

**MINUTES
OF THE WORK SESSION OF THE
EDINA CITY COUNCIL AND ART CENTER BOARD MEMBERS
HELD AT CITY HALL
OCTOBER 16, 2012
5:04 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Hovland called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Answering rollcall were Members Bennett, Brindle, Sprague and Mayor Hovland. Member Swenson was absent.

Art Center Board Members in attendance included: Hafed Bouassida, Barbara La Valleur, Dana Lappin, Ray Meifert, Colin Nelson, Kitty O’Dea, Thomas Raeuchle, and John Swon. Anna Ellingboe and Melissa Stefanik, Art Center Board Student Members, were in attendance for a portion of the meeting.

Edina City Staff attending the meeting: Jennifer Bennerotte, Communications and Technology Services Director; Michael Frey, Interim Art Center Director; Ann Kattreh, Assistant Park & Recreation Director; Ari Klugman, City Manager Intern; Karen Kurt, Assistant City Manager; Debra Mangen, City Clerk; and Scott Neal, City Manager. City Consultants George Sutton, Sutton & Associates, and Eric Galatz of Leonard, Street and Deinard were also present.

Manager Neal briefly introduced the subject of the Edina Art Center (EAC) Study and turned to the consultants who made a presentation of their analysis of the Edina Art Center. Working together, Mr. Sutton and Mr. Galatz presented their review of the Art Center in the following areas: organization structure, programs and services, mission, operations and offered a comparative analysis with other art centers in the region. They outlined the possible alternative structure such as a 501(c) (3)-non-profit organization or “Friends of” 501(c) (3) model and noted the challenges with such a model. Finally, they made their recommendations which included: 1) take no action to alter current structure of EAC at present, 2) appoint EAC Director, 3) encourage director to reshape staff to more professionally address operational tasks, 4) encourage Director to broaden entrepreneurial initiatives and raise awareness of EAC in the community, 5) allow EAC to “gel” under new leadership and establish a “Friends of the EAC Fund” at the Edina Community Foundation, 6) explore with potential funders what it would take to secure their support; and 7) revisit level of interest by EAC Board to assume fundraising focus.

Following the presentation, the City Council and Art Center Board discussed various aspects of the EAC Study analysis and recommendations. It was noted the current EAC was constrained by the size, location and condition of its buildings. Opportunities may exist elsewhere in the community that will also be explored. The Council requested that the Art Center Board members solicit feedback from the community on the facility’s mission; draft recommendations based on the study and present their recommendations to the Council before the end of 2012.

Mayor Hovland declared the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra A. Mangen, City Clerk

Minutes approved by Edina City Council, November 5, 2012.

James B. Hovland, Mayor