CITY MANAGER’S NOTES  
October 4, 2018

Upcoming Council Meetings

City Council will meet on **Monday, October 8, 2018**. The Study Session will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room.

City Council will meet on **Tuesday, October 9, 2018**. The Special Meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room.

City Council will meet on **Monday, October 15, 2018**. The Regular Meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Informational Items

The following attachments are in response to City Council requests, as well as other informational items.

1. Westword article; Review: Neil Goodman Retrospective Gets Back to Basics
2. Englewood Herald article: Seeking the paranormal at Englewood Library
3. Englewood Herald article: Division still plays out after recall, shakeups in Englewood
5. Calendar of Events
6. Tentative Study Session Topics
While the name of the Museum of Outdoor Arts strongly suggests that it's an institution that exclusively presents exhibits outside, such as the Robert Mangold show that's part of MOA's Sculpture on the Green series in Greenwood Village, it also maintains a nice set of indoor galleries at its home base on the second floor of the Englewood Civic Center. Both the outdoor and indoor programming components have been brought together for Close Proximately: A Retrospective of Sculpture by Neil Goodman.

Inside is a full-blown survey of the work of Chicago sculptor Neil Goodman that's basically, though not strictly, chronological. The pieces from the 1980s are vertical structures made of cast and welded bronze with horizontal shelves or levels on which vaguely representational forms have been placed. The stunning “Cage” has a decidedly Giacometti-ish vibe — not related to Giacometti's famous attenuated figures, but to his lesser-known, early surrealist work. In these Goodman sculptures, within an overall geometry of bars, conventionalized objects sit on diagonal shelves, including a bust resembling Queen Nefertiti; the angled shelves suggest a compressed perspective. “Triptych” is much flatter, essentially a three-part screen mostly made up of voids, with the sculpture serving as something of a three-dimensional drawing in space.

Beginning in the 1990s and into the 2000s, Goodman increasingly dispensed with the constraints of the frame-like structures. He received major commissions for wall sculptures, such as the one at the Leigh Block Museum of Art at Northwestern University, in which the broadly representational elements that had formerly been perched on shelves or bars were freed, and instead scattered across the wall on which they were directly mounted. At MOA, “Subjects and Objects” represents this kind of work. Cast elements, most of which suggest simplified drafting tools, along with a hyperrealist rendition of a sea creature and some other things, have been hung on the wall in an asymmetrical balance; the piece has a lighter feeling
than earlier works, with most of the overall composition nothing more than bare wall. Since Goodman likes to work in bronze, which is super-expensive, these aggregated pieces that incorporated the space between elements allowed him to work monumentally without it becoming cost-prohibitive.

Though Goodman has not abandoned doing wall pieces, the newer ones are different conceptually. Among the most complex are “Eclipse” and the related though more ambitious “Biography.” In these works, bronze elements are linked in the manner of chainmail, with the entire arrangements of forms mounted on brackets on the wall. They’re sensational, particularly “Biography.”

Goodman has also continued doing freestanding pieces, including the “Shadows and Echoes” series of silhouette shapes, which are either linear or planar; the most extensive collection of these is in a sculpture garden specially created to display them at the University of Indiana Northwest. There are many freestanding sculptures included in the gallery portion of the MOA show — don’t miss the ones in the back gallery, whose stands mirror the shapes of the sculptures — along with a group of the monumental ones in Westlands Park.

Both indoors and outdoors, the freestanding works reveal Goodman’s interest in creating playful formal relationships. In the park, the monumental “Rudder” is made up of two identical halves; a reverse outline of its contours is used as the shape of the cut-out that runs across the center of "Reach," set on a nearby rise. Unlike Goodman’s pedestal-sized sculptures, which are made of bronze, these large outdoor pieces are made of fiberglass mounted over armatures. Interestingly, the visual feeling Goodman produces with the bronzes is very close in character to what he conveys with the fiberglass ones.

This impressive exhibit reveals that while Goodman has relentlessly experimented with his formal vocabulary, going from formalism to minimalism over the course of his long career, he’s remained true to his original vision.

*Close Proximately* runs through November 17 at the MOA, located at 1000 Englewood Parkway, Englewood. The outdoor portion of the show continues through August 2019 in Westlands Park, northwest of the intersection of Orchard Road and South Quebec Street in Greenwood Village. Call 303-806-0444 or go to [moaonline.org](http://moaonline.org) for hours and additional information.
Seeking the paranormal at Englewood library

Seeking the paranormal at Englewood library

Colorado Paranormal Investigators sweep the area

Posted Monday, October 1, 2018 2:15 pm

Ellis Arnold
earnold@coloradocommunitymedia.com

Their business card reads, “We hear dead people.”

And that’s what the Colorado Paranormal Investigators set out to do at the Englewood Public Library Sept. 30, just in time for Halloween season.

“We know you’re not used to people speaking to you,” said Lee Ganey, a member of the three-piece group, seeking a response from what it says may be spirits in the building. “We’re interested in knowing who you are.”

The group came to the library before it opened to the public that Sunday, armed with equipment to pick up radio frequencies and electromagnetic signals, through which the group says it can hear ghosts.

Even for skeptics, the search provided some eerie discoveries.

One of the group’s methods is setting flashlights on a surface and seeing if they turn on — it says a spirit can light them by touch. The lights turned on a few times, and group members gave instructions to turn the lights off or on to signal a “yes” or “no” answer to their questions. Those included if a spirit remembers his or her name, or if they’re older than 10, for example.

During the search, member Dee Van Romer’s first name was called out by a spirit name Paul, whom they ran into in two rooms, the group said.

“We didn’t even think about paranormal things until we went to The Stanley Hotel and we were walking around, and we experienced things,” Ganey said of a trip 15 years ago.

Casie Hensley, another member, said she ended up with a “giant scratch down my back” she felt couldn’t be logically explained.

That trip got the group into searching for the paranormal, and it has examined places like The Broadmoor resort in Colorado Springs and the Highlands Ranch Mansion. The investigators came to the Englewood library last year, too.
Hensley has had personal experiences from a young age seeing or interacting with paranormal things, she said.

“It makes you want to keep learning more and more,” Hensley said. “You never know, you know?”

Colorado Paranormal Investigators will present information from their investigations of the library and areas around the Englewood Civic Center from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Oct. 25 at the library, 1000 Englewood Parkway. The event, featuring psychic Gina Self, is titled, “Believe in Ghosts?”
Division still plays out after recall, shakeups in Englewood

City’s path forward unclear amid election, exit of high officials

Posted Monday, October 1, 2018 2:17 pm

Ellis Arnold
earnold@coloradocommunitymedia.com

In one of the most drawn-out political rifts in recent memory in Englewood, two factions stand out in stark contrast in recent months: one claiming to push the city closer to true accountability, and others arguing that those critics contribute to a counterproductive show of theatrics.

That line in the sand appears not to be going anywhere anytime soon, particularly in the wake of a failed attempt to recall Englewood City Councilmember Laurett Barrentine — whose most visible supporters lead calls for more transparency — and the announcement by City Manager Eric Keck that he’ll step down from his position Oct. 5.

Kathleen Rinkel, director of finance and administrative services, has also decided to leave her position, officials said at a city council study session Sept. 24.

“I think Keck leaving is a good start,” said JJ Margiotta, owner of a business in Englewood and one of the most vocal critics of city officials. Margiotta, one of Barrentine’s most visible supporters, compared the situation to a “sinking ship.”

Former Councilmember Steve Yates, who supported the recall effort, said critics’ questioning of city officials amounts to “a show.”

“It’s not about gathering information,” Yates said. “It’s about creating conflict and trying to give a black eye to the city.”

Budget moves amid divisions

At the Sept. 4 city council meeting, Keck announced his exit amid what he has called a divisive few months for Englewood. Keck is Englewood’s top non-elected administrative official, who implements policy decisions made by the council.

Keck, who served as manager for four years, decided to leave to take a private-sector job in another state, he said. “Council dysfunction” was a small part of his decision, but his
resignation was influenced by his family and the opportunity to make an impact on many people in the new position, he said.

The council has begun the process to hire a temporary manager — one step in the process to finding a full replacement, which could take several months.

On top of losing the city manager, the city is without Rinkel, the finance director, during the council’s finalization of the 2019 budget, scheduled to be voted on in early October.

“There’s a huge concern not having the CFO there during the budget process,” Barrentine said in a Sept. 25 interview.

Keck disagreed, saying it’s the city manager’s responsibility to bring the budget forward based on the city’s charter — the city’s underlying legal document — and that staff has done “the heavy lifting” to prepare the budget.

“The absence of the finance director, while disappointing, has not and will not hinder the process of approving the budget,” Keck said. “The acting finance director and my office are quite capable in completing the process.” He referenced Maria Sobota, the acting director.

**Claim about inquiry**

Rinkel was caught in the sights of Margiotta’s questioning about Englewood’s financial matters. Margiotta went to Rinkel’s office Sept. 17 with papers asking for information based on policy of the Internal Revenue Service, he said. The IRS requires tax-exempt organizations, like nonprofits, to make certain information available to the public.

Margiotta said he sought three years of financial data for two nonprofit, private bodies: the Englewood Environmental Foundation and Englewood McLellan Reservoir Foundation — commonly known as “EEF” and “EMRF” — that oversee property that the city has varying degrees of control over.

Rinkel was in a meeting and wasn’t there to receive the papers, Margiotta said, but he believes she left her position because of them.

Keck said the city provided an exemption letter from the IRS and denied Margiotta’s claim.

“Mr. Margiotta can believe what he wants, but Ms. Rinkel did not leave because of his request,” Keck said. “His assertions of corruption are aimed at the era before any of the current employees’ time with the city.”

Yates argued that EEF and EMRF’s data are public information. The city’s spending on the bodies is included in the city budgets, posted on Englewood’s website.

Keck said he is not able to discuss the reasons for Rinkel’s exit, but he said staff has been working on a “succession plan” in many areas of the city government, including for the finance department, and Sobota’s position “has proven to be fortuitous” with Rinkel’s departure.

**Claims of improper actions**

The recall election that narrowly decided Barrentine would keep her seat on council Sept. 18 — by 48 votes, or 3 percentage points, according to official results Sept. 27 — saw accusations of improper conduct by city officials raised, and that pattern still continues.
Keck has still taken criticism in the wake of his resignation announcement — one Margiotta repeated is the claim Keck violated city law by spending about $236,000 in an emergency purchase. The money was spent regarding a storage-area network, a type of computer-data storage, which had reached 99 percent capacity, according to the June 18 council meeting minutes.

According to an Aug. 20 council study session document from Keck, the money for the purchase was included in 2018 funding and came from the “IT network development” and “disaster recovery system” portions of the capital projects, or infrastructure, fund. A July 19 council request — a type of research to answer council’s questions on city matters — said council can allow emergency purchases under city charter law. The city council unanimously approved the purchase June 18.

Barrentine also asserted that Keck was improperly pushing a merger of the city’s Utilities and Public Works departments, which handle drinking water, wastewater and stormwater, and city infrastructure, respectively.

Barrentine has been critical of city operations, specifically public works and utilities, Keck said.

“Toward that end, (staff has) been working on eliminating duplicative functions and efforts and ensuring that better coordination and collaboration will occur in the future through the proposed merger,” Keck said. The change requires council approval and a vote is planned for October, he said.

‘Let the dust settle’

Barrentine sees Keck’s departure as an opportunity for council to think about what direction the city should go in general.

“Keck made it clear he was a change agent, and that’s what happened: a lot of (changes),” Barrentine said. Council should evaluate which to keep and which not to, she said.

The recall election brought people’s attention to “what’s going on in Englewood,” Margiotta said.

“I think the citizens, for a long time, thought the city was working in their best interest,” Margiotta said, adding, “That’s not necessarily true.”

Keck and city staff were trying to “spoonfeed” the council to rubber-stamp what they recommend, and Barrentine asks for documentation and tries to play a more hands-on role, according to Margiotta.

The election will likely embolden Barrentine’s core supporters, Yates said. The city will likely have some staff leave because Keck “was a phenomenal leader,” Yates added.

“We’re going to have some hiccups in keeping the city a good direction” until a new manager is hired, Yates said. “I don’t think we’re gonna see the same potential growth, planning on how to take care of critical infrastructure” and matters that weren’t taken care of in the decades before Keck, he added.

Barrentine feels there’s time to “let the dust settle” rather than making knee-jerk assessments to recent developments in Englewood.
Keck said he’s “not able to answer” what the recall election means for the city going forward, but he said his objectives, such as fiscal sustainability and emergency management, are moving forward and he’s confident high-level staff will continue the path.

“What I am more concerned with is how the council will move forward,” Keck said. The “group needs to pull together and do what is right for the entire community and not a narrow band of the constituency.”

Mayor Linda Olson was hopeful for a “season of civility in the midst of difference” going forward.

“I am optimistic that the negative narrative that has crept into our public square for the past few years is being met with a desire to find common ground to build on,” Olson said, “and celebrate what is great about Englewood.”
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CITY OF ENGLEWOOD
2018 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mon., Oct 8  7:00 p.m.  City Council Study Session

Tues., Oct. 9  11:00 a.m. Mayor/Manager Meeting

CANCELLED  Water & Sewer Board, Community Development Conf. Room

5:30 p.m.  Keep Englewood Beautiful, City Council Conference Room

6:00 p.m.  Special Meeting, Community Room

7:00 p.m.  Public Library Board, Englewood Public Library, Altenbach Room

Wed., Oct. 10 CANCELLED  Englewood Urban Renewal Authority, City Council Conference Room

7:00 p.m.  Board of Adjustment and Appeals, Council Chambers

Thurs., Oct. 11  5:30 p.m. Parks and Recreation Commission, Community Development Conference Room

Mon., Oct 15  7:00 p.m. City Council Regular Meeting

Tues., Oct. 16  11:00 a.m. Mayor/Manager Meeting

7:00 p.m.  Planning and Zoning Commission, City Council Conference Room/Council Chambers

Wed., Oct. 17  5:30 p.m. Code Enforcement Advisory Committee (tentative)

6:30 p.m.  Historic Preservation Commission, Community Development Conference Room

Mon., Oct. 22  6:00 p.m.  City Council Study Session

Tues., Oct 23  11:00 a.m. Mayor/Manager Meeting

5:15 p.m.  Budget Advisory Committee, City Council Conference Room

Mon., Nov 5  2:00 p.m.  Malley Center Trust Fund, Malley Recreation Center

6:00 p.m.  City Council Regular Meeting

Tues., Nov. 6  11:00 a.m. Mayor/Manager Meeting

7:00 p.m.  Planning and Zoning Commission, City Council Conference Room/Council Chambers

Wed. Nov. 7  11:00 a.m. Liquor and Marijuana Licensing Authority Public Hearing

11:30 a.m.  Alliance for Commerce in Englewood, City Council Conference Room

4:00 p.m.  Englewood Housing Authority, EHA Board Room

10/4/18
5:45 p.m. Cultural Arts Commission, Englewood Public Library, Perrin Room

Thurs., Nov. 8
2:30 p.m. Police Officers Pension Board
3:30 p.m. Firefighters Pension Plan Board
5:30 p.m. Parks and Recreation Commission, Malley Recreation Center, 3380 S. Lincoln St.
6:00 p.m. Transportation Advisory Committee, City Council Conf. Room

Mon., Nov. 12
6:00 p.m. City Council Study Session

Tues., Nov. 13
11:00 a.m. Mayor/Manager Meeting
5:00 p.m. Water & Sewer Board, Community Development Conf. Room
5:30 p.m. Keep Englewood Beautiful, City Council Conference Room
7:00 p.m. Public Library Board, Englewood Public Library, Altenbach Room

Wed., Nov. 14
6:30 p.m. Englewood Urban Renewal Authority, City Council Conference Room
7:00 p.m. Board of Adjustment and Appeals, Council Chambers

Mon., Nov. 19
7:00 p.m. City Council Regular Meeting

Tues., Nov. 20
11:00 a.m. Mayor/Manager Meeting
7:00 p.m. Planning and Zoning Commission, Council Conference Room/Council Chambers

Wed., Nov. 21
5:30 p.m. Code Enforcement Advisory Committee (tentative)
6:30 p.m. Historic Preservation Commission, Community Development Conference Room

Mon., Nov 26
6:00 p.m. City Council Study Session

Tues., Nov 27
11:00 a.m. Mayor/Manager Meeting
5:15 p.m. Budget Advisory Committee, City Council Conference Room

Mon., Dec 3
7:00 p.m. City Council Regular Meeting

Tues., Dec. 4
11:00 a.m. Mayor/Manager Meeting
7:00 p.m. Planning and Zoning Commission, City Council Conference Room/Council Chambers

Wed., Dec. 5
11:00 a.m. Liquor and Marijuana Licensing Authority Public Hearing
11:30 a.m. Alliance for Commerce in Englewood, City Council Conference Room
4:00 p.m. Englewood Housing Authority, EHA Board Room
5:45 p.m. Cultural Arts Commission, Englewood Public Library, Perrin
TENTATIVE
STUDY SESSIONS TOPICS
FOR ENGLEWOOD CITY COUNCIL

Oct 8  Study Session
ACE Report
Budget
Police Premium
Discussion of Initiative Positions by City Council

Oct 9  Special Meeting
Interim City Manager Interviews

Oct 15  Regular Meeting

Oct 22  Study Session
Redevelopment Program Update
Comprehensive Plan Update

Oct 29  5th Monday – No Meeting

Nov 5  Study Session
Englewood Environmental Foundation

Nov 5  Regular Meeting

Nov 13  Study Session
Code Enforcement Discussion

Nov 19  Study Session
Museum of Outdoor Art Annual Update

Nov 19  Regular Meeting

Nov 26  Study Session
EEF/EMRF Discussion

Dec 3  Study Session
Museum of Outdoor Art Annual Update

Dec 3  Regular Meeting

Dec 10  Study Session

Dec 17  Council Holiday Dinner

Dec 24  Holidays

Jan 7  Regular Meeting
Jan 14  Study Session
Museum of Outdoor Art Lease Discussion

Jan 21  Regular Meeting

Jan 28  Study Session

FUTURE STUDY SESSION TOPICS

Parks Funding
Council Policy Manual Finalization
Board & Commission Presentations
Small Cell Technology Discussion
Youth Commission Discussion
Building Use Tax Discussion
Home Rule Charter Amendment Discussion
Home Rule Charter Review
ULI Healthy Corridor Report Study
Joint meeting with the Planning and Zoning Commission
Procurement Policy Discussion
After Action Report on Flooding
Citizen of the Year
Long Term Financing

Boards and Commissions
  Board and Commission Interviews (January and June)
  Alliance for Commerce in Englewood Committee
  Board of Adjustment and Appeals
  Budget Advisory Committee
  Code Enforcement Advisory Board (May)
  Cultural Arts Commission
  Election Commission
  Englewood Housing Authority (February)
  Keep Englewood Beautiful Commission (May)
  Liquor Licensing Authority
  Fire Pension, Police Pension and Retirement Board
  Parks and Recreation Commission
  Planning and Zoning Commission (February)
  Public Library Board (June)
  Transportation Advisory Committee
  Urban Renewal Authority
  Water and Sewer Board