



# CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Richfield, Minnesota

## City Council Work Session

### June 28, 2022

<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>
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The work session was called to order by Mayor Regan Gonzalez at 5:30 p.m. in the Bartholomew Room.

*Council Members Present:* Maria Regan Gonzalez, Mayor; Mary Supple; Sean Hayford Oleary; and Ben Whalen

*Council Members Absent:* Simon Trautmann

*Staff Present:* Katie Rodriguez, City Manager; Amy Markle, Recreation Services Director; Rachel Lindholm, Sustainability Specialist; and Kari Sinning, City Clerk.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez explained that there are three different proposals for discussion for the work session and turned it over to Recreation Services Director Markle.

<b>ITEM #1</b>	<b>RICHFIELD COMMUNITY GARDENS PROPOSAL</b>
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Director Markle Sustainability Specialist Lindholm and gave a presentation regarding the reasons to invest in community gardens, the history of previous garden, the proposed model and locations, how the community gardens may look, the sign-up process, the budget, and the timeline for the implementation.

Council Member Supple asked about the requirements for the fencing. Specialist Lindholm explained that there wouldn't be specific requirements but recommendations that would be given to the gardeners.

Council Member Whalen asked about the water supply. Specialist Lindholm explained the access would be via a spigot but no hose hook ups. Director Markle explained further that other community gardens saw problems with hose hook ups to the water supply that flooded other gardens.

Council Member Supple asked about accessible garden plots. Director Markle stated that there would be two to four raised garden beds at each site.

Council Member Hayford Oleary shared a preference to include fencing for the entire area if the community gardens would be a permanent fixture of the parks and asked for verification of the size and the amount of water for the area. Specialist Lindholm shared that the garden would be at least 20x30 feet and sectioned into plots with narrower raised garden beds that would be sectioned into plots as well and the water use would be revised once the final measurements would be made. Council Member Hayford Oleary understood the restrictions but wished that the site in ward two could be closer to multi-family housing instead of single family homes. He also brought up a question

regarding the use of the garage at Fremont Park from a resident and Specialist Lindholm stated that the garage is still used by Public Works.

Council Member Whalen commented on the size of the garden as well and asked about the hockey rink at the city-owned park land. Director Markle shared that there has been discussion with Public Works regarding the feasibility of a long term sustainable hockey rink at that location and that the community garden would not take up the entire space. Council Member Whalen also asked if there are community gardens that use a sprinkler to water for their residents and Specialist Lindholm stated that different plants have different watering schedules and staff would still be able to monitor the water use from a tank supply system.

Council Member Supple shared excitement from residents regarding community gardens in each ward.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez shared that one of her first jobs in Richfield was to implement the community garden and the excitement for the project to build the sense of community up. Director Markle shared the possibilities of the community engagement events especially for youth involvement.

<b>ITEM #2</b>	<b>RICHFIELD BIKE PARK PROPOSAL</b>
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Director Markle gave a presentation regarding the benefits and features of a bike park, the proposed location in Taft Park, the collaboration of community partners to implement, timeline, and budget.

Council Member Supple asked about offering shaded areas. Director Markle stated that trees would be planted to provide shade.

Council Member Hayford Oleary supported the proposal of the project and asked about the contribution from Three Rivers Park District. Director Markle stated that Three Rivers Park District might be able to fund the entire project.

Council Member Supple encouraged the education of lifelong skills and recreation for children.

Council Member Whalen added that there are good options for features to be built in-house and shared how Carver County created paths with different skill sets that allows for more variability in the skills and paths that people take in the park.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez expressed excitement for the project and suggested to have more accessible language signs, multi-generational programming for families, and multi-lingual/multi-cultural programs that could bridge cultures as we implement more community spaces.

<b>ITEM #3</b>	<b>RICHFIELD SKATE PARK EXPANSION PROPOSAL</b>
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Director Markle gave a presentation regarding the history of our current skate park, the need for the expansion, goals of the expansion, the proposed location, timeline, project partners, and budget.

Council Member Supple appreciated the partnership with the School District.

Council Member Whalen commented that all these projects are so well needed and asked if there is planning for the long term maintenance of our parks. Director Markle explained that there has

been an inventory of capital improvement projects in the short, mid and long term to help guide the budget for the next couple years. Council Member Whalen expressed the importance of parks and raised concerns of our parks not being a priority. Director Markle shared that a lot of the park facilities were built around the same time and that they are in need of some reinvestment of which City Manager Rodriguez and Finance Manager Verma will be discussing the needs of the facilities for future budgeting. City Manager Rodriguez echoed the concerns of Council Member Whalen and stated that there have been discussions on the priorities of strategic planning and congratulated Director Markle on the partnerships that she has developed.

Council Member Supple stated that there would be community support that could help to fund and gather supporters for projects. Director Markle shared that with the Community Services Commission and Public Works Department they looked at how much it costs to maintain the facilities and the how well used the facilities are which will help determine where funding will go, how much is needed, and what the space could be used for instead.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez shared that the liquor store round up program is not promoted as much as it should be and the Council encouraged more promotion of the program. She suggested the formation of a sub-committee under the Community Services Commission to help with accessibility, partnerships, and outreach. She thanked Director Markle for her leadership in creating equity within the parks and that as a City we should all be striving to create equity for all.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The work session was adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:39 p.m.

Date Approved: July 12, 2022



Maria Regan Gonzalez  
Mayor



Kari Sinning  
City Clerk



Katie Rodriguez  
City Manager