

**MINUTES  
OF THE WORK SESSION OF THE  
EDINA CITY COUNCIL HELD AT CITY HALL  
APRIL 3, 2012  
5:35 P.M.**

Mayor Hovland called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. in the Community Room of City Hall. Answering rollcall were Members Bennett, Sprague, Swenson and Mayor Hovland. Member Brindle entered the meeting at 5:37 p.m.

Members of the Neighborhood Identification Steering Committee (NISC) in attendance included: Hope Melton, Chair, Dick Brozic, Vice Chair, Bruce Carlson, Bright Dornblaser, Laura Ericksen, Paula Harter, Bob Miller and Gene Persha.

Staff attending the meeting: Jennifer Bennerotte, Communications and Technology Services Director; Karen Kurt, Assistant City Manager and Debra Mangen, City Clerk.

Mayor Hovland explained the purpose of the meeting was to receive a progress report from the Neighborhood Identification Steering Committee.

NISC Chair Melton reviewed the progress the Committee has made to date. She gave an overview of neighborhood associations that included the purpose and benefits, identified as fostering two-way communication between neighborhoods and City government and building community through cooperative action. Ms. Melton reviewed a tentative schedule for a public engagement process that included: 1) Written Survey, 2) Introduction and information gathering meeting, 3) Meeting to review options by quadrant and gather feedback, 4) Meeting to present city-wide recommendations and gather feedback and 5) NISC makes recommendation to the City Council. This rigorous timeline would culminate with the NISC recommendation in November of 2012.

Committee members asked directions of the Council relative to the City's expectations/reasons for contemplating neighborhood associations including: what would the next steps be after neighborhood boundaries are established; what does the city envision as the scope and purpose of neighborhood associations; and how would communication be handled and support from the City administered. The discussion included a development of overall structure such as sample bylaws, budgeting for neighborhood associations, training, reaching multi-family housing buildings, community building process and how to handle areas that choose not to participate in a formal association. Considerations for neighborhood boundaries included geography, size (housing vs. population), taking care not to divide existing neighborhoods, and areas with already established associations. Concern was expressed that care be taken not to establish a framework that sets neighborhoods against other neighborhoods.

The Council thanked the Committee for the work to date and asked for updates as they begin the information gathering phase of work. They indicated they saw neighborhood associations as a means of communication, Associations would be conduits of information, fostering neighborhood security and community building. The associations will be a vehicle to share information leading to better-informed participation and public decision-making.

Mayor Hovland declared the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Minutes approved by Edina City Council, April 17, 2012.

---

Debra A. Mangen, City Clerk

---

James B. Hovland, Mayor