

SPECIAL BROOKLYN PARK CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, February 5, 2024
6:10 p.m.

Brooklyn Park Police Department
Training Room
5400 85th Avenue North

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Hollies Winston

PRESENT: Mayor Hollies Winston; Council Members Christian Eriksen, Maria Tran, Xp Lee, Nichole Klonowski and Tony McGarvey; City Manager Jay Stroebel; and Facilitators Assistant to the City Manager Zach Kramka and Community Engagement Manager Josie Shardlow.

ABSENT: Council Member Boyd Morson (excused)

Also Present: Assistant City Manager Dr. Angel Smith, Deputy Police Chief Bill Barritt, Fire Chief Shawn Conway, Finance Director LaTonia Green, Operations and Maintenance Director Dan Ruiz, Community Development Director Kim Berggren, Recreations and Parks Director Brad Tullberg, Communications Manager Risikat Adesaogun; Racial Equity Diversity and Inclusion Manager Marcellus Davis, HR Director Sarah Kriewall; IT Manager Keith Ehrlichman, City Clerk Devin Montero.

At 6:10 p.m. City Manager Stroebel welcomed everyone and provided the meeting purpose and goals; and would focus on the 2024 BP 20025 Citywide Strategic Projects and 2024 Department Director Priorities.

At 6:18 p.m. Facilitator Shardlow provided the Agenda, Meeting agreements, and an ice breaker question. She stated they would reflect on the 2023 Accomplishments, with a priority setting workshop and a wrap up discussion.

Facilitator Shardlow started off with an ice breaker question.

At 6:29 p.m. Facilitator Shardlow asked the participants to reflect on the **2023 Accomplishments**:

- Land value study moratorium
- Legislative Victories
- Steps to Fair Contracting
- Understanding city issues-commercial property values and addressing it
- Expansion of Cadit Program
- Public Safety – good reputation and community relations
- Racial Equity-Resident-take opinions-Communities (Results)
- Small Business Center
- Infrastructure Projects
- National Night Out
- ART
- Community Engagement-Townhalls
- Recognizing Black History Month
- Public Safety Manager Position

At 6:36 p.m. Facilitator Shardlow stated they would start on a environmental scan exercise and asked the council to pair up and share their thoughts on **Strengths, Opportunity Areas, Challenges and Results**. She stated after that she would do a full group conversation with those items.

At 6:37 p.m. the council paired up in groups and discussed the environmental scan categories.

At 6:50 p.m. the Facilitator Shardlow reconvened the meeting with all the groups and discussed the **Strengths, Opportunity Areas, Challenges and Results**.

STRENGTHS:

- Staff Depth
- Diversity
- Strong will and resilience
- Size of the city
- Commitment
- Big Vision
- Undeveloped land (Opportunity Area)
- Big part of Northwest region
- Location/Geography
- Green Space
- Council-Skill Sets
- Colleges
- Young Workforce
- Immigrant population

OPPORTUNITY AREAS:

- Undeveloped land
- Joint Powers
- Regional Roles Leveraging
- Speeding up of opening business plans
- Bring diverse population together
- Bolster creative artistic
- Employer opportunity grows more jobs
- More higher market rate apartments
- Jollof Rice leader

CHALLENGES:

- Money
- Lack of cooperation
- Disengagement with Government – Residents
- Interest Rate
- Courage to Face negativity
- People's social well being
- LGA Formula
- More youth activities/entertainment space

- Public Safety
- Joint Powers-Working with other governments, school districts
- Racial Disparities
- HOA Challenges
- Apartments-dignified housing

RESULTS:

- Procurement of Diversity Programs
- Lowering property taxes
- Low crime
- Increase unity
- 10,000 jobs gain
- Lowering violent crime
- Development of a score card
- More community engagement in council meetings
- Accessibility to council
- A traveling council
- Less litter in the city

At 7:08 p.m. Facilitator Shardlow asked the participants what takeaways, insights, or themes came to mind on the environmental scan.

- Economic Issues
- Lack of investment in the city
- Region underinvested
- Nonprofit sectors need help
- How to support nonprofits to survive

At 7:13 p.m. Facilitator Shardlow called for a recess.

At 7:21 p.m. Facilitator Shardlow reconvened the meeting. She stated the next exercise was on the Council/SMT prioritization discussion. She briefed on the next part of the council retreat with council and staff.

- Goal conversations – getting input from Council on priorities.
- Group prioritization dotmocracy

At 7:22 p.m. Ms. Shardlow conducted a Goal Prioritization with the staff and council. Designated staff were assigned to the 6 goals and asked questions to council members visiting each goal station and wrote answers on a flipchart on the council's priority.

1. Which strategies/projects are you glad to see listed that you want to affirm or show support for? (Underline/circle on the inventory)

2. Which strategies/projects do you have questions or concerns about? (Answer the questions/concerns as you can, note outstanding pieces on the inventory or here)

3. What's missing? What current or potential strategies/projects would be impactful that you don't see on the list?

4. When thinking about the community's needs in this goal area, with which strategies/projects can we make the biggest impact as a city? These could be from the inventory list or new items.

At 8:13 p.m. staff and council returned to their chairs and staff reported on their conversations with the council and their priority items written on the flip chart.

Goal 1: United Community

- Expand community event offerings and promotion to reach new residents
- Positive image through centralized communication
- Community hashtag campaign #BPPride/#BPStrong
- Increase staff cultural competency
- Neighborhood strategies

Goal 2: Beautiful Places

- Leverage EDA land to create beautiful spaces and cultural places
- Create destination amenities (Ex. international square, arts, sculptures, fountains)
- Cultural education and awareness
- Livable and safe neighborhoods

Goal 3: Thriving Economy

- Worker protections and fair pay towards economic inclusion
- Biotech innovation district
- NW Tourism re-boot
- Promote healthier restaurants for public health

Goal 4: Healthy & Safe People

- Promote community connection – Break down silos in neighborhoods
- Re-imagining public safety – garbage cleanups
- Adopt Youth Group Violence Intervention (YGVI) strategies to decrease violent crime in BP and region
- Education with police department regarding wage theft investigations to deter and prevent in community
- Gauge community tolerance of tax impacts for community needs and amenities
- Hire public safety manager and create new vision of public safety in BP

Goal 5: Increased Equity

- Adopt Racial Equity Principles
- Youth intervention programs
- Workforce development strategies (with a youth lens)
- Develop procurement program

Goal 6: Effective, Engaging Government

- Continuous improvement initiative
- Connect with hard to reach residents
- Respectful workplace policy update
- Executing legislative priorities

At 8:31 p.m. staff and council members placed dots on items written on the flip charts as a final prioritization.

SUBGOAL/PROJECT/INITIATIVE	TOTAL VOTES	STAFF/COUNCIL BREAKDOWN
Biotech innovation district	10	Council – 4; Staff – 6
Respectful workplace policy update	8	Council – 1; Staff – 7
Youth Group Violence Intervention	6	Council – 1; Staff – 5
Racial equity principles	5	Council – 1; Staff – 4
Reimagining public safety	5	Council – 2; Staff – 3
Youth intervention programs	4	Council – 0; Staff – 4
Expand community event offerings and promotion to reach new residents	3	Council – 1; Staff – 2
Workforce development (Youth perspective)	2	Council – 0; Staff – 2
Procurement program	2	Council – 1; Staff – 1
Promote community connection	2	Council – 1; Staff – 1
Leverage EDA land	2	Council – 1; Staff – 1
Destination amenities	2	Council – 1; Staff – 1
Executing legislative priorities	1	Council – 1; Staff – 0
Gauge community tolerance of tax impacts for community needs/amenities	1	Council – 1; Staff – 1
Neighborhood strategies	1	Council – 1; Staff – 0
Increase staff cultural competency	1	Council – 0; Staff – 1
Community hashtag	1	Council – 1; Staff – 0
Positive image through centralized communication	1	Council – 0; Staff – 1

At 8:35 p.m. discussions were held on the placement of the dots.

At 8:57 p.m. Mayor Winston thanked everyone for their participation and engagement in the retreat activities.

ADJOURNMENT - With consensus of the Council, Mayor Winston adjourned the meeting at 9:02 p.m.

HOLLIES WINSTON, MAYOR

DEVIN MONTERO, CITY CLERK