

MINUTES
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
FARMINGTON HILLS CITY COUNCIL
CITY HALL - COMMUNITY ROOM
AUGUST 15, 2022 – 6:00PM

The study session meeting of the Farmington Hills City Council was called to order by Mayor Barnett at 6:07pm.

Council Members Present: Barnett, Boleware, Bridges, Bruce, Knol, Massey and Newlin

Council Members Absent: None

Others Present: City Manager Mekjian, Deputy City Clerk Lindahl, Assistant City Manager Valentine and City Attorney Joppich

FARMINGTON COMMUNITY LIBRARY BOARD UPDATE

Kelley Siegrist provided an update on the Farmington Community Library She explained that they hired a marketing coordinator in January 2022 who began working on rebranding, a statement of purpose, new logo and community engagement. She noted that according to Gale analytics, 36% of the city's residents are library patrons and provided percentages breakdowns by income and education levels.

She discussed the annual library use and what an average day at the library looked like. She added that they began senior outreach services in 2021 and the unique collections they offer are getting a lot of attention.

Ms. Siegrist reviewed their current initiatives which include marketing, space utilization study, strategic planning, community engagement and they are hoping for a successful millage renewal in 2024. An open house is planned for September 18th at the 12 Mile location.

Discussion was held on the types of online courses the library offers, what the utilization trends looked like and collaborating with The Hawk and Cares to provide kiosks and working with the after-school programs and Farmington Public Schools to teach reading and improve vocabulary among students.

Mayor Barnett thanked the board for addressing the concerns City Council had and she feels they are functioning well and likes the direction they are going.

City Manager Mekjian stated that if the board needs assistance with building updates, they can contact the City to see if we can look at opening our contracts up to other entities.

DISCUSSION ON CITY ETHICS POLICY AND CITY COUNCIL RULES AND PROCEDURES

City Manager Mekjian reminded Council of the City's Ethics Policy and City Council Rules and Procedures as they attend community events and meetings and that the policy was not intended to be punitive.

Councilmember Newlin explained that she does not see unification of council during certain events, such as attending homeowner association meetings. She lives on a street and does not have an association in which to speak with and share with other Council concerns from residents.

Mayor Barnett stated that when addressing concerns from residents it is appropriate to share that with the City Manager and respond directly to the resident.

Discussion was held on council members attending homeowner association meetings, boy scout and girl scout meetings and that the City should reach out to COHA to let them know that council members are available to attend and speak at meetings or community events.

Mayor Barnett explained that she is occasionally asked to provide updates to community groups and she does not find that to be problematic.

Councilmember Bruce suggested that Council have an informal agreement to only applaud good work within the community during a Council meeting.

There was a consensus among council members that they will only applaud good community work.

Discussion was held governing body of Farmington Hills compared to other communities, such as Farmington Hills City Council sets policies but the City Manager is responsible for the oversight of department heads and implementing day to day operations.

ADJOURNMENT:

The study session meeting adjourned at 7:28pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carly Lindahl, Deputy City Clerk