



**Wayzata City Council Workshop Meeting Agenda
Wayzata City Hall Community Room, 600 Rice Street
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2026**

WORKSHOP TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Discussion of Greater Lake Minnetonka Area Legislative Coalition (6:15-6:30 pm)
2. Future Discussion Topics (6:30-6:40 p.m.)



City Council Workshop City Council Agenda Report

MEETING DATE: February 10, 2026	WORKSHOP AGENDA ITEM: 1
TITLE: Discussion of Greater Lake Minnetonka Area Legislative Coalition (6:15-6:30 pm)	
PREPARED BY: Aurora Yager, Interim City Manager	
REVIEWED BY:	

DISCUSSION OBJECTIVE:

Discuss the current status of the Greater Lake Minnetonka Area Legislative Coalition and provide feedback regarding any additional information needed before a more formal request is brought forward.

2024-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITIES RELEVANCE:

Sustain Community Character & Safety

A main legislative priority of the proposed lakes area lobbying group would be to protect local control of zoning which protects our sense of community character.

BACKGROUND:

At the November 18, 2025 City Council Workshop the Council heard an update from Mayor Mullin about an effort from some mayors in the lakes area who are interested in joining together with a lobbyist to advocate at the capital with one voice. This initiative came about after the collaboration last legislative session around opposing the proposed legislation that would have preempted local zoning and planning authority. Since then, all 14 lake communities have been invited to participate in the coalition and the following City Council's have agreed to join:

1. Minnetonka Beach
2. Spring Park
3. Mound
4. Greenwood
5. Deephaven
6. Woodland
7. Tonka Bay
8. Long Lake

Assuming Wayzata is still interested in participating, the estimated cost of hiring a lobbyist is \$37,500. Based on the attached funding formula, the estimated cost to Wayzata is around \$6,600, but the final amount will be dependent on the number of cities that agree to join and the cost-sharing formula. The Mayor will have an updated cost-sharing funding formula table which will be presented at the meeting. Deephaven has been designated to take the lead and hold the lobbying contract and organize the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA).

Next Steps

If the Council is supportive of joining this coalition, staff would let the other coalition cities know and would bring back a JPA for the Council to consider at a future meeting.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Legislative Coalition Overview
2. City Cost Sharing Calculator
3. Proposal-Lake Minnetonka Mayors from Carnival Berns

Greater Lake Minnetonka Area Legislative Coalition

1. The Need for Collaboration and a Unified Voice for Lake Minnetonka

Inefficiency of Solo Advocacy: Currently, individual cities expend resources to advocate on common issues, often duplicating efforts. A unified coalition provides greater efficiency and a stronger, consolidated message at the county & state level.

Maximizing Influence: A coalition representing the collective interests and residents of the Greater Lake Minnetonka area will carry significantly more weight and influence with state legislators and county officials than a single city alone.

Proactive Engagement: By pooling resources including potential allies out state, we can more effectively monitor, respond to, and proactively shape legislation and opportunities that impact our area, ensuring our voices are heard before decisions are finalized.

2. The Proposed Solution: Partnering with Carnival Berns P.A.

Experienced Advocacy: We propose contracting with John Berns and the firm of Carnival Berns P.A. to serve as our joint advocate.

Deep Bipartisan Relationships: John Berns and his team have a proven track record, having worked extensively with the entire legislature and holding personal relationships on both sides of the aisle.

This includes direct connections with leaders like Speaker of the House Lisa Demuth, House DFL Leader Zack Stephenson, Senate Majority Leader Erin Murphy, and Senate Minority Leader Mark Johnson, as well as committee chairs and nonpartisan staff at the state and county.

Broad Government Access: Their reach extends beyond the legislature, as they regularly work with the Governor's staff, state agency Commissioners and staff, and key local government leaders, ensuring comprehensive representation of our interests across all levels.

Relevant Background: Mr. Berns' experience as a former State Representative (District 33B) and an elected Wayzata City Council member provides him with a unique, insider perspective on both state and local government needs and processes.

3. Key Areas of Shared Policy Concern (ranked in order of priority)

Based on discussions among Lake Area Mayors, there are critical areas where coordinated advocacy is essential:

Protecting Local Control: Our top priority is maintaining local control over fundamental municipal functions—specifically zoning and land use regulations—to ensure decisions reflect the specific needs and character of our communities.

Regional infrastructure - advocating for investment in critical infrastructure for Lake area Communities.

Property Tax Reform: We aim to build a statewide coalition to advocate for property tax reform at both the County and State levels, focusing on fairness for Lake Area residents and taxpayers including transparency on tax assessment services

4. Financial Investment and Next Steps

Estimated Investment: The total estimated investment for this dedicated, high-level advocacy work is approximately \$30,000 plus an administrative fee of \$2,500.

Fair Cost Allocation: The contract will be held by one city, and the cost will be divided among participating cities via a pro-rata allocation based on the city's taxable market value and the number of housing units with a cap. In addition, a discount will be applied to the City of Deephaven who will hold the contract to account for the staff time to administer the contract. This ensures an equitable distribution of the investment based on relative size.

See attached

Call to Action: We are asking for your support for this collaborative approach. If you are aligned with this strategy, please bring this proposal (Carnival Berns) forward to your council for:

Approval of the partnership and the financial investment.

Directing staff to work with the City Administrator of the City of Deephaven designated to finalize the agreement and move forward with a unified plan of action.

Cost Sharing Calculation

			10,392	100.00%	\$123,948,621	100.00%	100.00%	\$35,000	\$0	\$35,000
		Contract	Total # of Homes	% of Home	Tax Capacity	% of Home Tax Capacity	Formula %	Contract \$ Share	Share of Admin Fee	Total Adjusted Share
Contract Amt	\$35,000									
Admin Fee	\$2,500	Wayzata	1,720	16.55%	\$32,543,493	26.26%	18.98%	\$6,642	\$313	\$6,955
		Woodland	223	2.15%	\$6,700,620	5.41%	2.96%	\$1,036	\$313	\$1,349
Formula		Deephaven	1,531	14.73%	\$26,754,901	21.59%	16.45%	\$5,756	-\$2,500	\$3,256
Homes	75%	Greenwood	337	3.24%	\$7,505,819	6.06%	3.95%	\$1,381	\$313	\$1,694
Tax Capacity	25%	Tonka Bay	774	7.45%	\$12,111,139	9.77%	8.03%	\$2,810	\$313	\$3,123
		Long Lake	644	6.20%	\$3,641,370	2.94%	5.38%	\$1,884	\$313	\$2,196
		Minnetonka Beach	242	2.33%	\$7,834,325	6.32%	3.33%	\$1,164	\$313	\$1,477
		Spring Park	485	4.67%	\$3,588,033	2.89%	4.22%	\$1,478	\$313	\$1,791
		Mound	4,436	42.69%	\$23,268,921	18.77%	36.71%	\$12,848	\$313	\$13,160

CARNIVAL BERNS P.A.

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February 4, 2026

The Honorable Kent Carlson
Mayor of Deephaven
20225 Cottagewood Road
Deephaven, MN 55331

(sent via email only)

RE: Legislative Representation for Lake Minnetonka Area Cities

Dear Mayor Carlson,

Thank you for the opportunity to meet on Dec 3 to discuss the joint legislative priorities of Lake Minnetonka Area Cities.

Carnival Berns P.A. respectfully submits the following **UPDATED** proposal for your consideration:

GOAL: A UNIFIED VOICE FIGHTING FOR LAKE MINNETONKA:

- The voice of individual cities becomes much **stronger when cities band together**.
- A unified agenda provides **clear direction to policy makers** on Lake Area priorities.
- An experienced lobbying firm is needed to **advocate for these critical priorities at the Capitol**, and to **build the coalitions** necessary for long-term success.

PRIORITIES: Lake Area cities have identified their legislative agenda to three items (ranked in order of priority):

1. **Protecting Local Control** of fundamental municipal functions, especially zoning and land use regulations, to ensure decisions reflect the specific needs and character of Lake Area communities
2. **Regional infrastructure** - advocating for critical infrastructure for Lake Minnetonka Communities
3. Building a statewide coalition to advocate for **property tax reform**—focusing on fairness to Lake Area residents and taxpayers.

PLAN: Carnival Berns P.A. stands ready to:

- Engage in a **full-service lobbying effort** on the above priorities, including:
- Direct **engagement with all stakeholders** (friends, foes, and neutral parties) with the goal of

building coalitions to support Lake Area priorities,

- Working with your **local legislative delegation**: Sen. Ann Johnson Stewart, Rep. Patty Acomb & Rep. Andrew Myers,
- Engage with **Hennepin County Commissioners** Heather Edelson and Kevin Anderson, and the entire Hennepin County Board,
- Going well beyond local legislators to advocate directly to relevant **Committee Chairs and Committee members**, and
- Bringing your concerns directly to **legislative leadership**, including the Senate Majority Leader, the Senate Minority Leader, the Speaker of the House and the House DFL Leader.

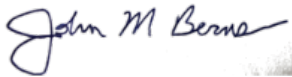
OPERATIONAL DETAILS (**updated**):

- The City of Deephaven will: (1) execute and administer the contract with Carnival Berns P.A., (2) collect funds from the other cities, and (3) disburse payments to Carnival Berns P.A. In the alternative, the Lake Area cities may also create a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) to administer this agreement.
- Rate: \$30,000, payable at a rate of \$3,000.00/month, for ten months: from March-Dec 2026.
- The Mayors of Deephaven and Wayzata will provide joint direction to Carnival Berns P.A.
- Once the contract is signed, I will register as a lobbyist for the City of Deephaven (or the JPA) and immediately begin outreach and advocacy.

Do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Very Truly Yours,

CARNIVAL BERNs P.A.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John M. Berns". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being more prominent.

John Berns
Attorney at Law

CC: The Honorable Andrew Mullin, Mayor of Wayzata (sent via email only)



City Council Workshop City Council Agenda Report

MEETING DATE: February 10, 2026	WORKSHOP AGENDA ITEM: 2
TITLE: Future Discussion Topics (6:30-6:40 p.m.)	
PREPARED BY: Aurora Yager, Interim City Manager	
REVIEWED BY:	

DISCUSSION OBJECTIVE:

To discuss and prioritize future workshop and general topics.

2024-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITIES RELEVANCE:

Not Applicable.

BACKGROUND:

Below is a list of planned workshop topics. These are subject to change:

- February 24 - Lake Street Closures - Event Planning Update and Parks and Trails Master Plan Update
- March 10 - Pre Local Board of Appeal and Equalization Meeting with Hennepin County and Park Dedication Ordinance Review
- March 24 - Comprehensive Plan Scope and RFP Review and Public Dock Rental and Use Requests
- April 7 - No workshop - Local Board of Appeal and Equalization Hearing

ATTACHMENTS:

None