



Committee on Childcare in Minot

Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 4:30 PM

City Council Chambers, City Hall (10 3rd Ave SW)

Any person needing special accommodation for the meeting is requested to notify the City Clerk's office at 857-4752.

1. DISCUSSIONS ON RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEE AND FEEDBACK FROM CITY STAFF

City staff will be available to answer any questions from the committee on the recommendations that will be brought to City Council.

Documents:

[COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION.PDF](#)

2. DISCUSSION OF PRIORITIES OF THE COMMITTEE

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

4. RECOMMENDATIONS AND NEXT STEPS

Rianne Kuhn:

In terms of our expected action items, I think this is the recommended direction in creating a white paper submission to council:

Step-By-Step Guide

- with links, contacts and helpful information. (A one stop shop if you will since we have learned state resources are passive in promotion.)

Resource Guide

- with links, contacts and grant funding sources/organizations to assist in opening a qualified facility.

ND Development Fund

- Information distribution to current and potential Daycare operators.

Ground Leasing consideration

- If MPS move forward with any locations, how can those buildings be utilized.

I also hope there would be Magic Fund Considerations, but that to me is not a current actionable item.

Lisa Olson:

The following recommendations are based on information that was gathered during the Childcare Committee meetings as well as the current financial reality facing the City of Minot. The recommendations are not in ranked order.

1. Present our findings to the City Council with no further recommendations.
2. Create a grant program, using sales tax dollars, to incentivize current or potential childcare providers to build out spaces for infant care. The grant program would begin with \$250,000. Details of the grant program would be similar to West Fargo's program. The City Council would determine which current fund the dollars would be re-allocated from.
3. The City of Minot would collaborate with the State of North Dakota to access child care assistance dollars for City of Minot employees.
4. The City of Minot would host one "in person" event that would provide relevant information for potential childcare workers or providers regarding licensing requirements. The event would be recorded and placed on the City of Minot's website as a reference for future needs.

Shelbi Lawson:

Childcare Struggle Recommendations

1. Space for home daycares to expand. Compile a list or have a realtor perhaps that could keep a list of locations where in-home daycares could expand and move into to grow their business to open more child care spots.

2. With suggestion 1, we need to have someone local in Minot that can help that person navigate through renovations, etc. needed for their daycare space. Grants are available, but they are not easy to fill out. We need someone local that can help with this. Same with loans, they are great and available, but they are not easy to apply for. Someone that isn't already one of our licensors, as they already have a lot on their plates.

3. Employees. If we want parents to get back into the workforce, we have to provide quality care in centers (and homes) which means we need to have quality staff and pay them well (\$18-\$20/hr). Centers need assistance with these wages though. Also, continue connections with MSU and our local high schools to keep bringing young people into this field.

4. Support from local businesses. Could be donations, pay roll services, loan help, etc. I would think if it was put out there, a child care center needing some assistance, some type of business in our community would step up to help where needed.

Kelli Rosselli-Sullivan:

Here are my top recommendations:

1. Make sure that daycare centers know about and apply for property tax credits. (Ryan Kamrowski, City Assessor, will be at the next meeting to discuss this item.)
2. Create more extensive childcare bills for the next legislative session.
 - a) State to subsidize day care worker wages and offer benefits (could be a pipe dream).
3. Re-write of Magic Fund to include childcare facilities.
4. CPR/First aid run through the fire department.

Terry Schmalz:

Here are the top ideas that I would put forward.

- (Planning & Resource) - Propose an additional resource funds (whether part time/full time) to support the education, business acumen and resource guidance to prospective, upcoming, and current Child Care provider. (Similar to the Fargo set up)
- (Resourcing) - Explore further options to support workforce needs by tag teaming with Early Developmental programs similar to Caleb Heilman's approach. With incentives through possible scholarship programs with MSU
- (Planning) – With the latest proposal for the MPS Board to close McKinley/Bell Schools, potential to look at usage options for McKinley and what the options are there for affordable building use for start ups

Looks like my latest travel schedule will have me traveling the week of the next meeting, so please let me know if there is anything I can provide for follow up with to help continue to support the group.

Scott Burlingame:

1. I would like to see \$100,000 of MAGIC fund earmarked for annual distribution to childcare facilities who are looking into expand the number of children they are serving.
2. I would like to see \$50,000 of MAGIC fund earmarked for microgrants (less than \$2000 each) To be used towards reimbursement for costs associated with training and licensing of childcare employees.

3. I would like the city economic development staff to be responsible for assisting new and expanding childcare within Minot.

Amy Jenkins:

See Below recommendations:

1. Reducing Barriers through zoning, permitting, and parking.
 - a) Waive permit fees and/or provide tax credits.
 - b) Reduce parking and traffic requirements when feasible.
 - c) Evaluate current zoning and land use policies to provide more flexibility.
 - d) Designate a city employee in planning, economic development, or community development to provide consistent and accurate guidance to prospective childcare providers.
 - e) Develop a childcare start-up guide to walk prospects through the city's process and including all other partners in the project/process so the path is clear for the prospective childcare provider.
2. Partner with schools to offer space for child care providers. With our schools having open space available, being able to look at offering space to prospective providers.
3. Give tax incentives to businesses whom have space for prospective childcare providers.
4. When developing new residential areas offer incentives for encouraging the developer to include childcare space to be part of the project

Doug Diedrichsen:

I am interested in how I can work with the committee to make changes to the city's zoning code to remove barriers to home and commercial daycare facilities.

1. My only suggestions would be a comprehensive review of how the recent changes to the code have affected the market.
2. Second to look at any successes associated with those changes in the near future and consider making further changes to keep that momentum.

Bekka Oswill:

- Help licensed daycares with background checks. It takes weeks to get a ND background check back sometime. The state does not allow us to start the staff till the background check is back. I have lost 2 staff just last week due to this.

- CPR and 1st aid is \$75 per staff through trinity. It would be nice if we could help support this cost. This doesn't should like much but it adds up really fast due to turn over. The state also just put into place that all staff have to be CPR and 1st aid certified before they can start working. (It use to be they had 90 days to complete this training). It is sometimes hard to find this training, therefore making it hard to start a staff right away.

- Looking at helping centers increases their infant care spots. In my opinion and what I am seeing, infant care is where the problem still stands. 3 years old and up spots are typically available. Infant spots are nearly impossible.

In my opinion if we are going to try and develop any kind of grants for expansion we should focus on infant care.