

City of Des Moines



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City Manager Weekly Report January 19, 2024

Cold Weather Impacts – Senior Activity Center Closure

Unfortunately, like many of our residents and those across the region, the City was also impacted by the freezing weather last weekend. We had a pipe burst in the Senior Activity Center that resulted in water damage to several rooms and shut off water service to the building. As a result, the Center will be closed until repairs can be completed. In the meantime, instead of our normal lunch service, staff is providing box lunches and will use our COVID drive thru process until water service is restored. At that point, we will resume making fresh lunches in the building but still offer them through the drive thru pick up model. Off-site trips will continue without interruption and many events and classes will be moved to the Field House. Additional updates will be provided as we work towards reopening the Center.

Citizens Advisory Committee Members Needed

If you are a citizen of Des Moines and you like to give advice, we need you! The Citizens Advisory Committee is looking for members to serve in various neighborhoods (Central, Marina District, North Central, South and Zenith Neighborhoods). The Citizens Advisory Committee was created to encourage and promote citizen and neighborhood involvement in an advisory capacity to the City Council. Applications and information can be found [here](#).

State Legislative Update

We are now two weeks into the State Legislature's 60-day session. Des Moines has already actively engaged on several bills and made budget requests for projects in the City. Highlights this week included public hearings on two proposals requiring the Port of Seattle to dedicate part of their tax revenue towards mitigating the impact of the airport on those living in airport communities. Many Des Moines residents testified before the Legislative Committees to support these two bills, including Mayor Traci Buxton and Councilmember Harris. More information on these bills is here – [HB-2103](#) (Prime sponsor Representative Tina Orwall – co-sponsors include Mia Gregerson and Kristine Reeves) and [SB-5955](#) (prime sponsor Senator Karen Keiser, Claire Wilson is a co-sponsor). Mayor Buxton also testified supporting two bills that would help secure more public safety funding for cities like Des Moines.

Block Watch Meeting

On Tuesday January 23rd, the Des Moines Police Department will be hosting a Block Watch Party meeting from 6:30-7:30pm at the Police Department (21900 11th Ave S). This is a great opportunity for neighborhoods looking to start a block watch or revive an old one. The meeting will include information on how and why to set up a block watch group as well as current crime trends. Contact Tonya Seaberry at 206-870-7619 or tseaberry@desmoineswa.gov for more information or to sign up.

Paid Parking Update

After a several year hiatus, paid parking will be returning to the Marina and Beach Park. Installation of brand new (user-friendly) equipment will be starting next week. Paid parking provides the City with funding for additional Marina improvements. Information on rates and resident passes will be available soon. A new paid parking system is also planned for Redondo however, installation will occur at a later date.

Meetings of Interest

In addition to day-to-day administrative duties, this week I met with Mayor Buxton to discuss recent topics of interest to her as well as to discuss upcoming Council items. I met with Councilmember Harris to discuss topics of interest to him. I met with the City's Executive Leadership team to discuss ongoing and upcoming issues. I met with City staff and a representative of the Puyallup Tribe to discuss the City's pending Comprehensive Plan Update. Finally, I met with members of the Waterfront Farmer's Market Board to talk about planning and preparation for the 2024 market.

City Council Meeting Summary

The City Council did not meet this week as they generally do not meet on the third Thursday of the month. The next City Council meeting is January 25th. The agenda and materials for that meeting can be found [here](#). In addition to the Council meeting, the Economic Development Committee will be meeting at 5pm immediately prior to the Council meeting. The agenda and materials for that meeting can be found [here](#).

Sports Update

To be honest, I've been so busy this week I haven't really been tracking much in the sports world but here's what I do know. The Husky football team got a new head coach, welcome Coach Fisch! There are some great NFL playoff matches this weekend starting with the Texans v. Ravens on Saturday and taking us all the way to Sunday afternoon with Taylor Swift's Boyfriend's team v. the Bills. The Kraken play Sunday night at home against the Maple Leafs. 36 days until Spring Training.

Have a great weekend!
Tim George
Interim City Manager

