

City of Des Moines



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City Manager Weekly Report January 12, 2024

Winter Road Preparation

This week Public Works staff have been busy gearing up for the winter weather and icy conditions on the roads. Earlier this week forecasts were showing a potential for lowland snow, however that has changed to just a very cold but dry weekend. Our crews have applied deicer to the roads and will be on standby as needed to ensure our streets are safe to travel. Please do your part by exercising caution!

Des Moines Theater Update

Last Friday, the City approved the issuance of a temporary certificate of occupancy for the residential units of the Des Moines Theater. Construction will continue on the commercial aspects of the building, but you may soon begin seeing new neighbors moving into the building. More info on the building can be found [here](#).

Public Safety

In alignment with our commitment to community well-being, the City of Des Moines has taken proactive steps to secure 120 boxes of Naloxone (Narcan) courtesy of the Washington State Department of Health. Naloxone is a safe and effective measure to assist individuals experiencing an overdose. They will be available to our staff and first responders in order to equip them with the necessary tools to promptly respond and provide assistance to individuals who may have overdosed.

Zenith Draft Environmental Impact Statement

On Tuesday, the City issued a Notice of Draft Environmental Impact Statement Availability, Public Comment Period and Public Meeting for the Zenith Properties Demolition Application at the former Masonic Home/Landmark on the Sound. You can access the Draft EIS and other information by visiting the City of Des Moines project webpage [here](#). The public comment period is open January 9, 2024 until 4:30 p.m. on February 22, 2024. A virtual public meeting will also be held on Wednesday, January 31, 2024 at 6 p.m. The meeting will begin with a brief presentation about the draft EIS, followed by public comments. A court reporter will attend to transcribe verbal comments. All comments will be recorded and become part of the public record. The meeting will end after the last comment is made. Participants must register to receive the link and join from a computer or tablet on the Zoom platform to provide verbal comment during this event. Register [here](#).

Meetings of Interest

In addition to day-to-day administrative duties, this week I met with the Des Moines Historical Society President to discuss their future plans and potential partnerships with the City. I met several times with Mayor Buxton to discuss recent topics of interest to her as well as to discuss and finalize Committee assignments. I met with Mayor Buxton and Deputy Mayor Steinmetz to prepare for the City Council meeting. I also met with Councilmember Harris to discuss topics of interest to him. I met with the City's Directors and senior staff to discuss ongoing and upcoming issues. Finally, I met with the President of Destination Des Moines to talk about 2024 community events and City collaboration with DDM.

City Council Meeting Summary

The City Council met on January 11th. The full agenda and supporting materials from the 11th can be found [here](#). Highlights from the meeting included adopting the Council's 2024 Legislative Priorities, establishing a new Council Finance Committee and approving the Request for Proposals for an executive search firm for the City Manager vacancy. The next City Council meeting is January 25th. The agenda and materials for that meeting will be posted in my report next week.

Sports Update

As I write this, I'm attempting to come to terms with the fact that the undefeated Huskies are no longer undefeated, the Seahawks didn't make the playoffs, Pete Carroll is out and our highly touted Husky coach is leaving for Alabama. That was tough to type. It feels like this could be the end of a great era in our football history. But looking at it a different way, it's not the end if you just call it a new beginning. So here's to the start of something new.

In better sporting news, NFL playoffs are on Saturday, Sunday and Monday. The Kraken play Saturday afternoon. 43 days until Spring Training.

Have a great weekend!
Tim George
Interim City Manager

The Waterland City