

# Council Connection



## Upcoming meetings:

- Heritage Preservation Board, 7 p.m. April 12
- Park Board, 7 p.m. April 12
- Energy & Environment Commission, 7 p.m. April 14
- Grandview Small Area Plan Kick-off, 7 p.m. April 14
- City Council Work Session, 5 p.m. April 19

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**We'd like to hear from you ...**  
If you have any comments, call Communications & Marketing Director Jennifer Bennerotte at 952-833-9520. The text of this publication will be available online at [www.CityofEdina.com](http://www.CityofEdina.com).



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## A summary of the April 5 Edina City Council & HRA meeting

### Council hears of local gypsy moth infestation

The Council heard from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture about a gypsy moth infestation in a small area of southwest Edina.

Gypsy moth is a serious defoliator of forest, shade, fruit and ornamental trees. Gypsy moth caterpillars are voracious eaters and can strip trees of their leaves, stressing the trees sometimes to the point of death. High numbers of the caterpillars can cause a substantial public nuisance, a reduction in tree growth, branch dieback and tree death. A 136-acre area of infestation has been identified near U.S. Highway 169 and Highway 62, the majority of which is in Minnetonka.

This spring, the Department of Agriculture plans to eradicate the gypsy moth populations with an aerial application of the biological insecticide called Btk. Area property owners will receive mailed notice of the application plans and schedule.

### Council considers changes to agenda format

The Council discussed changing the format of its meeting agenda.

Based on his experience in other communities, new City Manager Scott Neal suggested a streamlined agenda. He proposed grouping the Consent Agenda items together so that those items are easier to track by all those in attendance. He also suggested grouping the perfunctory administrative actions of the Council earlier

on the agenda so that topics that interest residents be heard earlier. Council members supported those changes.

Neal also proposed "Community Comment" be held off-camera prior to the start of the meeting and that the meeting begin with the "Pledge of Allegiance." Council members said they believe it's important to televise Community Comment, but indicated a preference to have the meeting begin with it so that residents don't have to wait through what could be long public hearings to offer a comment or opinion about a general topic. Rather than the "Pledge of Allegiance," the Council will read a statement of unity.

As the Council's agenda is set by local ordinance, an amendment will be prepared for the group to consider at its April 19 meeting. The new agenda format could be used as early as May 3.

### Council approves Business Subsidy Policy

The Council approved a Business Subsidy Policy.

The Minnesota Business Subsidies Act requires cities to adopt criteria for awarding business subsidies. City Manager Scott Neal proposed a policy adapted from one that was originally produced by the League of Minnesota Cities and then modified by a number of Minnesota cities.

The purpose of a public subsidy granted to a private business is to incentivize the owners to make a positive business action it would not other-

wise do. Under the policy, each project will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, evaluated on its importance and benefit to the community from all perspectives, including job creation or retention. The City Council will conduct a public hearing in response to all requests for public subsidies.

The Council will consider a tax-increment financing policy at its next meeting.

### Council discusses proposed sports dome

The Council will meet with the Edina Board of Education later this year to discuss a proposed sports dome in the community.

A group of Edina residents wish to develop an indoor sports facility for recreational and competitive athletic activities. Representatives of the group have met with City and school district staff and interested parties from local youth athletic associations. The project advocates are interested in moving their project forward, but want to pursue a partnership with the City and school district first.

At a meeting in March, the Board of Education discussed the matter and requested several pieces of information from those leading the project. The Council agreed that the information must be obtained before a decision about a partnership can be discussed and directed staff to work with the project advocates as much as necessary to gather it. After the information is compiled, the Council will meet with the school board to discuss the proposal.