

Council Connection



Upcoming meetings:

- Planning Commission, 7 p.m. Feb. 8
- Energy & Environment Commission, 7 p.m. Feb. 9
- Heritage Preservation Board, 7 p.m. Feb. 13
- Park Board, 7 p.m. Feb. 14
- Transportation Commission, 6 p.m. Feb. 16

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We'd like to hear from you ...
If you have any comments, call Communications & Technology Services Director Jennifer Bennerotte at 952-833-9520. The text of this publication will be available online at www.EdinaMN.gov.



A summary of the Feb. 6 Edina City Council meeting

Council plans to object to Constitutional Amendment

At a work session prior to its regular meeting, the City Council was asked to take an even bigger stance on marriage equality.

The Human Rights & Relations Commission has approved a resolution opposing the proposed Constitutional Amendment to ban the legal recognition of same-sex relations and unions in Minnesota. The commission is asking the City Council to do the same.

In 2010, Edina was one of the first cities in the state to adopt a Domestic Partnership Ordinance. Today, 15 couples are registered with the City as domestic partners. Commissioners say not opposing the constitutional amendment may be seen as a step backward.

The City Councils, Human Rights Commissions or Civil Rights Departments of Minneapolis, Saint Paul and Duluth have already affirmed their opposition to the marriage amendment.

The City Council will consider the issue in March.

Sensitive to religious observances, Council considers new policy

To make sure no one is precluded from participating during decision-making processes, the City Council is working to develop a "Public Meetings and Religious Observance Policy."

The League of Women Voters of Edina approached the City's Administration Department

late last year, encouraging staff to develop a policy restricting public meetings on days of religious observance. In response, a policy was drafted and feedback solicited from the Human Rights & Relations Commission.

According to the draft policy, in addition to the holidays on which City offices are closed, City Council, board and commission meetings will not be scheduled on other major Christian, Jewish and Muslim days of religious observance with significant work restrictions.

City staff and committee and working group chairs will also be encouraged to avoid scheduling public meetings or other forums on these dates. However, special meetings called for emergency purposes would be exempt from the restriction.

Staff will continue to work on the policy and bring it back to the Council for approval at a future meeting.

Council moves toward denial of preliminary plat request

The Council did not approve a request for a preliminary plat with variances on Oaklawn Avenue.

Refined, LLC proposed subdividing the property at 6109 Oaklawn Ave. The existing home would be torn down and two new homes built on the new lots. Lot-width variances from 75 feet to 50 feet would be required for each lot, as would lot-area variances from 9,000 square feet to 6,699 and 6,693 square feet.

Several area property owners objected to the plans, citing a concern that the new homes might be out of scale.

The majority of Council members did not support the plans, so staff was directed to prepare findings of fact consistent with denial. The Council will act on those findings Feb. 21.

Council approves site plan for Primrose Day Care

The Council approved plans for a new day care center in Edina.

Children's Design Group requested a Site Plan review to develop the recently created lot at 7401 Metro Blvd. with a Primrose Day Care Center. During the final platting of this property in September of 2011, this same building was contemplated for construction on the site.

Access to the site would be off of Metro Boulevard. No new curb cut would be created. Parking for the site would be provided from the lot to the south through a shared parking arrangement. The outdoor play area would be enclosed for security, with an ornamental six-foot black picket fence. The building would be built of stone and HardiePlank lap siding with wood finish. The roof would be made of architectural asphalt shingles.

The Council unanimously approved the site plan.