

CITY OF NORTON SHORES
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
July 28, 2015

A regular work session of the Norton Shores City Council was held on Tuesday, July 28, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall, 4814 Henry Street.

Present: Mayor Nelund, Council Members Beecham, Dolack, Flanders, Hylland, Jurkas, Martines, Moulatsiotis and Ostrom; also Mark Meyers, Carrie Pierce, Mike Huston, Jerry Bartoszek, Jon Gale, Bob Gagnon, Lynne Fuller, and Susan Franklin

1. Muskegon Area District Library Millage Renewal Presentation

Mr. Kelly Richards, Director of the Muskegon Area District Library, presented information regarding the library's upcoming millage renewal question which will appear on the November 3, 2015 ballot. The request will be for a renewal of the current .749 mills and an additional .5 mills. If approved, the funds would be used to maintain current hours, collections and services. The additional funds will also allow for changes in staffing offered at each location as well as additional job skill workshops, youth librarians, technology upgrades and facility improvements. One example of facility improvements is replacement of the HVAC system at the Norton Shores branch. City Attorney Doug Hughes represents the City on the library board and is a member of the millage committee. He and Mr. Richards expressed the importance of Norton Shores in the millage campaign because in 2006 Norton Shores was instrumental in passage of the original millage.

2. Request from Muskegon County for Potential Quality of Life Millage Projects

City Administrator Mark Meyers discussed the County of Muskegon's plans for a possible "Quality of Life" millage question to appear on a future ballot. Previously a millage was approved in 1995 that funded \$16 million in improvements to the L.C. Walker Arena and Frauenthal Theater. The County is currently exploring recreational and cultural needs in communities and is requesting that local units of government compile three projects for consideration. Public meetings are also planned to gather input regarding the millage concept. Staff has reviewed upcoming projects and recommends consideration of these projects: 1) Norton Shores Branch Library improvements; 2) Black Lake Park improvements; 3) Lake Harbor Recreation Trail; and 4) Mona Lake Trail. Almost \$3 million in necessary improvements have been identified for the Norton Shores Branch Library. Included in those improvements is remodeling the children's area related to MADL's Storyville project at an estimated cost of \$350,000. Future improvements to Black Lake Park may include a trail system and a kayak launch at an estimated cost of \$225,000. An off-street pedestrian trail along Lake Harbor Road linking Lake Harbor Park to Hoffmaster State Park would cost approximately \$900,000. A bike path through Hidden Cove Park that ties into the Grand Haven Road bike lane and along Seaway Drive through Muskegon Heights and into Muskegon is recommended as part of an MDOT required project to replace the bridge that spans Black Creek. Preliminary estimates for the bridge and Mona Lake Trail project are \$2.9 million.

The Mona Lake Trail is a regional project which may include the possibility of grant funding through MDOT. Mayor Nelund asked if we are required to fix the bridge. Public Works Director Jerry Bartoszek explained that the bridge is in poor condition and connects the two sides of the park and is useful for maintenance also. Mr. Meyers reminded Council that the park actually includes property owned by MDOT and the County of Muskegon, leased by the City of Norton Shores. Other suggested methods of funding these projects were 1 In 21, Wellville, WMSRDC and crowd funding.

Mr. Meyers stated that Muskegon County Administrator Mark Eisenbarth said although the County is requesting three potential projects from each jurisdiction, Norton Shores is welcome to submit the four that are proposed. Staff was directed to submit the four projects to the County for consideration.

Comments

Council Member Beecham said she's received positive comments about the wayfinding signs.

Mr. Meyers reminded Council that the August 4th meeting will be held on Monday, August 3rd.

Meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.


Lynne A. Fuller, City Clerk