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WAYZATA CITY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
May 15, 2018

6:30 p.m. Minnehaha Steamboat/Lake Effect Proposal

Mayor Willcox called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room at Wayzata City Hall. Council Members present: Koch, Plechash and Tyacke. Also present: City Manager Dahl, Director of Planning and Building Thomson, and City Engineer/Assistant Director of Public Works Kelly.

Mr. Dahl explained that the non-profit group that owns and operates the Minnehaha Steamboat has been looking for a permanent place to store the vessel during all seasons. Because their current leasing plan looks to be unsustainable, for the past several years, they have been working with officials in both Excelsior and Wayzata for a long-term solution.

Mr. Dahl said that one of many options the group has explored is to store the boat, during the entire year, in a new facility at the Depot Park along the lakefront. This option was presented several years ago to the City at which time the Council did not wish to pursue the opportunity any further. Now, because of further uncertainty regarding the current leasing plan and because the City is finalizing plans for the Lake Effect Park, the group is requesting that the City again explore allowing a new home for the boat to be built at the Depot Park.

Mr. Dahl reviewed initial considerations regarding the proposed facility:

- Impacts both City and BNSF land;
- Other locations for a facility within Wayzata could be the Boatworks building or Sailing School/Yacht Club;
- Would likely require amended EAW and would require approval/variances from a number of other legal jurisdictions, besides the City;
- Parking, of course, would be a challenge;
- The Steamboat's presence in Wayzata would be galvanized;
- Would have many significant impacts to planned improvements for the Lake Effect Project; and
- Could help to be a fundraising partner for the Lake Effect.

Barry Petit, representing The Museum of Lake Minnetonka (501c3 nonprofit organization), presented conceptual plans of a new proposed facility to house the Minnehaha Steamboat at the Depot Park.

The Council directed staff to obtain an estimate from Civitas on the costs associated with incorporating this concept into the Lake Effect project. The Council stated that this project is currently not funded and therefore the Museum of Lake Minnetonka would have to explore ways to pay for the planning of proposed facility themselves.

The workshop meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Malone 06-05-2018

Becky Malone
City Clerk