

**CITY OF BIRCHWOOD VILLAGE  
TOWN HALL MEETING  
July 11, 2017**

**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor Mary Wingfield; Council Members: Kevin Woolstencroft, Trilby White, Randy LaFoy and Megan Malvey.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Tobin Lay, City Administrator

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Many Birchwood residents

Mayor Wingfield called the town hall meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**OPEN PUBLIC FORUM:**

- A. City staff and Council Members:** They explained the purpose of the town hall meeting and invited members of the audience to offer comments and/or suggestions. The Council is seeking feedback about what the vision should be for Birchwood as it looks forward to the future planning of the city. Specifically, the Planning Commission, Council Members, staff, and volunteers will be working on the 2040 Comprehensive Plan for the city, as is required by the Metropolitan Council every ten years.
- B. Members of the audience:** They spoke about the positives and negatives of living in Birchwood Village and offered suggestions of what they thought the city should be. The following comments were made:
- Concern was expressed about how the town is interacting with itself; in some cases with animosity. Seek ways for better communication. Concerns about disruptions/behavior at neighboring property (happens to be a rental property); need to ensure statutes are in place to "guide" behavior. Positive statement about potential future state for Birchwood.
  - Vision guideline provided suggesting all residents, owners and staff of Birchwood shall follow all adopted ordinances policies, procedures and by-laws.
  - Parks, hockey rink a huge draw for moving to Birchwood. Important to preserve these for children and all community members. Some newer to Birchwood residents feel like they don't have a voice (compared to more tenured residents) and are afraid to speak up with concern/suggestions to council for fear of retribution if they need council approval for something. We don't have a lot of vacant land but need to avoid status quo - ensure city is meeting resident's needs, which may not be the same needs as in years past.
  - Moved here a few years ago and thrilled to be here! Outdoor enthusiast. Makes a lot of use of walkway at Nording Park. But problem is walking - nearly been hit by cars. Make Birchwood more accessible and inviting to non-cars. Want to ride bike and have walking trails, sideways. Consider one-way streets to make this happen?
  - The village is looking shabby; there are stinging nettles along the road. We need to spruce it up even if it does cost the city a little money.
  - Community will be turning over. Education should be part of that vision.

- Leverage technology to help with communication. Keep people in the loop on city topics. Agrees with previous points about outdoor safety. Need better pedestrian safety. Our parks need a 10 year plan. Keep natural beauty of Birchwood while developing for community use.

**ADJOURN**

**MAYOR WINGFIELD ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 6:53 P.M.**

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Mary Wingfield  
Mayor

ATTEST:

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Tobin Lay  
City Administrator-Clerk