

**CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF PRAIRIE VILLAGE  
February 5, 2018**

The City Council of Prairie Village, Kansas, met in regular session on Tuesday, February 5, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Municipal Building, 7700 Mission Road, Prairie Village, Kansas.

**ROLL CALL**

Acting Mayor Dan Runion called the meeting to order and roll call was taken with the following Council members present: Chad Herring, Jori Nelson, Serena Schermoly, Ronald Nelson, Tucker Poling, Andrew Wang, Sheila Myers, Brooke Morehead, Dan Runion, Courtney McFadden, Ted Odell and Terrence Gallagher.

Staff present: Tim Schwartzkopf, Chief of Police; Keith Bredehoeft, Public Works Director; Melissa Prenger, Senior Project Manager; Katie Logan, City Attorney; Wes Jordan, City Administrator; Jamie Robichaud, Assistant City Administrator; Lisa Santa Maria, Finance Director; Alley Porter, Assistant to the City Administrator and Joyce Hagen Mundy, City Clerk. Also present was teen council member Luke Hafner.

**INTRODUCTION OF STUDENTS & SCOUTS**

No scouts or students were in attendance.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**Swearing in ceremony for new Prairie Village Police Officers**

Chief Tim Schwartzkopf welcomed family, friends, civil service members and police department personnel in attendance for the swearing in of three new police officers. Chief Schwartzkopf spoke briefly on the challenges and difficulties

faced today by police personnel. However, he voiced optimism for the future with the quality of these officers joining the Prairie Village police department who go out every day with the desire to help our community. These officers have successfully completed their Police Academy training; field training and some have prior law enforcement experience. Officer Beau Madden was previously a Deputy Sheriff with the Johnson County Sheriff's Office. Officer Sarah Magin has received her B.S. degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Colorado - Denver. Officer Ben Overesch was previously a Dispatcher with the Jackson County, Missouri Sheriff's Office and is currently working towards his B.S. in Criminal Justice at UMKC. Chief Schwartzkopf issued the Oath of Office to Officers Madden, Magin and Overesch.

### **Recognition of Faith Lutheran Church**

Acting Mayor Dan Runion recognized Bob Lindeblad with Faith Lutheran Church and on behalf of the Mayor and City Council sincerely thanked Faith Lutheran Church on its generosity toward the City of Prairie Village with its very significant gift of \$20,000. He noted those funds would be used in establishing a monument on the former site of the church to acknowledge, honor and recognize the church's kindness, goodwill and significant part in the community in making it possible for that land, the home of the church for over 60 years, to be used as a park.

Mr. Lindeblad stated that although it can be sad to close a church; the church is the people, not a brick building and the church continues through the giving of all of the physical assets that have been accumulated to more than a dozen other churches. They have experienced much joy through giving of the monetary assets to a wide variety of ministries and organizations. The church continues through these gifts as well as

through former members' participation in new congregations. They are especially pleased that this land will continue as a park for the City and are confident it will be visited often by past members. Mr. Lindeblad thanked the city staff for their efforts to make this happen and stated they look forward to the completion of the park.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Elizabeth Johnson, an at-large member of the Parks and Recreation Committee, urged the Council against dissolving the Parks & Recreation Committee. She feels the committee's input is especially important as the City moves forward with the development of North Park. The Committee provides a means for residents to voice their ideas and concerns regarding city parks and programs.

Devin Scrogum, 4301 West 73<sup>rd</sup> Terrace, read a statement from members of the Environmental Committee opposing the recommendation of the Committee on Committees, stating that it was in opposition to the City's long term policy of encouraging resident participation. The proposed action would reduce resident participation and the opportunity to receive input and recommendations on important environmental issues facing Prairie Village. He noted the accomplishments of the Environmental Committee over the past 14 years, such as the Earth Fair, community forums on environmental issues and the educational activities at VillageFest. The Committee felt that none of these activities would have occurred under the proposed Volunteer Corps. Rather than eliminating the committee, they feel it should be given a fresh new charter by the City, with leadership by two Council Members, additional budget and a mandate to provide review and input on a broad range of city purchases.

Mr. Scrogum noted that while there are only five current members, several pending members continue to serve and several applicants have expressed an interest to join the committee.

Nathan Kovac, 4112 West 75<sup>th</sup> Street, one of the individuals that have applied to serve on the Environmental Committee, spoke in opposition to the proposed action.

With no one else to address the City Council, public participation was closed at 8:00 p.m.

### CONSENT AGENDA

Chad Herring asked for item number 6 on the consent agenda to be removed for discussion. Jori Nelson moved for the approval of the Consent Agenda for Monday, February 5, 2018 with the removal of #6:

1. Approval of the regular City Council meeting minutes - January 16, 2018
2. Approval of Claims Ordinance #2962
3. Approval to purchase one 2018 Ford Mustang at a cost of \$34,385 from Shawnee Mission Ford
4. Approval of the purchase of three 2018 Ford Police Interceptors from Shawnee Mission Ford through the Mid America Council of Public Purchasing (MACPP) Metropolitan Joint Vehicle Bid
5. Approval of Construction Change Order #1 (Final) with Guarantee Roofing Inc, for the City Hall Roof Repair in the amount of \$22,322.00
6. Removed

A roll call vote was taken with the following members voting “aye”: Herring, Nelson, Schermoly, Nelson, Tucker, Wang, Myers, Morehead, Runion, McFadden, Odell and Gallagher.

Chad Herring confirmed that no substantive changes had been made from the agreement that was presented at the last meeting. Mr. Herring believes this is a good action for the city to take. He is concerned with the use of warrants particularly to those with limited financial means. He would like to amend the approval to add direction to

staff to bring back a report on the effectiveness of the program, pros and cons, and any recommendations for changes at the conclusion of its first year.

Jori Nelson noted she had asked for references from local municipalities. Mr. Herring responded that they were included in the packet. Wes Jordan stated that references were checked prior to the presentation to the Council.

Brooke Morehead moved the City Council approve an agreement with Collection Bureau of Kansas, Inc. (CBK) for the collection of outstanding court fines and fees and direct staff to present a report on the effectiveness of the program, including any deficiencies or recommendations at the conclusion of its first year of operation. The motion was seconded by Chad Herring and passed unanimously.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Council Committee of the Whole**

#### **COU2018-06 Consider approval of the Final Design Engineering Contract with Water Resources for the Delmar and Fontana Low Water Crossing Removal and Drainage Project**

Keith Bredehoeft stated on September 6, 2016, the City Council directed public works to move forward with the Delmar and Fontana low water crossing and drainage project. Subsequently, on October 3, 2016, the city council approved the Preliminary Engineering Study (PES) for the County's SMAC Program. The PES was submitted to the County in January 2017 and was selected in the summer of 2017 to receive funding.

The County Commission approved funds for this project in September 2017. SMAC funding for this project will only be available for the construction phase of the project given that SMAC funds were utilized for this project over 10 years ago. The prior project which had a different design solution was cancelled by City Council in 2008. This

current project has an estimated construction cost over 4 Million dollars. SMAC funding for this project has been approved and capped at \$3,204,083.

Mr. Bredehoeft noted the neighborhood residents are aware of the improvement proposed in the Preliminary Engineering Study and staff will continue to include them in the planning of the final design for this project. It is planned to design this project in 2018 with construction beginning in March of 2019 with available funding in the CIP under Project DELN0001.

Ron Nelson moved the City Council approve the final design engineering contract with Water Resources Solutions, LLC in the amount of \$353,722 for Project DELN0001 for the Delmar and Fontana low water crossing removal and drainage project. The motion was seconded by Sheila Myers and passed unanimously.

**COU2018-07 Consider approval of contract with Dale Brothers for the North Park Building Demolition Project**

Melissa Prenger reported on January 24, 2018, the City Clerk opened bids for the North Park Building Demolition. Eight bids were received ranging from \$217,221.37 to \$349,199. The engineer's estimate for the project was \$325,000.

Mrs. Prenger stated \$250,000 has been budgeted for this project which consists of demolition of the building, the east parking lot and a portion of the west parking lot to make grade to a future park. The budgeted project amount includes the required testing and demolition. Staff reviewed the bids for accuracy and received positive references on Dale Brothers. Funding is available in the CIP project for demolition from Economic Development in the amount of \$250,000.

Ron Nelson moved the City Council authorize the Mayor to sign the Construction Contract with Dale Brothers for the North Park Building Demolition project at a cost of \$217,221.37. The motion was seconded by Jori Nelson and passed unanimously.

**COU2018-08 Consider approval of Design Agreement with BBN Architects, Inc. for the design of the 2018 Parks Projects**

Melissa Prenger stated the City recently requested proposals from firms to provide parks engineering services for Prairie Village for the next three years. The City received 11 submittals and interviewed Clark Enersen Partners, BBN Architects, Stantec and MKEC. Based on their original proposals and the interviews, the selection committee consisting of Terrence Gallagher, Sheila Myers, Chad Herring, Keith Bredehoeft, Alley Porter, and herself, chose BBN Architects to be the City's parks professional services consultant for 2018-2020.

This agreement is for the design of the 2018 Parks Projects. The largest project is the North Park project which will includes the development of the new park from concept to construction. The scope includes public input, concept development, and construction documents. The Porter Restroom project is a highly anticipated addition to the park and was listed as a top priority by the Parks and Recreation Committee. The restroom location is conceptually located at the site of the existing portable restroom. Also included is the fitness court at a location yet to be determined.

Chad Herring asked why the agreement was only for one year rather than three. Mrs. Prenger replied that a new agreement is created each year specifically addressing the projects for that year.

Dan Runion asked for further information on the proposed Fitness Court. Melissa Prenger noted Franklin Park has several pieces of fitness equipment located at various

fitness stations along the trail. The fitness court concept brings all of the equipment together at one location on a 30' x 30' pad. Keith Bredehoeft added that last fall he gave a presentation to council on a new concept in fitness. Prairie Village was contacted by the National Fitness Campaign to be one of the first 100 cities around the country to feature this concept. Under the program the city constructs the pad and Free Fitness provides the equipment. Mr. Bredehoeft noted approval of this agreement does not commit the City to participate in the program but directs BBN to assist with the determination of the location and necessary site grading required.

Ted Odell moved the City Council approve the design agreement with BBN Architects, Inc. for the design of the 2018 Parks Projects: North Park (BG080001), Porter Restroom (BG600002) and Fitness Court Facility in the amount of \$136,810. The motion was seconded by Tucker Poling and passed unanimously.

**COU2018-09 Consider Meadowbrook Project (MBDRAINX) Construction Change Order #1 with Superior Bowen Asphalt Company for modifications to pond spillway outlets**

Keith Bredehoeft stated the next two items relate to the work at Meadowbrook. During the significant rains in July and August significant erosion downstream of the spillways occurred. Staff has coordinated the necessary additional work with the Johnson County's SMAC program and additional SMAC reimbursement at 75% of the construction cost has been approved. Phelps Engineering is not billing for the additional design costs.

The total cost for the increased work is \$467,842.51 bringing the new contract amount to \$6,367,616.85. Funding for the additional work will come from the Meadowbrook TIF with 75% of the this change order funded by the County's SMAC program



At the upper two Spillways at these locations a concrete slab and toe wall was placed after the erosion occurred last summer. The design was simple and the costs were reasonable at these locations. Due to this, staff approved this work to be done at that time.

Lower Spillway - Due to the elevation from the spillway to the culvert under 95<sup>th</sup> Street the design had to be modified to reduce the velocity of the water to a point that future erosion could be eliminated. The city's engineers studied multiple solutions. The solution selected solves the issues while still fitting aesthetically with the Meadowbrook project. Mr. Bredehoeft stated the solution requires a large concrete slab to be constructed, additional concrete retaining walls, the extension of the stone walls that exist at the spillway, and larger stone riprap. This design will eliminate significant erosion problems into the future.

Terrence Gallagher asked why this cost was coming to Prairie Village and not to Van Trust. Katie Logan replied that the work is on park property, not Van Trust property.

Dan Runion confirmed that if what is now being proposed with the change order would have been built the damage would not have occurred and that this action would fulfill the city's responsibilities. Mr. Bredehoeft replied Johnson County Parks & Recreation is aware of the work that has been completed and that the city's agreement with them specifies that they are responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the park property. He added there is also a two year bond on the project which would cover occurrences within the next two years, after that it would be Johnson County's responsibility.

Ted Odell stated he was supportive of the change order provided that SMAC funding has been secured. Mr. Bredehoeft confirmed that SMAC funding has been

approved and noted authorization for the work to proceed will not be given until it is received.

Ted Odell moved the City Council approve Construction Change Order #1 in the amount of \$467,842.51 with Superior Bowen Asphalt Company for modifications to pond spillway outlets for the Meadowbrook Project. The motion was seconded by Sheila Myers.

Dan Runion stated he wants to make sure there is clarity on the action being taken and who would be responsible. Mr. Bredehoeft replied that this was addressed in the agreements with the County. Katie Logan added it was also addressed in the agreements with Phelps Engineering.

Serena Schermoly asked if the motion was contingent upon approval of the funding Agreement. Mr. Odell replied the motion only addressed the change order.

The motion was voted on and passed by a vote of 11 to 0 with Brooke Morehead abstaining due to a professional conflict of interest.

**COU2018-10 Consider amendment to the Johnson County SMAC funding agreement for the Meadowbrook Project (MBDRAINX)**

Keith Bredehoeft stated this funding amendment was necessary for the increased SMAC funds required due to Change Order #1 for the Meadowbrook project. The new funding limit for SMAC funds would be set at \$2,314,236 as per the agreement.

Sheila Myers moved the City Council approve the amendment to the Johnson County SMAC Funding Agreement for the Meadowbrook Project. The motion was seconded by Ted Odell and passed by a vote of 10 to 1 with Mr. Gallagher voting in opposition and Mrs. Morehead abstaining due to a professional conflict of interest.

## **Planning Commission**

### **PC2018-101: Consider Final Plat for “Meadowbrook Park, Second Plat”**

Jamie Robichaud stated on January 9<sup>th</sup> the Planning Commission approved a replat of the Final Plat for “Meadowbrook Park” subject to three conditions. The original plat had the area where the senior living component was to be constructed as a single lot. The new plat has this area now platted into four lots.

Dan Runion asked if the change from one lot into four lots impacted the rights and obligations under the city’s development agreement with Van Trust. City Attorney Katie Logan responded that it did not.

Ted Odell moved the City Council authorize the Mayor to execute the Final Plat for “Meadowbrook Park, Second Plat” subject to the conditions required by the Planning Commission. The motion was seconded by Chad Herring and passed by a vote of 11 to 0 with Mrs. Morehead abstaining due to a professional conflict of interest.

## **MAYOR’S REPORT**

In Mayor Wassmer’s absence no Mayor’s Report was given.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

### **Public Safety**

- Chief Schwartzkopf reported the show “Crime Watch Daily” was producing a show on the Marti Hill case from 2010. He did not know when it would air, but will let the Council know as more information becomes available.
- The next “Coffee with a Cop” will be on Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. at Starbucks.

Chad Herring noted there was a fire in Ward 1 last week and asked Chief Schwartzkopf if he receives reports from the Fire Chief on the fire events in the city other than the incident report that is received monthly. If possible, he would like to receive

information on fires occurring in his ward. Chief replied that he would forward the request to Chief Lopez.

Terrence Gallagher noted the recent incident in Overland Park where it was reported that a mental health counselor was not available to respond and asked if the city was under the same agreement where an individual would not be able to respond on weekends. Chief Schwartzkopf replied the city has the same Mental Health Co-Responder agreement and that co-responders are not available 24/7. However, he added that they can call and request assistance with incidents occurring after hours or on weekends so officers are not without resources.

#### **Public Works**

- Keith Bredehoeft reported there would be a public information meeting on Wednesday, February 21st on the “Bike/Pedestrian Plan”
- Staff has met with the neighbors on 69<sup>th</sup> Street who oppose the proposed change of that street to a one way street and will be looking into other alternatives to address the current issues.

#### **Administration**

- Lisa Santa Maria referenced the Moody’s Investor Service Report stating that the city was in good financial condition and has retained its Aaa Bond rating. She said that \$17.125M is currently out in Bonds.
- Mrs. Santa Maria provided information on “Dark Store” which addresses how retail big box property is assessed; i.e., whether it is based on worth of the current user or a potential seeker user. The impact of this for Prairie Village would be approximately a mil (\$366,000). It would have a major impact on the schools.

Dan Runion asked if there was level of bonding which the city cannot go beyond without impacting its Aaa rating. Mrs. Santa Maria responded there was; but she did not know that number. However, she did not feel the city was close to that number and added the state does not allow cities to bond more than 30%.

- Jamie Robichaud reported two items on the Planning Commission agenda for February have been continued. Being continued is the Homestead County Club application for the completion of a drainage study on the impact of the proposed changes. Also being continued is the rezoning of a residential property at 7540 Reinhardt for failure to hold the Planning Commission required neighborhood

meeting. Terrence Gallagher confirmed that the car wash application for 7930 State Line Road was still on the agenda.

- Wes Jordan reminded the Council of the work session to be held on Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup> beginning at 8:30 a.m. He noted some council members needed to leave prior to the 1 o'clock closing so the order of the agenda has been changed. The work session will begin with discussion of the Budget process, followed by discussion of the Citizen Survey (with a representative of ETC present) and conclude with discussion of the Council Initiatives. He noted that Mayor Wassmer found a copy of the 1999 Citizen Survey. Staff has compared the benchmarking questions from the 1999 Survey with those proposed. Mr. Jordan stated the benchmarking questions are those which can be compared with other cities. The survey will also include other questions that cannot be compared and only specific to Prairie Village. Work session packet information will be distributed to council members no later than Wednesday. Lisa Santa Maria stressed Council members should be ready to begin the work session presentations/discussion at 8:30. Breakfast food would be available at 8 a.m.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no Old Business to come before the City Council.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Cities for CEDAW**

Ron Nelson stated the information presented was for the Council's consideration in adopting the principles of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). There are two options whereby cities can recognize CEDAW -- by Ordinance or Resolution. Mr. Nelson stated that Ordinances tend to be adopted by large cities and/or counties. Kansas City, Missouri and University City, Missouri have both adopted resolutions adopting the principles of CEDAW. He would like to see Prairie Village investigate this further and possibly adopt a resolution of support.

Mr. Nelson provided background information on the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women which was adopted by the United States in

1979. To date 187 of 193 United Nations countries have signed and ratified the CEDAW Treaty. Especially considering what has been happening in the past few months and the statistics that confirm women are under-represented in government in Missouri, Kansas and specifically in Johnson County, Mr. Nelson urged the Council to consider action.

Terrence Gallagher asked what would be required of the City if this were adopted. Mr. Nelson replied it would depend on the nature by which the city adopts it, noting that adoption by ordinance tends to require specific action such as setting up commissions, etc. His recommendation would to initially adopt a resolution supporting the principles of CEDAW.

Gail James representing the Midwest Coalition for CEDAW was present to answer any questions from the Council and stated that she would be willing to make a formal presentation to the Council at a future date. The goal of CEDAW is to have adoption by 100 cities by 2020 with 46 cities having already taken action.

Ted Odell stated he supported the idea, it is his hope that there is no discrimination in Prairie Village; however, he supports moving forward this. Chad Herring noted he was also supportive and asked if there were any municipalities in the state of Kansas that have taken action. Mr. Nelson responded that there were none. Andrew Wang stated he would need more information before taking formal action.

Tucker Poling stated he was supportive of moving forward noting that discrimination still exists even in great communities like Prairie Village. He believes the City has a duty to be proactive on this. Mr. Poling moved the City Council direct staff to schedule Ms. James organization make a presentation to the Council at a future meeting. The motion was seconded by Ron Nelson.

Courtney McFadden stated she had not received any information on this and needed to see information before taking action, but supports Mr. Poling's motion to have Ms. James return for a presentation.

Sheila Myers questioned when the presentation would be. Mr. Jordan stated that staff can work with Ms. James to find a mutually convenient date. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

### **Council meeting efficiency**

Tucker Poling stated this was to be a discussion on consolidating the Council Committee of the Whole meeting and the City Council Meeting and distributed information on the topic. He feels the current meeting structure duplicates discussion/presentations and is confusing to residents. He noted that only one other area city holds both a committee meeting and a Council meeting. However, to allow for continued discussion of the recommendations of the Committee on Committees, he suggests that this be continued to the February 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Tucker Poling moved to continue the discussion of Council Meeting Efficiency to the February 20<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting as Old Business. The motion was seconded by Ron Nelson and passed unanimously.

### **Continued discussion on Committee on Committees Recommendation**

Sheila Myers stated she was disappointed at the abruptness of this action and would have liked to have had some time to discuss this with committee members and feels bad for the committee members. She asked if it was driven by sensitivity to staff time. Wes Jordan replied that sometimes there is duplicity of what staff is doing presentation wise. Mrs. Myers stated she believes there is some frustration on the Parks

Committee who spend time thoughtfully discussing and debating issues and making recommendations that are basically tossed out by the Council.

Terrence Gallagher stressed the important role played by committees. The Parks Committee provides valuable feedback to public works on keeping the parks useful and safe as well as feedback on what is happening at the pool and with programs. The committed reached out to the teen council for ideas to enhance the parks. He felt that may get lost with the creation of a committee of Council members. These committees consist of multiple individuals with unique talents and passions that bring forth new ideas. He noted the plastic bag initiative brought up by the Environment/Recycling Committee. He believes that having these committees is useful and that they integrate residents into the community. He acknowledged that there are committee members who need to be removed to allow others to participate, particularly if they are not attending meetings. He supports the recommended change to the attendance policy. However, he does not support background checks.

Mr. Gallagher questioned why these two active committees were being recommended to transition to the Volunteer Corps, while increasing membership on the Arts Council. He felt the proposed action is inconsistent and if this moves forward he believed it needed to be consistently applied to all committees that are not required by Statute. He noted the short notice given to committee members has brought a lot of discomfort and agrees with Mrs. Myers that this should have been discussed with the committee. Mr. Gallagher clarified that the Parks Committee did not provide feedback on the Harmon Park proposals given earlier because it was just completed in February and the committee does not meet in February. He feels this is a bad idea and needs to be readdressed or implemented consistently across the board for all committees.



Courtney McFadden confirmed the Volunteer Corps was not taking the place of VillageFest and JazzFest. She felt that this action was simply moving the problems occurring with committees and not addressing them as there has been no clear policy and direction established for the operation of the volunteer corps

Serena Schermoly stated some of the reasoning for the volunteer corps was to provide an opportunity for interested residents to be able to participate. She noted that she waited for over a year for an opening that allowed her to be appointed to the Arts Council. Mrs. McFadden acknowledged that problem. Mrs. Schermoly noted that individuals check multiple committees they are interested in and the volunteer corps would allow them to participate in multiple committee activities based on the council priority listing. Individuals could be brought together to provide input on budget proposals, to research solar panels or to volunteer at a city event. Three or four times per year presentations would be made on what opportunities are coming up and where help is needed. These individuals' experience and expertise could be called upon in many different ways.

Mrs. McFadden stated she supports the idea of the volunteer corps but feels the idea steamrolled into the disbanding of committees that are providing a valuable service to the City to form this volunteer corps

Mrs. Schermoly responded the recommendations are coming forward for discussion and noted that not all committee members supported all the recommendations. She stated she does not support blanket background checks. As Mr. Poling stated earlier, there may be some situations where it would be advisable.

Mrs. McFadden noted there would need to be software to track the different volunteers, their experiences and skills along with the opportunities available. She felt

that perhaps this concept could grow and eventually the committees could operate through the volunteer corps

Mrs. Schermoly responded the idea originated to address the 35 interested volunteers who will not be able to be appointed to a committee. She added it is the responsibility of the Governing Body to set direction for each of the committees, not the committees setting the direction. The committee felt that a volunteer corps with activities based on the council's priorities would provide an opportunity for residents to work with the Governing Body to carry out its objectives.

Chad Herring agreed that the Governing Body does have the responsibility to provide direction to committees. He is delighted and thankful for the number of volunteers in the city that give of their time and energy. Not everyone who wants to serve in a position should. There needs to be balance and a mechanism by which members are rotated to provide an opportunity for others. He acknowledged the Environmental Committee is passionate about what they do. The Council needs to provide the tools needed for these committees to work efficiently and to maintain proper lines of direction and order. He likes the idea of a volunteer corps that could be targeted to many different opportunities, but is uncomfortable with the disbanding of committees. He suggested these recommendations need to go back to the committee for reconsideration. He felt the Council needs to hear ways the committees are not functioning and agrees that this action came about quickly and encourages some revisions be made to the proposed recommendations.

Ron Nelson has concerns with the quick action being proposed. He acknowledged there are efficiencies that need to be addressed. He noted that Mr.

Poling's discussion on council efficiency applies also to the operation of committees and is an important issue that needs to be analyzed.

Ted Odell stated when the committee on committees was initially formed they gave a lot of attention to details seeking to improve efficiencies and reduce staff time. There is no desire to push people away from volunteering. The intent of the recommendations is not to push back at committees, but to look at efficiencies from the perspective of committee members as well as staff. He believes there is a solution that will be beneficial to all and that more exploration is needed.

Jori Nelson stated that she feel there has been push back and it is not against all committees, but intentionally against two very active committees. She noted the email sent to the Environmental Committee encouraged them to join the Johnson County Environmental committee and noted there isn't an environmental committee. There is a Solid Waste Management Committee that is full. So these members have no place to go.

Ms. Nelson noted what hasn't been discussed is who and how is the volunteer corps would be managed and how much more staff time it is going to take. She believes it is the responsibility of the council liaison to communicate ideas from and direction to committees. She suggested that interested volunteers could serve on the volunteer corps until positions become available on committees. Disbanding committees is not the answer. The City needs to look at what is not working and address it, not disband the committees.

Brooke Morehead provided background on what was occurring that caused the committee on committees to be formed including meeting in homes, meetings that lasted several hours and were more social in nature than productive. It addresses the problem

of having people interested in serving, but no committees with openings. The volunteer corps is meant to build relationships while having people work together for a specific purpose or direction. Jori Nelson asked if this wasn't how JazzFest and VillageFest Committees operated as open committees. Mrs. Morehead replied that the JazzFest and VillageFest are structured committees with individuals in charge of different aspects of the event. Ms. Nelson responded that the Environmental Committee functions the same way with subcommittees in charge of the Earth Fair, Community Forums, etc.

Mrs. Morehead noted there were only five members currently on the committee. Devin Scrogum noted there were 10 people at their last meeting. The group is small, but there are eight individuals who have submitted applications to join the committee and resigned members are continuing to attend until their replacements have been appointed.

Tucker Poling felt a false choice is being created placing the volunteer corps against established committees. He believes the volunteer corps is a good idea and should be discussed further. He also agrees there are things that need to be done to improve the efficiencies of existing committees that need to be discussed. What does not need to be discussed was disbanding the Environmental Committee. Mr. Tucker moved the City Council reject recommendation number three to disband the Environmental committee. The motion was seconded by Jori Nelson.

Sheila Myers responded to Ms. Nelson's comment that two committees were being targeted noting that these two committees are advisory committees. The Arts Council has a clear purpose carried out through monthly art exhibits and other events. She was not sure if the issue is an unclear mission or direction.

Serena Schermoly added the approval of 1% of development funding going towards arts brings a greater need for the Governing Body to oversee the direction and activities of the Arts Council. The Arts Council participates in 16 events per year. Currently Council Liaisons are not voting members and do not actively participate in the decisions made by committees. By adding Council members as chair and vice chair oversight and communication with the Governing Body is assured.

Ted Odell noted that earlier in committee discussion it was indicated that the Council would continue discussion of the recommendations but not necessarily take action. The discussion seems to be focused on the Environmental committee when the Council should be talking about all the recommendations.

Terrence Gallagher acknowledged that there was a motion on the floor but noted there seems to be a general consensus that there is still a lot of discussion that needs to occur. The statement was made in committee that no action would be taken this evening, so he believes the motion just made should be voted down with the recommendations sent back to the Committee on Committees for further discussion or brought back to another committee meeting for more discussion by the Governing Body.

Dan Runion asked how the proposed volunteer corps addressed the current access the City has through its committees' expertise to new ideas and opportunities. If the activities of the volunteer corps are based on current council initiatives and direction, how does the city ensure that it is receiving new ideas. Serena Schermoly responded there are many things in the city that needed to be addressed. She would not limit the volunteer corps to meeting only three times per year that would be a minimum. There are 35 people who want to become involved and this provides that opportunity. Mr. Runion still expressed concern that the city retains a way to get new ideas from this

valuable resource outside of their volunteering on existing initiatives or events that are already defined by the Council.

Tucker Poling restated that his motion is simply to end debate on the elimination of the one committee that has been targeted to be dissolved - the Environmental Committee. The Council has heard from the members of the committee and he does not feel there is anything else that needs to be heard on the elimination of this committee. There are still a lot of things to talk about as to how to make it more efficient and to provide more guidance and reduce the burden on staff and that can still be done. His motion is to reject recommendation #3 to dissolve the Environmental Committee.

Chad Herring agrees with keeping the Environmental Committee. However, he does not feel the Council is ready to vote and the issue should go back to the committee on committees who will reconsider their recommendations based on the comments made and come back with a revised proposal or make the case for their recommendation.

Wes Jordan noted the Mayor offered a lot of perspective and comments during the committee meeting. When this process started staff brought forth some situations which it did not know how to handle. The staff does not supervise any committee member. Staff does not have the ability to say no to a committee or to direct action. For example, the council has directed that volunteer applications be acted upon promptly and that is not happening. Committee chairs are not reviewing applications and making recommendations to the Mayor. We keep amassing applications. How does staff handle that. As Mr. Poling stated there are things that can be done to provide more structure, guidance and direction. Mr. Jordan stated the issue is there is a large group of citizens that are not getting to participate in committees. How does the city respond to applications where every committee is checked because they just want to get involved.

There are several committee members who are very tenured who bring a lot of experience and expertise, yet there is another group of people anxious to become involved. The volunteer corps was a brainstorm coming from the discussion of this issue by the committee. He was concerned with the speed at which this was coming forward; however, the Mayor was concerned that there is a council policy that calls for the appointment of committees to take place at the second meeting in February.

Ted Odell stated he would not be voting in support of the motion. This does not mean he does not support the Environmental Committee, but that he feels that more discussion is needed.

Courtney McFadden supports sending the question back to the committee on committee for further exploration. She is not against the Environmental Committee. However, as the concept of the volunteer corps is further explored it may be that all committees could be rolled under it and to therefore she does not want to take action on Mr. Poling's motion at this time.

Jori Nelson stated that she would like to think that the Environmental Committee would be saved although they only currently have five members. She would like to use the volunteer corps as a place where those persons interested in multiple committees can become active and it can also be used as a source for committee appointments as committees have openings.

Wes Jordan noted that another problem that is occurring is what the staff liaison does when a committee chair does not act on the volunteer applications. Staff is trying to follow the direction of the City Council to act upon these applications, but does not have the ability to require the committee chair to act. Ms. Nelson asked if the Arts Council would be added to the Volunteer Corps Mr. Jordan responded there are times when

there are not enough committee members available to work an event so yes the volunteer corps could step up to fill that gap.

Joyce Hagen Mundy reported the process followed by staff when an application is received noting that it was forward to the staff liaison to then forward to the chairman for review and action. Vacancies can be filled during the course of the year as vacancies occur. Volunteer applications are kept for one year.

Terrence Gallagher noted he supports the Environmental Committee; however, he strongly feels that this needs to go back to the Committee on Committees and all of the committees need to be looked at and suggested that representatives of committees be included in that discussion. He as chairman of the Parks committee would like to be made aware of inefficiencies in that committee.

Tucker Poling stated that this was good discussion that he felt it should continue. However, his motion impacts only one recommendation, to reject the recommendation to eliminate the Environmental Committee.

Dan Runion confirmed that this motion does not impact any of the other recommendations and does not prohibit changes in the operation of the Environmental committee or other committees to improve efficiencies.

Council President Dan Runion called for a vote on the motion to reject recommendation #3 disbanding the Environmental Committee. The motion was defeated by a vote of 5 to 7 with the following members voting in support of the motion: Poling, Nelson, Runion, Nelson and Schermoly; voting in opposition: Herring, Wang, Myers, Morehead, McFadden, Odell and Gallagher.

Terrence Gallagher moved to return this item to the Committee on Committees for further consideration. The motion was seconded by Ron Nelson.



Wes Jordan suggested that a possible solution could be that the chairs of the committees being changed be involved in this discussion. He wants this process to be of value. Jori Nelson asked if this could be discussed further at the Council work session. Mr. Jordan replied that it could be discussed under council initiatives if time permitted. He noted the existing policy calls for the appointment of committee members at the next council meeting. City Attorney Katie Logan recommended that committee members continue to serve until appointments are made by the Mayor. Mr. Runion confirmed that this was acceptable and noted committee members will continue to serve until replaced. Sheila Myers requested additional information on what each committee does along with the committee recommendation.

Dan Runion called for a vote on the motion to return this to the committee on committees for further consideration. The motion passed by a vote of 11 to 1 with Mr. Poling voting in opposition.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Committee meetings scheduled for the next two weeks include:**

Board of Zoning Appeals	02/06/2018	6:30 p.m.
Planning Commission	02/06/2018	7:00 p.m.
Tree Board	02/07/2018	6:00 p.m.
Prairie Village Arts Council	02/07/2018	5:30 p.m.
Environment/Recycle Education SubCommittee	02/08/2018	5:30 p.m.
Council Work Session	02/10/2018	8:30 a.m.
JazzFest Committee	02/13/2018	5:30 p.m.
Council Committee of the Whole (Tuesday)	02/20/2018	6:00 p.m.
City Council (Tuesday)	02/20/2018	7:30 p.m.

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The Prairie Village Arts Council is pleased to feature a mixed media exhibit in the R.G. Endres Gallery featuring Lorrie Engles, Kim Taggart, Gloria Gale and Chris Langseth during the month of February. The artist reception will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, February 9, 2018.

City offices will be closed on Monday, February 19th in observance of the President's Day holiday.

Republic does not observe the Presidents Day holiday. Trash services **will not** be delayed.

Mark your calendar for the 2018 NLC Congressional City Conference in Washington, D.C. March 11-14, 2018.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Brooke Morehead moved that the City Council meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Sheila Myers and passed unanimously. With no further business to come before the City Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Joyce Hagen Mundy  
City Clerk