



MANAGER'S MEMORANDUM

Prepared for: **Naperville City Council**
By: City Manager's office
10/26/2023

A. MANAGER'S MEMORANDUM

Source:

1. Marcie Schatz,
Assistant to the
City Manager

2. Marcie Schatz,
Assistant to the
City Manager

Subject:

Train spotting City Council
request

Community Survey
demographic questions

Action:

FYI

FYI

**CITY OF NAPERVILLE
MEMORANDUM**

DATE: October 20, 2023
TO: Doug Krieger, City Manager
FROM: Marcie Schatz, Assistant to the City Manager
SUBJECT: Train spotting City Council request

Purpose:

The purpose of this memo is to follow up on the request in New Business on August 15th to dedicate a space at the Naperville train station for train spotting hobbyists.

Discussion:

Trainspotting is a hobby of watching trains and seeking out distinctive characteristics including engine numbers, engine types, specific brands, timetables, track configurations, and photogenic backgrounds. As one of the most important rail centers in North America, Chicago has more lines of track radiating in more directions than any other City in America. This infrastructure makes the Chicagoland area a prime area for train spotting.

Trains magazine highlighted some of the favorite trainspotting locations in the region which had to include a variety of railroads or styles of operation; and collectively included most of Chicago's line-haul railroads. Some locations such as Homewood and Park Forest have train watching platforms, others facilitate train spotting via existing infrastructure: stations, sidewalks, parking lots, and parks.

Location	Distinctive characteristics
Blue Island Double Diamond	Double Diamond interchange, eight tracks, 90 trains per day, steel bridge background, photographable
Dolton Junction	Busy crossing with 120 trains per day, double track crossings, grade separations
Homewood	Variety of train types, Canadian National former Illinois Central main line
Park Forest Rail Fan Park	Double wye rail interchange, 32 trains a day, view of Metra electric
Joliet	Trains of seven different railroads, diamond crossings
Roosevelt Road	Multi-track routes of three lines with Chicago skyline views

Given the train traffic on the Burlington Northern railroad in addition to the variety of trains (freight and passenger), stations along the BNSF will attract some train spotting activity. However, we do not have any of the track characteristics that will raise the

attraction of the Naperville stations to the same level as Rochelle, Blue Island, or Homewood. Staff discussed potential trainspotting locations with Burlington Northern, but they declined to engage further in the discussion on identifying areas or amenities.

Recognizing there is existing interest in trainspotting along the Burlington Northern line, staff recommends providing seating amenities (benches or other seating) at the downtown station to help support this hobby. The Department of Public Works will be completing this work.

Recommendation:

Please include this response to the City Council request in the Manager's Memorandum.

**CITY OF NAPERVILLE
MEMORANDUM**

DATE: October 20, 2023
TO: Doug Krieger, City Manager
FROM: Marcie Schatz, Assistant to the City Manager
SUBJECT: Community Survey demographic questions

Purpose:

The purpose of this memo is to follow up on questions from the October 9, 2023, workshop regarding community survey demographics.

Discussion:

Two questions were raised at the workshop on October 9th regarding the community survey demographics:

Was the response from the Asian community consistent with City demographics?

As presented at the meeting, the demographics of the survey respondents were compared to those found in the 2020 Census and the 2022 American Community survey estimates for adults in Naperville. The survey data is then weighted with the primary objective to make the survey respondents reflective of the larger population of the community.

In the last census, 20.6% of the community identified as Asian. Prior to weighting, 14.1% of survey respondents identified as Asian. Survey researchers at Polco, who are experts in survey design and methodology, have indicated that 14.1% is enough to reliably weight the responses. After weighting, the data reflected 20% of respondents identifying as Asian.

Were the survey recipients reflective of the demographics of Naperville?

While the survey sample should closely resemble the demographics of Naperville as a whole, we do not know the demographic makeup of the 3,000 survey recipients since the sample is selected with a completely randomized process based on residential addresses. However, the survey response data is weighted to ensure that the results are representative of the Naperville population.

Recommendation:

Please include this in the Manager's Memorandum for distribution.