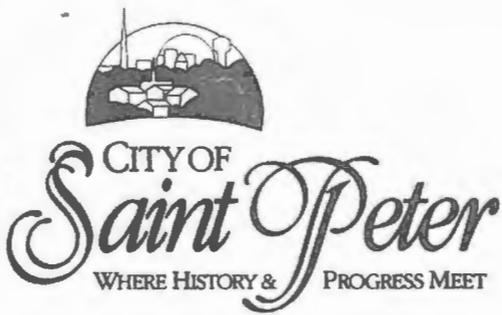


CITY OF SAINT PETER, MINNESOTA
AGENDA AND NOTICE OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
Monday, January 25, 2016
Governors' Room – Community Center – 5:30 p.m.

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. GUSTAVUS CLASS PRESENTATIONS
- III. ADJOURNMENT

Todd Prafke
City Administrator



Memorandum

TO: Honorable Mayor Zieman
Members of the City Council

DATE: 1/8/2016

FROM: Todd Prafke
City Administrator

RE: Gustavus Student Presentation

As you may remember, I have worked with a J-Term class at Gustavus for a couple of years on projects they investigate and provide reports on related to the City and our community. This year I have once again worked with the students and the projects they are involved with are outlined on the attached pages.

After last year's presentation, the Council expressed interest in further discussion on a couple of the student projects. That may occur again this year, however it should be noted that the Council has no obligation to further consider any of these projects or the findings and recommendations of the students.

I have arranged for the Council to meet in a committee of the whole session on Monday, January 25th beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Governors' Room and an agenda for that Committee of the Whole session will be provided to you the week before so the students can provide presentations on their work and their findings. The regular Council meeting will begin that same evening at 7:00 p.m.

Should you have any questions about this information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

TP/bal

Project #1: Police body cameras

Project description: In the wake of several high profile police shootings of unarmed civilians, many people have called for expanded use of police body cameras. The city of St. Peter was among the first in Minnesota to institute the use of police dash board cameras. Now, the City Council is faced with the question of under what circumstances the City should pursue the use of body cameras for police officers.

Project goal: This project team will conduct research on police body cameras and the experience of other similar cities and prepare a recommendation based on the data to present to the St. Peter City Council.

Project group size: 4-6 students

Project #2: Limiting rental units

Project description: Recently a neighboring city, North Mankato, issued a one year moratorium on new licenses for rental property while the city studies a proposal to permanently limit the number of rental properties allowed in the city. This type of proposal involves judgements about what type of residents a community wants to attract. Given the similarities between St. Peter and North Mankato, it is likely that this issue may surface soon in St. Peter as well and the City Council wants to be prepared to discuss the issue.

Project goal: This project team will conduct research on the benefits, drawbacks, and constitutional questions related to a potential limit of rental licenses and prepare a recommendation based on the research to present to the St. Peter City Council.

Project group size: 4-6 students

Project #3: Livability index

Project description: The city of St. Peter wants to be a desirable place to live and work but what factors make a city a good place to live and work and how does St. Peter measured up compared to other cities given those factors? The Council wants to create a livability index to allow for a direct comparison between St. Peter and other cities and to provide the city with information about areas for improvement in government services, city planning, and community development.

Project goal: This project team will construct an appropriate livability index (identifying the factors that should be included in a livability index and an appropriate metric for measurement of those factors), calculate scores for St. Peter and comparable cities and prepare a report based on the data to present to the St. Peter City Council.

Project group size: 4-6 students

Project #4: Accessibility in historic buildings

Project description: The Americans with Disabilities Act ensures equal opportunity for people with disabilities in public accommodations and commercial facilities. Although there are some legal exceptions for historic buildings, many of the private businesses in downtown St. Peter are not accessible and, therefore, out of compliance with the ADA. The City of St. Peter is interested in increasing the number of accessible businesses and to do this, needs current information about the state of accessibility in downtown businesses and legal guidelines related to accommodations, and

development of an effective way to communicate incentives for compliance with the ADA to building and business owners.

Project goal: This project team will conduct field research of the accessibility of local businesses in St. Peter and, using the data, will develop a public relations campaign to increase business compliance with the ADA to present to the St. Peter City Council.

Project group size: 4-6 students

Project #5: Community festivals and fun runs policy

Project description: Many different groups and organizations organize festivals, events, and fun runs in the city of St. Peter. These events come with varying requests for city support...from use of city parks or streets, to logistical needs such as trash receptacles or police presence at the event. Some events (like a fun run or a loud concert) have the potential to cause disruption to community residents. At the same time, these events can provide economic and cultural benefits to the city and the St. Peter community. Given the number of requests, the City needs to develop a policy for deciding when and to what degree to support events like festivals and fun runs.

Project goal: This project team will conduct research on how other cities decide which festivals and fun runs receive support from the city and what form that support takes and prepare a policy recommendation based on the data to present to the St. Peter City Council.

Project group size: 4-6 students