions that were occurring with the development. He stated it would also be expected the segment from Regent to Noble would go up closer to 40 mph that was currently posted at 30 mph.

City Manager Stroebel stated that Senator Hoffman said he saw three potential options: do a speed study, or appeal to the MnDOT leadership. He stated they had discussions with the MnDOT leadership and they were not interested in going down that path, whether it was from Senator Hoffman or from the city formally. He stated if they opened that door, that meant any city could go forward with the same request. He stated the third option was to try get something in legislation specific to the one mile stretch to approve specific speed limits on that stretch.

Operations and Maintenance Director Ruiz stated there had been several committees through Metro Cities he had sat on and tried to get local authorization to set speed limits. He stated there was a little progression this past year but was not an option. He stated it was a sensitive issue in a lot of communities and stated the City of Elko New Market petitioned for a speed study and wanted to lower their speed limit and it went the other way and went up by 5 miles per hour. He stated Brooklyn Park could recommend and point out change and conditions to get the speed lowered, but was at the mercy of MnDOT when they went to do a speed study.

Mayor Lunde stated the city had the data, had the will, and the County was on board. He stated he didn't want a speed study because he was fearful the 30 mph would go up. He stated that section of the road, where it was 30 mph now, had a residential feel when driving on it versus the other part, which might in the future look like both ends from Regent to Noble Parkway and Regent to Zane. He stated if the speed limit went up to 35 or 40 mph, knew what the reaction of the neighbors would be. He stated if the Council needed to do a vote on it in the chambers, he was fine with it. He stated he was just not willing to say to go do it if MnDOT comes back and they did what they wanted and the city would be stuck with it.

City Manager Stroebel asked if the city could ask to do a speed study from Regent Avenue to Zane Avenue and not from Regent to Noble Parkway.

City Engineer Struve stated they could ask but MnDOT wanted to do a fairly long corridor and even going from Zane Avenue to Noble, that might want to expand it down to 93rd even further. He stated he wouldn't think MnDOT would do a speed study specifically on that small section of the road and would want to see it more continuous.

Planning Director Sherman asked if waiting until the second apartment project had started, which would be in the next 35 days, and the scheduled signal going in if that could affect the speed study if they waited for a while.

City Engineer Struve stated having another access point to the other apartments would trigger another access point onto 93rd and it also triggered them to put in a left turn lane going eastbound on 93rd Avenue to northbound 94th and a bypass lane. He stated he didn't know if that was going to have a measurable effect on the speed study, and if it did, it would be small.

Council Member Mata asked about the crosswalk at 93rd Avenue.

City Engineer Struve stated they had heard about adding a crosswalk at 93rd Avenue and Regent Avenue. He stated there were facilities on the north side of Regent Avenue and was one trail on the southside and on the east corner. He stated they could realistically put in crosswalks on that intersection. He stated it didn't meet their guidelines for installation of crosswalks, but that was something that was relatively low dollar they could do this year. He stated it would be an ongoing maintenance cost of about \$500 to repaint it every year for that intersection, but that was something that could happen right now.

Council Member Parks stated that he and other Lions Club members on Saturday cleaned up both sides of the road from Noble to Highway 169 and was very dangerous. He stated they picked up car parts and liquor bottles. He stated there was one sidewalk on the south side and counted 12 bicyclists in that area and a couple pedestrians on the sidewalks. He stated that on the speed study, he had the same fear as the Mayor, that it might go up in speed, but on the other hand, they had been talking about it for a long time. He stated he would like to do something instead of having meetings about it many times. He stated he wanted something they could do now and it would be nice if the County said the city could take over the road.

Council Member West-Hafner stated they needed to put in a signal at Noble and needed to paint those crosswalks for some sense of safety. She stated she would like to redo that part of the road and not sit and wait for Hennepin County to put it on their CIP. She stated it would be five years or more if they did not have it on their radar and seemed too dangerous to leave it alone.

Council Member Jacobson stated of the 21 crashes in 5 years, 11 of those were in the past 12 months. She stated it had gotten bad especially on the corner of Noble/93rd. She stated she didn't know what it was four years ago, but it had changed. She stated that if Hennepin County was not interested in looking at the differences to help make it happen, at the very least, she wanted to go forward with the signal at 93rd/Noble and anything they could do to slow the speed down on a temporary basis. She stated she knew they had mobile units up a few times

and didn't know if that did any good. She stated they would be doing something if they got the crosswalks in.

Council Member West-Hafner stated she didn't want to see the speed study done and then have the speed go up. She stated that unless they felt very confident and had a strong case they would say yes, but didn't want to do a speed study that would increase that speed from Regent to Noble going up to 45 mph.

Operations and Maintenance Director Ruiz stated that's what they could do so they could get the Council to vote on it and keep things moving or at least have a direction when they had all the pricing and proposals for the designs of that traffic signal intersection. He stated he would have one motion to authorize that and move that forward with the signal. He stated the other motion was to direct staff to work with MnDOT to do speed study from Zane to Regent. He stated in the meantime, they could have conversations with MnDOT. He stated what he was hearing from the Council, and seemed to be consensus, was only do the speed study if they could do that stretch; otherwise, bite the bullet and not do the speed study.

City Manager Stroebel stated if they were going to do the 93rd/Noble signal, it would likely result in a rate increase of street light utility and would bring back that information to the Council.

Operations and Maintenance Director Ruiz stated it would probably be a 3-5% rate increase and would do his best to reduce it. He stated it was just recovering costs, about \$400,000 less the County's share. He stated they hadn't adjusted the rates from that utility fund in three years.

C.2 Discussion on Potential Acquisition of the Old Hennepin County Brooklyn Park Library (8600 Zane Avenue)

Senior Project Manager Jennifer Jordan briefed the Council on the potential acquisition of old Hennepin County Brooklyn Park Library at 8600 Zane Avenue. She briefed on the Community Activity Center (CAC) parking needs, estimated costs, various community ideas for reuse, and next steps.

Mayor Lunde stated he did not realize the parking lot was that much. He stated they had to acquire that property because if they sold it and someone else decided to do something else with it, there was no way the CAC was going to handle parking, especially after it was renovated. He stated if they bought the property, they could wait on making the decision to renovate it. He stated given how much they were going to lose in the parking alone was astronomical. He stated it would put in jeopardy the senior center, teen center, plans and renovation if they lost those stalls.

Council Member Jacobson stated she agreed they had to purchase it. She stated her concern was if the County was going to care, were they going to change the price if they either demolished it or renovated it. She stated she was not sure if it was worth renovating with all the work it needed versus leveling and deciding later. She stated she was not giving up on the fact there might be a pool and the need for parking there. She stated they needed to move forward to find out what they would sell it for and would want to pay \$1 for it.

Recreation and Parks Director Yungers stated the current PICA agreement went through 2023. She stated three years ago, the city became the grant recipient for the rehab of portion of the

roof at \$55,000. She stated if they were to change PICA and move them, the city would have to pay that back to the State of Minnesota. She stated PICA representatives had indicated an interest in the building and had done maintenance to keep it safe. She stated it was the old city hall and was a very old building.

Council Member West-Hafner asked how much PICA paid the city for that space.

Recreation and Parks Director Yungers stated they did not. She stated the agreement was that they paid \$1 and any capital asset replacement or development would be their responsibility. She stated as part of the grant, only government agencies could be recipients. She stated they were a nonprofit and the city was the owner of the building. She stated the grant had to be awarded to the city on their behalf and they had accepted it. She stated that in the end the city put in \$7,000 to do an original assessment of the roof and the grant covered the remaining portion of roof repair and replacement.

Mayor Lunde stated the agreement was renewed seven years ago. He pushed to not get locked in where the city would help them move and find a place, if in the interim the city needed to get in the building to expand it or do something. He stated that was in the agreement; the city could have them move out, but would have to help them find a spot. He stated they were filled and they needed a bigger space whether it was there or somewhere else. He stated he talked to the PICA representative and let them know the library had some expensive issues and the city was trying to figure it out.

Council Member Jacobson stated when they talked about doing the pool, they talked about that building and needing that space.

Recreation and Parks Director Yungers stated that when they did the aquatics feasibility study, they had six options that were presented to the Council. Of those options, two options did include the addition of a pool, whether it was a recreational pool or 50-meter pool. She stated both of those options/suggestions were that because of need for parking and the need of support with the additional amenity, it was recommended to acquire and demolish the library for the parking.

Council Member Parks stated he would vote to purchase the library and they could wait and discuss how they were going to do the other things. He stated those repairs were expensive and if they kept them the way it was, it would be worse.

Council Member Pha stated they needed to acquire that building for as low amount as they could. She stated if they demolished it, the chances of being able to develop on it anytime soon probably was not there. She thought in the future they wanted to expand the CAC, which they didn't have the funds now, other than the renovations that had been approved. She stated there could be an aquatics center there, but might not be on and if there was one in the future, it might be in the far future and not short term that would come up in the next couple of years. She stated that in the meantime, she would like to see for the city acquire the building, put in the \$800,000 to renovate it because there was an immediate need now in the community that could use that space. She stated they heard talk about how they wanted to empower people to be able to build small businesses in the city and expand their capacity to those businesses. She stated it was hard to do that when they didn't have anything to help them. She thought a

business incubator was important for the community members who wanted to start a small business had a place where they could start up at a low cost. She stated that with the community as diverse as it is, it was needed. She stated on the nonprofit centers, there were a lot more smaller nonprofits that served a higher number than the big nonprofits did. She stated they didn't often see the small nonprofits doing work in the community, but they worked in community every day. She stated they didn't have space where they could operate, didn't have access to programming space or access to a space where they could have meetings. She stated that imagine how much less the city would need to do if they could empower the nonprofits and help them build their capacity to serve the people in the community. She stated a lot of the nonprofits didn't have the support from the city and didn't cost us that much compared to the amount it cost the city to do the work. She stated the nonprofit center, business incubator and the recreational programming tied to the CAC, all could live in that building. She stated they could split it and meet the needs of the entire community until there was a plan for that space. She stated it might be 10 years from now to need the space and within that time served many people through that space. She stated they talked about how they needed spaces for people to gather and for people to be able to do things and had the opportunity now to create that space.

Council Member West-Hafner stated she was for buying it too and stated if they invested the \$800,000, they were not going to want to tear it down. If they did put nonprofits or businesses in there asked where they would go if the city needed it to be redeveloped and do something else. She stated she liked that idea but worried about the long term. She stated PICA was set for a long time and no one was willing to tell them they had to go if the city needed that space because they had been there and had an agreement. She stated she didn't want to get in that same position in the future with other nonprofits, business incubator or other things. She stated she wanted to see the pool happen there and was amazing the size of the city she lived in did not have a public pool.

Council Member Mata stated that on the parking lot, when they talked about installing solar panels in that area that if he would have known that was what the parking lot ownership looked like, he would of said absolutely not. He asked if the county decides not to sell, where would the city's parking lot going to be.

Recreation and Parks Director Yungers stated they identified within the park system plan through the Aquatics feasibility study and even identified if they didn't acquire the library where the parking would go and had alternative parking on the other side. She stated it would take a portion of the park. On the solar panel discussion, was relevant, but they did not see that as a location for parking.

Community Development Director Berggren stated she was hearing that the Council had an interest in acquiring the whole parcel.

C.3 Sister City Discussion

Assistant City Manager Freeman-Gbogba briefed the Council on the process and criteria for Sister City partnerships.

City Manager Stroebel stated it was important to the process to have clarity on what the expectations between two sister cities were and the city being expected to send surplus technology equipment or police equipment or whatever it might be to that other city at the city's

expense.

He didn't think they should get into having that expectation on the city. He stated if it was more of a cultural exchange, it was easier than the expectation and didn't mean the other situation couldn't happen. He stated that during his time at the city, there had been expectations put on staff around what they should be doing relative to the current sister city relationship with Kakata. He felt a lot of people would come in and visit with the city, the Mayor and have certain expectations and was not able to live those out, which created some challenges. He thought something more clearly spelled out on what a potential sister city, expectations, or what the agreement would look like, was more realistic

Assistant City Manager Freeman-Gbogba stated what she would propose pending the Council's approval of the process, they would work with the current sister city to establish a MOU clearly outlining what the expectations were. She stated that a point mentioned in the criteria, there would have to be some description of how a sister city relationship aligned with goals of city. She stated they had *Brooklyn Park 2025* goals but then there were some objectives to establishing a sister city relationship in addition to the cultural exchange. She stated the city had a robust business environment even making sure those industries were connected with industries in the sister city country as well and that could be potential for some trade or other types of connections with those organizations/institutions and from the city's perspective of having more engagement with that community.

City Attorney Thomson stated there were public purpose expenditure issues associated with the sister cities and creating a sister city didn't mean giving money. He stated the purpose of the nonprofit was for them to organize it. He stated could the sell surplus equipment to the nonprofits and have them give it to the sister cities. He stated there were ways to accomplish some things, but understood the pressures described earlier that sometimes the expectations were more than cultural and the issues the state auditor raised with the lack of ability to spend public funds for a sister city.

Council Member Pha stated she agreed on the need to establish that expectation in writing. She stated when she read through the draft, she thought it was good and liked the details that were listed because it covered a lot of things. She stated they could establish as many sister cities as they wanted and liked the fact that they included that the city should only do one in a country. She stated it didn't make sense to do more than one in a country. She stated the sister city relationship was important for the city especially with the diversity in the city. She stated the expectations that the city became a funder and giving money or resources to a sister city had to be clear on the expectations. She stated there might be times where something was happening that the city could do something like it through the nonprofit in helping them, so they could host a fundraiser which the city would be a part of marketing and didn't see donating of bunch of things and couldn't do that when the city had more than one sister city.

Mayor Lunde stated North Hennepin Community College, Hennepin Technical College and the Library, they liked it because they wanted to be part of the sister cities because of the reasons why the city was doing it and they wanted to be a part of it too. He stated they thought it was good to have a formal document they could refer to when they were doing something as part of the sister city agreement and it also gave them some leeway.

Assistant City Manager Freeman-Gbogba stated on the cost to city if there happened to be

travel between the sister cities and the city's delegation, if there was one that would go to that sister city, there would be costs for it. She stated in the past those costs came out of a donation account the city had and very little funds had come out of the general fund budget for those trips taken at least for the last two trips taken in 2012/2013 to Kakata, Liberia.

Mayor Lunde stated all elected officials paid their own way to Liberia and he spent his own money to go to Liberia. He stated the pattern was set that from elected officials they were expected to pay their own way.

Council Member Mata asked if they were under the umbrella of the UN security. He stated when people of the city went outside, they were not and when they came to the city they also were not. He stated the city paid to have a police officer stand guard at a room for a delegate in another place but yet the same reciprocity was not done on the other side.

Assistant City Manager Freeman-Gbogba stated there was security provided to the delegations that went to Liberia of behalf of the government and the Mayor was part of the delegation.

Mayor Lunde stated they provided security police/fire departments that were under the national organization of the government and was paid between the two organizations. He stated they did not have a local jurisdiction.

Council Member Mata stated he would like to see the sister city program go away. He stated if someone from another country wanted to come to the city, if they wanted to learn from the city that the door was open to everyone. He asked why did they have to have a sister city that the door was only open to that sister city. He stated that on the exchange happening back and forth and trade was mentioned, he thought they wanted to be careful who the city promoted a sister city with so businesses in the community could have a trade partner with. He stated it became scary to him when they put that factor in there because it now became that a competitor didn't have that trade advantage. He stated he didn't see things going on a two-way street. He stated if he wanted to find a partner, he wanted to have something where he was going to benefit and they were going to benefit and didn't see it happening. He stated he would rather benefit from everyone than isolate himself down to one or two countries. He stated he had seen a lot of things get devalued in the city and sent prematurely before their price was due and the tax payers paid for it because the city bought new things. He stated it was discouraging because it was sold to nonprofit and the nonprofit took credit and sent overseas. He thought there were plenty of things close to home if the city wanted to donate. He stated he could look at some of the reservations in the State that could use some benefit. There were smaller cities outside the metro area that were farmland and struggling that the city could help out, like with expertise. He stated he would rather deal with that than going outside the country borders and stay closer to home. He stated he didn't see the benefit coming back to the city in a way the city would give it to a sister city.

Council Member West-Hafner stated that was the key, that it benefited both cities and couldn't be a one-way street where the city was writing checks from the city side; otherwise, the city shouldn't be doing it at all.

Mayor Lunde stated the benefits of a sister city when one was set up is the ability for the city to go out and meet with that specific cultural group increased dramatically. He stated he couldn't understate it, with how many times he met with the Liberian community, and having gone to

Liberia, that it carried street credit. He stated when the Laotian Ambassador visited the city, they talked about a sister city. He stated things like that mattered to people who were living in the city and that helps the city, especially with the cultural group the city didn't have connectivity with. He stated he liked the policy because it also gave a way to say no and having a process allowed the Council to say they had to earn their way in.

Assistant City Manager Freeman-Gbogba stated the community members from Garowe, Somalia were interested in being a sister city and highly motivated to get a proposal together once the policy was approved and they would bring it to the Council.

City Manager stated he would bring back the formal policy for Council's consideration.

C.4 Council Travel Policy Discussion

City Manager Stroebel briefed the Council on the Council Policy and proposed considerations to the policy.

Council Member Jacobson asked what was spent this year on instate travel. She stated that the staff report said Maple Grove Council rarely attended conferences or travel and they had a lot of things going on in the community and asked how that could happen without them traveling.

City Manager Stroebel stated that the understanding was there were two elected officials who could attend the newly elected officials training provided by the League of Minnesota Cities. He stated it was a personal Council preference regarding Maple Grove. He stated about four years ago, the Council only had two Council Members traveling. He stated Council Member Gates would go to a conference once a year and Council Member Trepanier and the Mayor would go to the National League of Cities conference too.

Mayor Lunde stated that on the couple of trips he took, they were funded. He stated he spoke at the conference and they gave funding for it to be given to the city for reimbursement for travel. He stated that sometimes a trip might cost \$400 because a thousand dollars came from the NLC. He stated USC paid for all of his trip and that was a trip without costs.

Council Member Jacobson stated that one of the things she was concerned about if they moved to the alternating travel was that they could each go on two trips per term. She stated she was not talking about the Mayor because she believed he needed to travel and was not optional. She stated to say they were going to do alternate travel, that if there was an unused Council travel budget, then others could pick up on that and go on a travel. She stated that smacked against what she believed in. She stated that if it was her turn to go and she opted not to go because she didn't want to spend taxpayers' dollars in that way, and then someone else went on a travel, they were still spending that money and she had a problem with it.

Council Member Mata stated he preferred each Council Member get an allocated amount for the four years and then at the end of his four years, he would give it back to city if it was not spent. Otherwise, if his travel was not used, then another Council Member would go. He stated that what he was going to learn and bring back to the city wasn't going to be worth what the taxpayers were paying for him to go. It would only be a trip. He stated he would like to hear from people when they went to something and come back and tell them what they had done and the

public gets to see what they did. He stated the Council budget was pulled out of a different fund and was not a Council fund because it had a purpose.

He stated in the policy, Page 2, Financial Policy, talked about a car and someone had to get personal insurance. He asked if that happened because he would like to eliminate a car at all conferences and use Uber. He stated it was a safer method and not be a liability for the taxpayers who are paying for it. He stated too that it would be fixed costs and the city could set up an Uber account, use it and close it, instead of using a car.

Council Member Pha stated it should be clarified regarding a car rent. She gave an example of going to Wisconsin for an event and was not going to fly there as she could drive to get there. She would rent a car to get there and back, but not necessary to have airfare, but if she went to Washington, DC, she would use Uber and not rent a car.

Council Member Mata stated he would drive his own vehicle and use his personal car insurance to travel.

Council Member Pha stated that not everyone had a vehicle that they felt safe driving out of state and would not want to use it to drive four to five hours.

Council Member Mata stated that the city had a vehicle they could use because someone might not have a car to drive to Rochester. He asked if they could use a city vehicle and fall under the city's policy where they were insured.

City Manager Stroebel stated he would find that out and get back to the Council, if the Council Members could use a city vehicle for their travel to conferences.

He stated that at the beginning of the year, there were a certain number of Council conference opportunities that were pre-approved that didn't have to come back to the Council. He stated they were League of Minnesota Cities, National League of Conference, and Minnesota Mayors Association Conferences. He stated those didn't have to come back a second time to the Council; it was things outside of it that came back to the Council.

Mayor Lunde stated he liked the policy and thought if someone was requesting travel, the Council should vote. He stated that the Council Member or Mayor should say why they wanted to go and what they could get out of it. He stated it was important to the public because they paid for the Council to go somewhere and the public had a right to know.

Council Member West-Hafner stated that should be in the policy to request why a Council Member wanted to go and report on the trip after they got back. She stated there were handouts at the conferences and should be brought back to share with the Council and city staff.

Council Member Jacobson stated when she got on the Council, one of the things she saw was that some Council Members became accustomed to going annually to what they called "their" conference. She stated she wanted the Council to kind of move away from that because she didn't think it did the city and residents the best. She stated that when they are dividing and conquering and going to different things, experiencing different things and bringing it back to the city that it became a kind of entitlement piece as she viewed it. She stated that didn't sit well with her and why she liked limiting travel to two per term for Council Members.

Council Member West-Hafner stated she liked the limitation but needed to add in the explanation of why and having a report back to the Council so there were some expectations that they are not just going to conference to go.

City Manager Stroebel clarified that it sounded they liked an out of state travel paragraph, liked that the Mayor could travel annually up to four times per term and Council Members could travel up to two times per term. He stated that in the policy the next sentence allowed some flexibility that the Council and or Mayor could request additional travel. He stated that on Council Member Jacobson's recommendation that he could tailor the other sentence where it just said, "the Mayor could request additional travel beyond that one time per year using unused Council travel budget resources or other funding resources." Then it wouldn't allow for the opportunity for other Council Members to travel beyond the two times per term. He stated he didn't know how the other Council Members felt about that limitation or not.

Mayor Lunde asked if it was assumed that it applied to the Mayor Pro Tem too or did they have to spell that out in the policy.

Council Member Mata suggested that it should say "Mayor or Mayor Pro Tem" because it didn't include both going to a conference but included one going.

Council Member Pha stated that by not going was not always a good thing. She stated that if a Council Member felt a value going to a certain conference, they should not feel guilty about going to that conference. She stated they were expanding their knowledge and able to use that knowledge to be better policy makers. She stated they should all be doing that and should be looking into seeing if there were certain areas they didn't understand enough about to see if there were opportunities to be a better policy maker by learning more. She agreed if someone didn't want to go they should not give up their portion of the budget for someone else. She thought everyone should have a limit but would shy away from alternating years because if a conference was not held on during her year to go and not offered the year after that on her year, it would not make sense. She suggested each Council Member get an "X" amount of time they could go on their term with an actual budget limit.

Council Member West-Hafner stated they could manage their own funds or do their own budget if they knew things were coming up and plan for them.

Council Member Jacobson asked what that dollar amount would be for their budget.

City Manager Stroebel stated that some conferences cost more, some were in close proximity in some years and some were further away.

Council Member Mata suggested start with a number and then they could determine it at the two-year intervals.

City Manager Stroebel suggested \$2,500 with a not to exceed \$2,500 per trip. He stated it could be theoretically four trips, the Mayor would go one and the three Council Members would go on one at \$2,500 each. He stated if a conference was \$800, airfare \$600, and hotel, the money would get eaten fast.

Mayor Lunde suggested \$2,500 and see how the year went and if they did any trips they would get an idea if they were way off.

Council Member West-Hafner asked if that affected anything that had already been approved.

City Manager Stroebel stated they wouldn't know until they found out what meals were covered and which ones were not. He stated they would get a per diem if a meal wasn't provided if they went to a conference.

Council Member Pha stated \$2,500 was comfortable, but if they spent more than that, they should be willing to spend more if they wanted to go. She stated they would have to evaluate it, but couldn't see them going over the \$2,500 limit. She stated the \$2,500 covered all reimbursements and not just if they were taking the \$50 per day and should be all expenses in that \$2,500.

Mayor Lunde stated it was already approved in the budget, but was a future thing to look at. He stated they could get examples from past expense reports of different conferences.

D.1 COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council Member Parks stated the Brooklyn Park Lions Club cleaned up 93rd Avenue and collected 15 bags of trash. He stated people underestimated what groups did in the city.

Council Member Pha stated she would not be at the next Council meeting on June 10, 2019 due to being on vacation.

D.2 CITY MANAGER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

City Manager Stroebel stated that Tater Daze was June 13 to 15 and there was the Council's root beer float event, parade, and open house for the Police Department, Fire Department and Recreation and Parks on June 15.

He stated there was grand opening of Edinburgh USA on Thursday, June 6.

E. ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT – With consensus of the Council, Mayor Lunde adjourned the meeting at 9:17 p.m.

JEFFREY JONEAL LUNDE, MAYOR

DEVIN MONTERO, CITY CLERK