

**WAYZATA CITY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
WAYZATA CITY HALL COMMUNITY ROOM
August 6, 2025**

Mayor Mullin called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Council Members present: MacDonald, Parkhill, Plechash, and Sorensen. Also present: Interim City Manager Mike Kelly, Community Development Director Alex Sharpe, Parks and Environment Planner Nick Kieser, and City Attorney David Schelzel.

5:00 p.m. Short-Term Rental Ordinance Discussion

Director Sharpe presented an overview of Council's past discussions and direction on regulation of Short-Term Rental (STR) in the City for continued discussion for the Council. His overview included:

- History of the current ordinance and when the Council adopted the review and possible regulation of STRs as a Strategic Priority
- Review of past discussion and direction from the City Council in 2025
- Current status of City Code regulations of STRs
- Results from community and owner/operator engagement sessions and methodology
- Responses to Council requests for further information which included:
 - Additional details on ownership
 - Data on specific police calls or complaints on STR properties
 - Clarifications on zoning regulations

City Council discussed the negative and positive impacts of STRs within the Community.

Council member Sorenson shared an overview of what he saw as the pro's and con's of STRs. His remarks included reference to impacts on local residents and direct neighbors of STRs, the needs to emphasize the creation and preservation of neighborhood communities, and the Council's commitment to the Core Values identified in the Comprehensive Plan. Council member Sorenson stated that the impacts of STRs and these Core Values were incongruous.

Council members each discussed their viewpoints, which included a discussion of whether more regulations would achieve desired outcomes or fall short of what was needed. The majority of Council echoed the points made by Council member Sorenson, with the Mayor voicing support for an approach that would allow for STRs to continue with regulation to address the issues discussed. The consensus of Council was for staff to prepare a draft ordinance for Council's consideration at a future meeting that would require all rentals to be longer than 30 days.

5:45 p.m. Klapprich Park Construction Mitigation Discussion

Parks and Environment Planner Kieser presented an overview of the Klapprich Park Construction project and recent community engagement, which included: general background and recent timeline of Council meetings, the neighborhood concerns, reasoning why specific decisions were made, proposed solutions, renderings of a proposed solution, the Parks and Trails Board recommendation, public comments received (negative and positive), and the discussion objective. He noted that the main concerns raised by some in the neighborhood were:

- Tree Removal
 - Visual and aesthetic impacts of homes along Park Street, including increased visibility into and from Klapprich Park.
 - Safety concerns related to increased viewsheds between Wayzata Boulevard, the Park and Ride facility, and the park.
 - Increased light pollution, particularly from field lighting and vehicle headlights entering the park.
- Addition and Location of Hillside Stairs and Slide

- Traffic safety concerns on Park Street, particularly regarding speeding
- Increased parking pressure from park users utilizing Park Street to access the hillside stairs and slide
- Safety risks to park users at the top of the stairs and slide near Park Street, especially in the context of increased traffic
- Residents noted their desire to remove the hillside stairs and slide from the project
- Communication and Project Process
 - Residents expressed frustration with a lack of communication regarding the project, specifically related to the hillside stairs and slide
 - Concern over the change in the location of the hillside stairs and slide late in the planning process
- Project Budget
 - Concerns were raised about the overall cost of the improvement project
- Traffic and Safety
 - Traffic safety concerns on Park Street, particularly regarding speeding.
 - Increased parking pressure from park users utilizing Park Street to access the hillside stairs and slide.
 - Safety risks to park users at the top of the stairs and slide near Park Street, specifically large, spaded trees, an arborvitae hedge, and a mix of new tree species along the slope
 - A small retaining wall would be required to accommodate the spaded trees on the upper slope due to steep terrain
 - This option would require additional landscaping funding, as outlined in the attached budget

Mr. Kieser presented three options for moving forward, including two proposed solutions to address the concerns, which focused on additional landscaping, screening and buffering (Option 2) and that plus removal of the proposed slide (Option 3) and the additional project costs associated with each.

Council inquired whether all of the removed trees were infected with the fungal pathogen, and staff confirmed that all removed trees were infected.

Mayor Mullin noted additional concerns raised by residents, including traffic congestion during school drop-off and pick-up along Park Street, as well as the perception that the City had not followed its Tree Preservation Ordinance procedures. He emphasized the need for improved communication and public engagement at the conclusion of the planning process, prior to the approval of construction documents. Mayor Mullin also noted that Wayzata West Middle School is planning a major renovation and stated that traffic and parking considerations should be coordinated to help mitigate potential issues.

Council members discussed lessons learned from the project, noting that the construction process could have been improved by avoiding the removal of all trees at once, as this caused significant concern among neighbors. Regarding pedestrian access, Council determined that even without a direct connection from the top of the stairway to the Park Street sidewalk, users would likely still walk down the hill to reach the stairs. Therefore, if the stairs and slide are constructed, they should be linked to the Park Street sidewalk.

Council Member Parkhill expressed support for Option 2, which maintains the approved plan with the addition of enhanced landscaping along the hillside. He recommended no immediate changes to parking or traffic patterns but advised continued monitoring for potential issues.

Council Member Plechash concurred with Council Member Parkhill's position, and also supported Option 2. Mr. Plechash also noted that there was a significant amount of public comments that supported the project as approved.

Council Member MacDonald emphasized the importance of establishing a safe pedestrian route from the neighborhood to the playground and warming house, noting that alternative safe routes require going around the park. Regarding parking concerns, she suggested that "No Parking" signs along Park Street could be considered but cautioned against placing them along the entire street, as the spaces are also used by neighborhood residents and pickleball/tennis players. She recommended a more targeted approach to address parking and traffic concerns should they arise, and stated her support for Option 2.

Council Member Sorensen also expressed his support for Option 2.

Mayor Mullin reflected on the Panoway project, which underwent significant scope reductions over time, and suggested that this project could have followed a similar approach. He expressed support for Option 3, which would remove the hillside stairs and slide while adding landscaping to the hillside.

The consensus of the Council was to direct staff to pursue Option 2 for final consideration at the August 19 Council meeting. Staff were also instructed to ensure the plan maximized landscaping at the top of the hill and to ensure proper long-term maintenance of the newly planted trees.

6:30 p.m. Discussion of Future Council Topics

Mr. Kelly indicated that the goal is to discuss and prioritize future workshop and general topics.

He reviewed the following list of planned upcoming workshop topics, noting they are subject to change:

- **Aug 19** Preliminary General Fund Budget Status Update
- **Aug 19** Council Member Recruitment
- **Sept 9** Public Safety Facility Needs Assessment/Tour
- **Sept 9** Subdivision Ordinance
- **Sept 23** Open - Topics To Be Determined
- **Oct 7** Open - Topics To Be Determined
- **Oct 21** Strategic Plan Update
- **Nov 5** Final CIP Review
- **Nov 18** Final Budget Status Update
- **Nov 18** Legislative Priorities
- **Dec 2** Board and Commission Interviews
- **Dec 16** Potential Charter Amendment for Purchasing/Contracts
- **Dec 16** Franchise Fees

Mr. Plechash requested that the Council consider discussion of closing the 600 Block of Lake Street for occasional pedestrian activities. Consensus was reached to place this topic on a future Council workshop.

Mr. Parkhill requested that the City-wide speed limit of 20 mph be discussed further. Staff provided clarification on the Council's previous approval of the speed limit change. Consensus was not reached to place this topic on a future Council workshop.

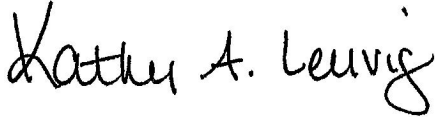
Mr. Sorensen requested an update on the status of the possible subdivision/PUD workshop discussion. Manager Kelly relayed that the topic is currently scheduled for the September 9 workshop and could be included on the August 19 workshop agenda if time permits and preliminary budget approval can be pushed to the September 23 Council meeting.

1 Mayor Mullin mentioned that a request had been made to place a statue within Klapprich Park and would
2 like the Council to determine whether to consider the request, and if considered, direct the appropriate
3 process. Consensus was reached to place this topic on a future Council workshop.
4

5 Mayor Mullin mentioned that he and Manager Kelly have received an inquiry regarding the purchase of a
6 city-owned parcel, and asked if the Council wanted to consider further discussion. Consensus was
7 reached to place this topic on a future Council workshop.
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9 The workshop meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.
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11 Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy A. Leervig". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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13 Kathy Leervig, City Clerk
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