

**Biweekly Report**  
**February 26, 2018**  
**By**  
**Matt Podhradsky**

**DEDICATION OF NEW FIRE TRUCK**

As you may remember during our budgeting process for 2017, one vehicle we had for replacement in our equipment acquisition schedule was our Fire Pumper Truck. After working for nearly a year to put together specifications for the truck, getting it built and equipped, the Chaska Fire Department has now taken delivery of this truck and they are now training on it. They are just finishing up the training that will allow them to get this truck fully into service at the beginning of January, at which time we will be selling our old vehicle.

To recognize the deployment of this new vehicle into our Chaska Fire Department Fleet, the Fire Department will be having a "New Truck" Ceremony on Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, at 6 pm at the Chaska Fire Station. With the entire ceremony being less than 30 minutes in length, the Fire Department did set it up at that time so that the Council would have an opportunity to attend and still be down to City Hall in time for our Council meeting that night.

If you are available to attend, it will be a good ceremony, and starting a new tradition that Chaska Fire Department has never done in the past, but plans to do moving forward. Hope you are able to attend!

**ANTI-MONOTONY ORDINANCE WORK SESSION**

Back in the middle of last decade (2004/2005), the City Council at the time was interested in making sure that new neighborhoods that were being built didn't just have "cookie cutter" homes that all looked the same and had no character to them. At the time, we had seen a few housing developments go through that the Council was disappointed in the way they turned out, and wanted to see what the community could do to create more variety in housing looks, especially as new national builders were coming into the community.

To that end, at the time, City Staff developed a policy which the Council adopted setting standards for how we would handle new neighborhoods and make sure that houses had some variety in look/color/etc... Since that time, this has been a main focus of not only planning for new neighborhoods, but also has gone into the building permit review process in developments. While it has been tweaked over time, its basic essence has staid in place with the goal of having a less monotonous look of housing in our new housing developments. This has been a practice/policy that has been utilized in a number of other communities in the Metro Area, with some communities deciding not to regulate this and just let the market dictate what types of housing gets built in individual neighborhoods.

Over the years, this has been used as a policy to help generate zoning that eventually gets incorporated into a Planned Unit Development Residential Zoning district, but has never been implemented in our general zoning standards. With their being some question recently on

when this should or should not apply from a policy perspective, there was a request by the Planning Commission to explore whether we just put something formally into an ordinance.

On Monday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, prior to the Council meeting (likely 5:30-7), Staff is planning to have a work session to discuss this topic with the Council. In that work session, we will look at the history of our practices here in Chaska, how we implement this, the reaction we have from builders/developers, look at what actual impact it has had on the look of neighborhoods, and talk about where we want to take this in the future. If you could block off this time prior to that Council meeting for this discussion, I would appreciate it. If you are unable to attend, please let me know so we make sure we have enough Council members there for this discussion. With us now getting into the heart of some of our SW Chaska residential development, we think this will be a good time to have this discussion.

**REMINDER: EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TRAINING OPPORTUNITY**

As part of his roll as the City of Chaska's Emergency Management Director, Fire Chief Tim Wiebe has been working to put together some internal training for us as an organization on Emergency Management Topics, and eventually move into a "Tabletop" simulated exercise to be able to practice some of the things we would need to know if there were to be a major disaster in Chaska, such as a Tornado, Flooding, Ice Storm, etc...

To start off this process, we are going to be having a session on Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup> from 9-11 am at the Chaska Fire Station. The purpose of this session will be to hear from another community/organization on how they dealt with a major disaster in their community, what lessons they learned, what work well and didn't work well, and answer questions about how they planned for such an event.

On the 27<sup>th</sup>, we will be having my father, Robert Podhradsky, come to address the group. As you may know, my dad was the Administrator for Nicollet County for 24 years, retiring just a couple of years ago. With Nicollet County having St. Peter as its County Seat, he was directly involved in the Response and Recovery efforts in St. Peter after the tornado in March of 1998. He will be able to talk about not only the first several weeks after the tornado and lessons they learned, but will also be able to talk directly to the recovery efforts they had over the several years following the storm, and the roles and responsibilities everyone had within the organization as they were addressing this disaster.

If you can attend this event, I think this would be a good one not only for our Department Heads and some key staff within certain departments, but also the Council as well, as everyone would have a role to play during such an emergency.

If you have any questions about this, please feel free to let me know. Otherwise, I hope you can make it to this training event!

**REMINDER: URBAN LAND INSTITUTE (ULI) NAVIGATING WORKSHOP**

If you are unfamiliar with the group, ULI is a non-profit group that exists world-wide, and is the oldest and largest network of cross-disciplinary real estate and land use experts in the world. Through the shared knowledge of its members, the Institute has been able to set standards of excellence in development practice. The Urban Land Institute's mission is to provide leadership in the responsible use of land and in creating and sustaining thriving communities worldwide.

The State of Minnesota has its own chapter of ULI (ULI Minnesota) who helps organize opportunities for the development community and governing bodies to come together to gather

information, share best practices and learn from each other on how to best bring development into a community that helps make it thrive into the future.

To that end, ULI Minnesota initiated the Navigating the New Normal (now called "Navigating Your Competitive Future") workshop series in the Fall of 2011. The underlying purpose of these workshops is to foster a meaningful dialogue between public and private sector leaders with respect to the challenges and opportunities of development and redevelopment created by today's economic realities. In particular, Navigating Your Competitive Future workshops endeavor to:

- Connect a city's demographic trends, market preferences and future growth patterns with the realities of the market place.
- Emphasize the critical importance of communication and partnerships between cities and the development community.
- Identify strategies to position cities to be competitive and sustainable by attracting the best possible (re)development.

Navigating Your Competitive Future workshops are two-hour, interactive dialogues with city leaders and a panel of ULI Minnesota real estate industry professionals. City participants are typically the City Council, the Planning Commission and Community Development staff, along with others that could benefit from hearing from industry experts on development. Since 2011, ULI Minnesota has conducted over 50 workshops in Minnesota communities including Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth and Rochester.

With the City of Chaska now going through both our 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update, and planning on City Square West, Staff thought it would be an ideal time for us to put together one of these workshops in Chaska to learn a little bit more about our own community and its demographics, and here from the development community what their perspective is on the future of a community like ours. This is an opportunity to bring together these experts at no cost, and spend time listening to their perspectives on our community.

To that end, Staff has worked with ULI to set up a Navigating Your Competitive Future workshop on Wednesday February 28 from 6:30-8:30 pm at The Lodge in the Community Center. We will get getting out an invitation to our Planning Commission, as well as others that we think might be interested in this workshop, to have this 2-hour session.

If you are able to attend that evening, I would highly encourage your attendance as this is a great opportunity for us to learn more about our own community, some of the challenges and opportunities we may face going into the future, and get a perspective of what the outside development community's perspective is on the issues/opportunities we may face in the future.

If you have not given me an RSVP yet and plan to attend, just drop me an email so we can plan for you. If you have any questions, just let me know.

### **JOINT MEETING WITH PARK BOARD ON DOG PARK**

Over the past several weeks, staff have been working on looking further at a future dog park and potential locations that may be suitable. To keep the process moving forward, we are looking at getting a joint meeting set up between the City Council and the Park Board to talk about our findings on different sites we have been looking at, and thoughts on a site we may want to consider. There is still some work left to be done, but I did want to have you get on your calendar when we are shooting for to be ready for this discussion. We are looking at having a joint Work Session from 5:30-7 on Monday, April 16<sup>th</sup> prior to our City Council meeting.

Our hope from this meeting would be to share with you information that we have pulled together and get feedback from both groups on directions we think we should move on this park development. If you are unable to make this date, please let me know. If anything changes with this date, I will let you know.