

REPORT / RECOMMENDATION



To: MAYOR & COUNCIL

Agenda Item #: IX. A.

From: Debra Mangen
City Clerk

Date: March 18, 2014

Subject: Correspondence

Action
Discussion
Information

Action Requested:

No action is necessary.

Attachment:

Attached is correspondence received since the last Council meeting.

Heather Branigin

From: Linda Forret <laforret@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 04, 2014 4:45 PM
To: Edina Mail; jonibdnnett12@comcast.net; mbrine@comcast.net;
joshsprague@edinarealty.com; swensonann1@gm.com
Subject: Fred Richards Golf Course

My name is Linda Forret and a resident of St. Louis Park.

As a rep for our golf team, I am informing you of our support for Fred Richards golf course.

We are a team of 30-40 women who have a league and have used this course for a number of years.

If the course is closed we will be taking our team to another course and it will not be Braemar.

The Park Board has missed the point on why it should keep the course open and the golfer it attracts to go there.

In the last meeting it was stated that 50% of the players from Fred would go to Braemar.

WHERE DID THEY GET THAT NUMBER?

In the last meeting it was stated a survey results said Fred was the least used public place in Edina.

WHEN WAS THE SURVEY, WHO WAS IT SENT TO? Hmmm, did they send it to those outside of Edina? Golf is declining so hmmm maybe the results are not very valid.

I have several other points that should be challenged and hopefully will come up in the meeting tonight.

Heather Branigin

From: Susan Soule <su1b3so@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 04, 2014 5:06 PM
To: Ann Swenson; Josh Sprague; Mary Brindle (Comcast); Joni Bennett; Edina Mail
Subject: Fred Richards Concerns
Attachments: Dear Mayor Hovland.doc

Dear Mayor Hovland and City Council Members,

Attached is a letter of concern in regard to the proposed changes for Fred Richards Golf Course. I hope you will consider the information and opinions I have included.

Thank you very much,

Susan Soule
Edina, MN

Dear Mayor Hovland and City Council Members,

First of all, thank you, Mayor Hovland, for attending the community meeting at Braemar. Our neighborhood residents appreciate your respect and openness to our strong concerns. Many of us feel there has been a rush to judgment and a lack of transparency in regard to the Fred Richards issue and are grateful for your responsiveness.

I personally am troubled by the impression that more heed is paid to developers than is paid to long-term residents who have been supporting the city with their hard-earned tax dollars for decades. We chose to live here because of the quality of life including excellent schools, good parks and easy access to the urban core without the density and bustle of same. I feel this quality is being compromised.

John Valliere, Business then General Manager of Braemar Golf Course for over 40 years of its near 50-year existence, kindly provided information and insight into the courses' development over the years. His document was, in his words, written to "enlighten residents and inform present decision makers of the remarkable improvements that were made with course revenues and without tax funding ... [but with] the city council, park board and staff...instrumental in the decision making process" (underlining my own). I feel his comments bear additional weight in light of his experience as past-president of the Minnesota Golf Association and 20 years as Committeeman for the United States Golf Association. Any error or facts I attribute to my own misinterpretation.

From his review, I found certain points of special interest:

- 1) "The Richards course was paid for by the golfers at Braemar." In fact, Braemar has a history of fiscal integrity and cooperation. Of the original land costs of \$500,000 for the Braemar Golf Course and Arena, the golf course half was paid for by the course while the \$250,000 for the Ice Arena was forgiven by the City Council and, for a period, profits of \$75,000 from the golf dome were transferred to the Arena.

As Braemar play declined, bond costs were growing, but a request by Mr. Valliere to rebond while bond rates were favorable was denied and "[l]iquor... monies were transferred in to help bridge until the bonds were retired in 2013. It was understood that these funds should be repaid when revenues rebounded."

- 2) "Do not forget the Richards course is now paid for and greens fees are approaching a point where it may become a profit center."

What are the costs to taxpayers of converting Fred Richards to a park or other green space?

Where would the revenue come from to maintain it in its new form?

- 3) "Next you have the loss to the community of a beginner/seniors course that serves both Edina and Richfield."

This is important in two ways,

First, as resident Mike Welbaum pointed out to city and park board leaders in his letter of February 4th, the "'Proposed Changes' claim that 'no golfers will be displaced' is unsupported and naïve...at best. New, young, casual and senior golfers have little interest in hilly [and challenging] terrain... It is unlikely that all of these clients will...[transfer] to Braemar as assumed."

Secondly, the continuance of Fred Richards, by allowing young and casual golfers to gain confidence and skills, will provide a feeder system for the ongoing success of Braemar.

- 4) Braemar has just "experienced a perfect storm of unending rain, a golf dome burning down, and fairways that came out of winter essentially dead" resulting in an atypical reduction in revenue.

As we all know, figures can be massaged to support different ends. To make major changes based on the most recent figures is unwise. The return of the dome in addition to increased revenues from the proposed improvements to the already-popular driving range provide a much different picture.

- 5) "With some dedicated marketing, I believe the revenues could be grown considerably. This should be approached with marketing people who KNOW GOLF. The same marketing efforts could apply at Braemar [as well as Fred Richards]."

In sum, Fred Richards is a community resource that is paid for and has a revenue stream in place that is close to becoming a profit center. In Mr. Valliere's informed opinion, the revenues could grow considerably with experienced golf marketing.

Any changes to the Richards space and ongoing maintenance thereof will have their own costs. Who will pay for them?

Fred Richards was paid for by revenue from Braemar golfers and can in turn be a feeder system that contributes to Braemar's long-term success. Braemar as a whole is a vital part of the community. It has contributed excess revenues to other city interests in the past while receiving help in turn.

Richards is a special resource for young and old alike. It is a good neighbor for those of us who live nearby, an amenity that influenced our reasons for buying here. I am sure there are many in Edina like my husband and myself who have never had a child in the Edina Schools, who have never set foot on the ice at Braemar arena or used the ever-expanding athletic fields and facilities. Yet we have supported them through our votes and our tax dollars because we believe they contribute to the overall quality of life here.

We would appreciate it if you would respect our contributions and our opinions about what we think makes our community special.

Sincerely,

Susan Soule
West Shore Drive
Edina, MN

Heather Branigin

From: cbrimacombe@comast.net
Sent: Tuesday, March 04, 2014 7:54 PM
To: Edina Mail
Subject: Contact Us form submission

Name: Connie Brimacombe

Organization:

Website:

Address_1:

Address_2: 4413 Rutledge Ave.

City: Edina

State: MN

Zip_Code: 55436

Email: cbrimacombe@comast.net

Phone: 9529266206

Referrer:

Message: Mayor James Hovland, You are invited to a meeting. Room Request The request is saved for:
Contact: Connie Brimacombe At: Edina Room: F. Scott Fitzgerald Room 220 Date(s): Thursday, March 20,
2014 Time: 1:30 PM to 2:00 PM The request confirmation number is HLWDKCO A casual presentation with a
few minutes for dialoge at the end. My caring heart for the students and staff of Edina Public Schools.

Heather Branigin

From: Robert <robertstout@centurylink.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2014 1:31 AM
To: Edina Mail
Subject: March 4th council meeting

Dear Council members,

I first want to say that I truly appreciate and thank you for the time and effort you all put in to your work for the City of Edina.

I attended the meeting as a member of Save the Fred and a course border resident. As a fiscal conservative I can't deny the financial problems facing the city's golf operations and understand the need for addressing the issue. I'm not a numbers person and can't speak to the details explained by the staff so I was getting pretty down during the presentation. I was then pleased to see the response from the representatives for the residents. The data they put forth indicates to me that this is not a cut and dry issue at this time. In the end closing Fred Richards may be the best option however that is not fully proven to me yet.

Rumors of closing Fred Richards had been around since June of 2013. I expected discussions would be forth coming. I, as a resident, was not officially informed that there were major financial problems with the golf operations until January 2014. That official notice was "Close Fred Richards" and there is less than 30 days before the vote. Shell shock! If the residents had been brought into the loop by the city staff earlier in the process there would be no rumors and no suspicion of the Council and the Pentagon development.

Back to March 4th. It appeared a delay in the decision to close Fred Richards so staff and resident discussions could take place was gaining ground. Council member Sprague then said he's not willing to wait as the financial situation has been going on for years. That voiced opinion is disingenuous and attempts to quash the well-reasoned and thought out presentations by the residents. I ask the remaining Council members to vote to extend the life of Fred Richards Golf Course to allow that discussion to take place. If those discussions still indicate closing Fred Richards is the best solution, so be it. The residents will have had our chance to discuss not just comment. That is the American way, in my opinion.

Thank you,
Robert Stoutenburgh
7449 W Shore Dr.
Edina, MN 55435



This email is free from viruses and malware because [avast! Antivirus](#) protection is active.

Heather Branigin

From: Pat Manion <pmanion@originalmktg.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2014 7:45 AM
To: Pat Manion; jonibennett12@comcast.net; Edina Mail; Mary Brindle (Comcast); joshsprague@edinarealty.com; swensonann1@gmail.com
Subject: RE: Braemar Golf operation

Good Morning,

Unfortunately, I was not able to attend last evening because of a client dinner but I did catch some of the meeting on Channel 16. Some further thoughts:

- Last week I was seated next to Wayne Kostroski on a flight to Phoenix. I believe you all know that Wayne has been an Edina resident and has owned Tejas and Franklin Street Bakery. When I told him that the City planned to outsource the Braemar Grill and make \$100,000 { from not making any money currently } over the next 5 years. He laughed. I would be happy to put " staff" in touch with Wayne or Rick Webb or Larry D'Amico to get their input. I am just guessing they have not been asked for an opinion when both Wayne and Rick live in Edina.
- If Fred does not make any money why not OUTSOURCE it to someone who can. Has the City asked Dave Mooty { I heard his letter read last night} if he would be interested in taking over Fred and have a revenue sharing with the City? I am quite sure " staff " has not looked into out sourcing The Fred.
- I heard Mayor Hovland speak to selling the Clunie 9 to a developer to build homes . PURE genius. Have you talked to Midland Hills in St. Paul? They were struggling and sold off some land to a developer to build townhouses. They took that money and build a brand new clubhouse and renovated the entire course. I know the President of Midland Hills { John Hamburger... yes real name} and would be happy to put " staff " in touch.
- I read in today's Star Trib that the soccer dome//outdoor rink project is 2M over estimates because of unforeseen causes. Where these previous estimates done by " staff " ? If yes, how can you or the Citizens believe their numbers on the Braemar Golf Operations?
- The entire Braemar Golf Operations scenario looks like.....the purchase of Edina Realty Building, the bike lanes painted on Wooddale and the eminent domain of the Hootens Cleaners building.... Ready, fire aim.

Please delay your March 18th vote to close Fred. Form a " staff and citizen's committee and figure out a way to totally improve the financials and experience of golfing in Edina. There are many retired CFO's and CEO's and others that are brilliant business people. If you asked for volunteers to form a committee I think you would be amazed by the response and talent.

From: Pat Manion
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2014 8:06 AM
To: 'jonibennett12@comcast.net'; 'mail@EdinaMN.gov'; 'mbrindle@comcast.net'; 'joshsprague@edinarealty.com'; 'swensonann1@gmail.com'
Subject: Braemar Golf operation

Good Morning,

As a matter of public record I have taken a "few dollars" off of Mayor Hovland on Braemar Golf Course. Of course, I suppose a lot of residents could say that. For the record, I no longer play golf at Fred Richards or Braemar. My 3 son's sometimes do. I did attend the Golf Course operation meeting that was presented by Scott Neal. Observations// solutions are as follows:

- Agreed that golf course rounds are down and so are revenues. Has anyone { staff, who are these people. They were referred to at least 20 times during the meeting } looked at the horrible weather and the fact the golf dome has been down for two years?
- Have you all read this weekend's Star Tribune article on Keller Golf Course ? You could certainly substitute Braemar Golf in the article. Yes, the club house and course and range are VERY tired. The current band aid solution is NOT the correct solution.
- The majority of you { not Joni Bennett } just passed a 13 Million dollar bond to pay for outdoor hockey, soccer dome etc. I am ALL for that even though our 3 son's are almost out of Edina.
- Why don't all of you put up another 13M bond { put it to vote and I believe it will pass } to upgrade the entire City of Edina Golf Operations. We were told the 13M bond was only cost \$60 per household. Another \$60 per household would pass with flying colors.
- With 500 acres to work with and 13M to proceed the City could build a brand new clubhouse ,driving range and redesign the golf course to bring it all up to the 2014 standards and beyond.
- All of the leagues and youth would move over to Fred and the architect could use all of acreage at Braemar to build a world class golf experience. It could be the best public venue in the state if you do it right.
- There is no need to close Fred { yes, it does make money } unless of course the City has already cut a deal with Hillcrest Development.
- Edina CC just completed a 3.5 M course renovation. Because of this there is currently a waiting list to join and the rounds are up . Braemar would be the same scenario.

Do not close Fred. Move all leagues young and old over there. Tune up a "tired" Braemar Golf Course, driving range and clubhouse. Take it to the citizens of Edina to vote!!!

Patrick Manion
6121 Crescent Dr.
 Edina ,MN.55436

Cell: 612-750-4017
Phone: 952-941-2530
Fax: 952-941-6566

Heather Branigin

From: James <jbjenk01@msn.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2014 7:48 AM
To: James Hovland
Subject: Re: Fred Richards - Comments from a Edina Golfer

Good morning Mayor Hovland,
Thank you for how you chaired the Council meeting last night. The Edina Golf Operations discussion is clearly an emotional issue and staying objective is a challenge for all of us. My concern from the beginning, starting at the January meeting, was that the assumptions underlying the decision to include closing Fred Richards as a firm decision as a condition of moving forward with preserving what everyone believes is a true asset to the city were not well developed. The result was a set of numbers that biased the decision in a way that did not make sense from a pure business perspective. Your questions and comments last night indicated to me you have some of the same concern. My disappointment last night was that the Staff was not professional enough to acknowledge that making a soft close decision and revisiting their assumptions without delaying the whole program is the right thing to do at this time. I still believe there is no financial risk to the city of taking this approach and hope you and the council will agree. Assuming that we will have a new and improved par 3 course at Braemar anytime before very late in the 2015 golf season is totally unrealistic in my opinion. I would love to believe it, but to build the plan on that assumption is not a risk I would take as a business man.
Thanks again for keeping an open mind and really listening to what I think we are all trying to communicate.

Jim Jenkins

Home 952.944.3382

Cell 612.799.8045

Email jbjenk01@msn.com

----- Original Message -----
From: [James Hovland](mailto:James.Hovland@edina.gov)
To: 'James'
Sent: Tuesday, March 04, 2014 2:23 PM
Subject: RE: Fred Richards - Comments from a Edina Golfer

You are welcome and have a wonderful rest of your day!



<!--[if !vml]--><!--
[endif]-->

Lynette Biunno, Receptionist

952-927-8861 | Fax 952-826-0389
lbiunno@EdinaMN.gov | www.EdinaMN.gov

...For Living, Learning, Raising Families & Doing Business

From: James [<mailto:JBJENK01@msn.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 04, 2014 2:15 PM
To: James Hovland
Subject: Re: Fred Richards - Comments from a Edina Golfer

Thank you for taking the time to read and forward my email. I am a proud Edina resident who only wants what best for the city. I hope my input will help make what is an important decision.

Jim Jenkins

Home 952.944.3382

Cell 612.799.8045

Email jbjenk01@msn.com

----- Original Message -----

From: James Hovland

To: 'James'

Sent: Tuesday, March 04, 2014 2:09 PM

Subject: RE: Fred Richards - Comments from a Edina Golfer

Dear Jim,

Thank you for your interest in the City of Edina.

I have forwarded your message to the Mayor and Council members, City Manager Scott Neal and Parks and Recreation Director, Ann Kattreh.

If I can be of additional assistance to you please contact me.



<!--[if !vml]--><!--[if !vml]--><!--[endif]--><!--
[endif]-->

Lynette Biunno, Receptionist

952-927-8861 | Fax 952-826-0389

lbiunno@EdinaMN.gov | www.EdinaMN.gov

...For Living, Learning, Raising Families & Doing Business

From: James [<mailto:JBHENK01@msn.com>]

Sent: Monday, March 03, 2014 4:32 PM

To: James Hovland

Subject: Fred Richards - Comments from a Edina Golfer

Dear Mayor Hovland:

We have met on a few occasions including Ron Way's annual get together. As a long time golfer and member at Braemar since 1984, I appreciate playing Braemar weekly as well as a variety of other golf courses on occasion. I have watched the course decline in quality in the last 10-12 years relative to other premier golf courses in the Twin Cities and surrounding area. Braemar is a tremendous asset to the community and to golfers who do not want to drive 20-50 miles to play a premier course. My personal view is that the decline in play over the last 10 years is heavily influenced by the quality of the course and restoring the course to its past condition will result in many more rounds than has been forecasted in the financials presented in the report prepared by staff. Braemar saves 1-3 hours of time to golfers who now drive a long distance to play a quality course. The recent policy of allowing patrons who live outside of Edina will also make a difference in the rounds played if the course and driving range are brought back to their prior quality.

Regarding Fred Richards, I am disappointed in how this whole matter has been handled. My personal review of the assumptions and financials associated with the decision to close Fred in 2015 makes no sense to me. If implemented as proposed we will have no executive or par 3 course in 2015. My personal analysis of this convinces me that Fred Richards, on an operations basis excluding the debt payback, has not been a drain on the budget and in fact it has made money over the last several years. The debt is now paid. I also believe it has the potential to compliment the overall golf operations plan from a vision of golf and financial perspective. In the proposed plan closing Fred Richards will mean people who have been playing the executive courses at both venues will be driven to another course and potentially lost as future patrons. It also means the revenue from both courses will be lost. If properly promoted and managed this could translate to a positive profit and cash flow contribution to the overall upgrade program in 2015 and beyond. In any case deferring the decision to close Fred in 2015 does not add any financial risk to the process and appears to be a prudent business decision.

Everyone, including the Save Fred Richards group, clearly wants the council to approve the improvement program. **It would be a win/win for all of us** if the decision to close Fred was deferred and

reconsidered as part of the overall Edina golf master plan that is scheduled to be developed over the next several months.

Jim Jenkins

Home 952.944.3382

Cell 612.799.8045

Email jbjenk01@msn.com

Heather Branigin

From: Lynette Biunno
Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2014 10:13 AM
To: Scott Neal; Ann Kattreh
Subject: FW: The Fred Richards golf course.

Good morning,

This message has been forwarded to the Mayor and Council members, Scott Neal and Ann Kattreh.

For the latest information on the department that builds community through people, parks and programs, check out our [blog](#).

From: Jackie Hoogenakker
Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2014 9:14 AM
To: Janet Canton
Subject: FW: The Fred Richards golf course.



Jackie Hoogenakker, Administrative Support Specialist

952-826-0465 | Fax 952-826-0389

4801 W. 50th St. | Edina, MN 55424

JHoogenakker@EdinaMN.gov | www.EdinaMN.gov

...For Living, Learning, Raising Families & Doing Business

From: Bernadette Daly [<mailto:bndaly60@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Monday, March 03, 2014 4:13 PM
To: Jackie Hoogenakker
Subject: The Fred Richards golf course.

As a resident of Sedum Lane whose property backs on to the Fred Richards golf course I urge the council to table this consideration until all residents have had a chance to have their concerns addressed. An alternative thoughtful proposal has been presented to the Mayor and the council members by our concerned group. I urge you to read it carefully and consider the very valid points it makes.

Bernadette Daly.

Heather Branigin

From: Doug Nelson <dnelson@theminikahdaclub.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2014 1:50 PM
To: Edina Mail
Subject: Hovland/Neal

Gentlemen

Is it possible to obtain a copy of the Golf Operations budget for 2014?

I thought the Meeting last night was quite informative. I was only surprised in that the Golf Staff was not represented yet they are the ones to carry out the work. (at least I would think so)

Thank you for your time.

Doug Nelson
6117 Oaklawn Ave
Golf Professional
The Minikahda Club

Heather Branigin

From: Phomtalikhith, Pounnaphone <Pounnaphone.Phomtalikhith@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2014 5:43 PM
To: Edina Mail
Subject: Congressman Ellison's March 17th Event

Dear Mayor Hovland:

This is a friendly reminder following up on a letter sent to you by Congressman Keith Ellison about an informational meeting on public safety and immigrant populations. The meeting will be held on **Monday, March 17, 2014, from 2:00-3:30 p.m. at the Golden Valley City Council Chamber, 7800 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, MN 55427.**

We hope to have the pleasure of your company for this discussion. For questions or to RSVP, please contact me or Aya Johnson at aya.johnson@mail.house.gov. We can also be reached by phone at (612) 522-1212. Congressman Ellison looks forward to seeing you on Monday, March 17.

Sincerely,
Pounnaphone Phomtalikhith, Intern
Office of Congressman Keith Ellison (MN-05)
2100 Plymouth Ave North
Minneapolis, MN 55411
Office: (612) 522-1212
E-mail: pounnaphone.phomtalikhith@mail.house.gov
Website: www.ellison.house.gov
[E-Newsletter](#) - [Twitter](#) - [Facebook](#) - [Flickr](#) - [YouTube](#)

This message (including any attachments) is intended only for the use of the person(s) to whom it is addressed, and may contain information that is privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If you receive this communication in error, please notify me immediately by email, telephone or fax and delete the original from your records. Thank you.

Heather Branigin

From: Paul Zdechlik <paulzdechlik@usfamily.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2014 5:28 AM
To: Edina Mail; jonibennett12@comcast.net; Mary Brindle (Comcast);
joshsprague@edinarealty.com; swensonann1@gmail.com
Subject: Fred Richards consideration

Hello all:

In the city council meeting, the mayor brought up that the city had previously hired a consultant for this issue, and none of their recommendations included closing the Fred. I liked the mayor suggesting the idea of selling the Klune nine at Braemar for some housing lots. Klune is a difficult nine holes that most golfer don't like. I would guess the profits from the sale would pay for upgrading the driving range. Braemar and the Fred. Edina is lucky in that many young families want to live here for the schools and quality of the city's amenities. I can't take my kids to the executive course to learn how to play golf. It is too competitive and fast. Fred is a great asset. Please keep it for the future of Edina. Maybe this isn't about the Pentagon Park plan, but it does seem rushed. This needs thoughtful consideration of all options to improving the golfing experience and building Edina golf into a self-sustaining entity.

Thank you,
Paul Zdechlik

Heather Branigin

From: chetfunk@gmail.com on behalf of Chet Funk <chet.funk@mycafeinc.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2014 10:45 AM
To: Edina Mail
Subject: Thank You from Cafe Inc

To Mayor Hovland and the Edina City Council Members,

It was an honor to have Mayor Hovland join us in cutting the ribbon at Cafe Inc this past month. As we have now established our operations, Cafe Inc would enjoy extending our meeting spaces to the City of Edina at no cost to your team. In the event your group is looking for a productive space to meet offsite, Cafe Inc would be happy to host any City of Edina team members on a regular basis.

Thank you again for welcoming our company to the City, and we look forward to working with you all in the near future!

Many Regards,

Chet Funk

General Manager | Cafe Inc.™ | Work Brilliantly™ | m: 651.332.0366
MyCafeInc.com | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Facebook](#)

[Watch a Video Overview of Cafe Inc](#)

Heather Branigin

From: Larisa Jenrich <jenri001@umn.edu>
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2014 11:44 AM
Subject: Save-the-Dates for Linking Land Use to Clean Water workshops exclusively for local community leaders!
Attachments: LandUse-SavetheDate.pdf

City council members, planning commissioners, park board members, watershed advisory board members, and other community leaders –

An invitation for you to participate in a series of opportunities to enhance your knowledge about the connections of land use, land management, and clean water resources in your community and learn about the tools and resources available to assist you in your leadership roles.

2014 Linking Land Use to Clean Water workshops include **May 8, May 14, July 23, and September 25**. See the attached postcard for more information. Workshop details and registration will be available around April 1. Information will be sent to you via email or your city staff may have printed material to provide for you. You may also check the NEMO website for details <http://northlandnemo.org/programs.html> by date of the workshop offering.

These opportunities are being brought to you through the University of Minnesota in partnership with Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission, Carver Water Management Organization, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, Nine Mile Creek Watershed District, and the Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek Watershed District.

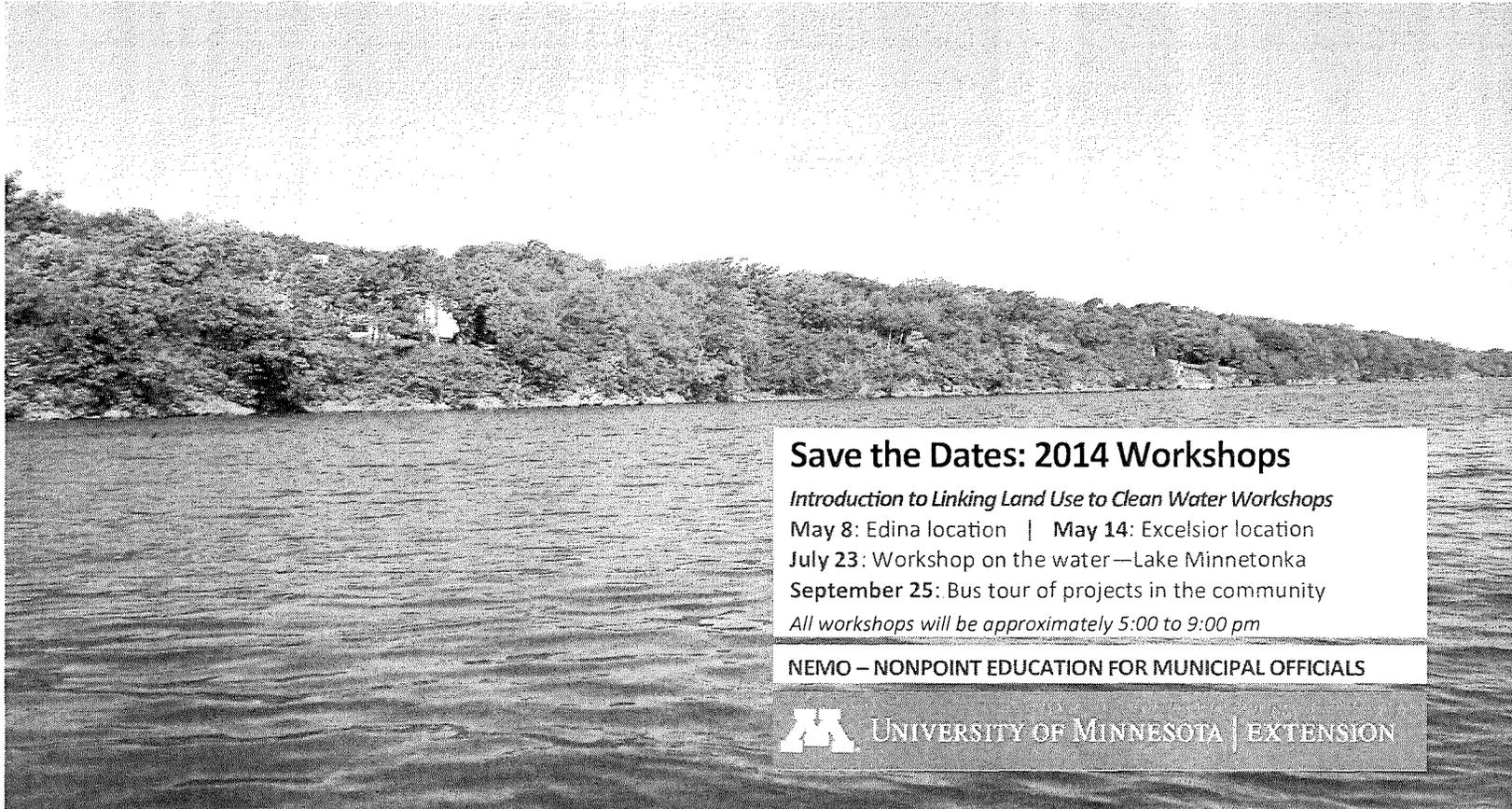
Sent on behalf of the University of Minnesota Extension NEMO program

--

Larisa Jenrich
University of Minnesota Extension
651-480-7732

Linking Land Use to Clean Water

Making the Connection for Community Leaders



Save the Dates: 2014 Workshops

Introduction to Linking Land Use to Clean Water Workshops

May 8: Edina location | May 14: Excelsior location

July 23: Workshop on the water—Lake Minnetonka

September 25: Bus tour of projects in the community

All workshops will be approximately 5:00 to 9:00 pm

NEMO – NONPOINT EDUCATION FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA | EXTENSION



Linking Land Use to Clean Water – Making the Connection for Community Leaders

An invitation to elected and appointed officials including city council members, planning commission members, park board members, watershed advisory board members, and other city and community leaders.

The May 8th and May 14th (5:00—9:00 pm) workshops will provide recent science and information on: **the connections between land use decisions and the management of stormwater runoff, impervious surfaces, and nonpoint source pollutants; available technical and financial resources; and groundwater concerns facing Minnesota communities.**

Communities invited include:

Belle Plaine	Bloomington	Carver	Chanhassen	Chaska
Cologne	Crystal	Deephaven	Eden Prairie	Edina
Excelsior	Golden Valley	Greenwood	Hopkins	Independence
Laketown Township	Long Lake	Maple Plain	Mayer	Medina
Medicine Lake	Minneapolis	Minnetonka	Minnetonka Beach	Minnetrista
Mound	New Germany	New Hope	Norwood Young America	Orono
Plymouth	Richfield	Robbinsdale	Shorewood	Spring Park
St. Bonifacius	St. Louis Park	Tonka Bay	Victoria	Waconia
Watertown	Wayzata	Woodland		

Workshops presented by University of Minnesota in cooperation with:

Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission, Carver Water Management Organization, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, Nine Mile Creek Watershed District and the Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek Watershed District

More information and registration available after April 1st

www.northlandnemo.org

Heather Branigin

From: Frazell, Kevin <KFrazell@lmc.org>
Sent: Friday, March 07, 2014 10:25 AM
To: 'pattyacomb@yahoo.com'; 'kj.anderson3311@gmail.com';
'gbarone@eminnetonka.com'; 'jonibennett12@comcast.net';
'mbilderback@rochestermn.gov'; Brede, Ardell; Mary Brindle (Comcast);
'timbusse@hotmail.com'; 'ashley.fairbanks@minneapolismn.gov';
'jconsidine@city.mankato.mn.us'; Annie Coyle; 'mayor@ci.rosemount.mn.us';
'jane.eastwood@ci.stpaul.mn.us'; Frazell, Kevin; 'edwinagarcia44@gmail.com'; Goettel,
Debbie; 'smarschall@cityofapplevalley.org'; 'smarschall@ci.apple-valley.mn.us';
'jimhamilton@pacemn.com'; 'patharris1@comcast.net'; Edina Mail;
'thowe@coonrapidsmn.gov'; 'eiago@cityofwsp.org';
'dave.jacobsen@newbrightonmn.gov'; 'andrew.johnson@minneapolismn.gov'; Johnson,
Marvin; 'pjj37@comcast.net'; Johnson, Shaunna; 'mitchell.kilian@mspmac.org';
'dklint@coonrapidsmn.gov'; 'jkoch@coonrapidsmn.gov';
'jeanette.clawson@ci.owatonna.mn.us'; 'Jeffrey.Lunde@brooklynpark.org';
'sandrameans@charter.net'; Miller, Jim; 'suzie.nakasian@ci.northfield.mn.us'; Scott Neal;
'joleson@BloomingtonMN.gov'; 'john.quincy@minneapolismn.gov';
'chuckrepke@aol.com'; 'michael.schultz@bhshealth.org'; 'tom.smith@ci.stpaul.mn.us';
'joshsprague@edinarealty.com'; 'staver.randy@rochestermn.gov'; 'ward2
@ci.stpaul.mn.us'; 'ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us'; 'mike.trepanier@brooklynpark.org';
Verbrugge, Jamie; 'abdi.warsame@minneapolismn.gov';
'Jeff.Weisensel@ci.rosemount.mn.us'; 'swells@coonrapidsmn.gov';
'votewojcik@gmail.com'; 'jzanmiller@cityofwsp.org'
Subject: Update on LMC March 12 Capitol Hill Meeting

Good Friday Morning – Hope this e-mail finds you on your way (or at least packing your bags) for the trip to Washington. I’m already here and its 39 degrees, but to make you feel better by Tuesday the temperatures are promised to be near 70!

Just wanted to give you a quick update that confirmations for members of the MN Congressional delegation to join us at our Library of Congress meeting on Wednesday morning continue to come in and we’ll have a full schedule. Congressman Walz will be the first to arrive right around 8:30 and Senator Franken will be near the end, arriving at around 10:15, with several others packed in between. So once again, do plan to arrive early and stay as late as you possibly can.

And if you didn’t catch it in my earlier memo, you CAN bring luggage with you to the Wednesday meeting. Security at the Library of Congress is much easier than in some of the other buildings as long as you don’t have any “dangerous weapons” – knives, guns – tucked in your bag. And our very large meeting room has ample space in the back to discreetly stash a bag.

See you soon,

Kevin

Kevin Frazell, ICMA-CM
Director of Member Services

Tel: (651) 281-1215 | Fax: (651) 215-4104

Cell: (651) 303-6034

kfrazell@lmc.org | www.lmc.org

League of Minnesota Cities

145 University Ave. West

St. Paul, MN 55103

Heather Branigin

From: Hunzelman, Nick <Nick.Hunzelman@cnfinternational.com>
Sent: Friday, March 07, 2014 3:17 PM
To: jonibennett12@comcast.net; Edina Mail; Mary Brindle (Comcast);
joshsprague@edinarealty.com; swensonann1@gmail.com
Cc: Hunzelman, Nick
Subject: City Council and Fred Richards

Council Members & Mayor,

I attended the council meeting that was held earlier this week. I strongly urge you to delay your decision to close Fred Richards and instruct the city manager to expand research into the state of Edina golf to include other options that are available. The report submitted to the city and presented to the council members was not at all a deep comprehensive investigative dive as described by Scott Neal. It was simply a justification to close Fred Richards.

You as council members are challenged to find a solution for the golf issues in Edina. To create and offer solutions you must explore all aspects of the issue. To date, you have failed in your investigation because your scope is so limited to closing a popular golf course that is maintaining a break even golf course. To add further problems the original 6 point plan presented back in January's Park Board meeting was changed prior to this week's council meeting to include a \$500,000 irrigation expense for 2025 and some meager attempt to respond to the junior female golfers that would be forced paly at a the larger more intimidating Braemar course. Comprehensive, deep dive investigations do not change in 40 days of original submittal.

Without a larger scope and more options, the city council, the city manager and most importantly the residents of Edina will forever doubt the decisions to close Fred Richards and all future financial decisions.

Each of you have a responsibility to the city to improve on your actions specific to this issue.

Nick Hunzelman
7461 West Shore Drive
Edina Mn 55435

Heather Branigin

From: Marie Sullivan <mariesullivan87@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 07, 2014 4:35 PM
To: Edina Mail; Joni Bennett; Mary Brindle (Comcast); Scott Neal; Josh Sprague; ann swenson; Cary Teague
Subject: Pentagon Park / Fred Richards
Attachments: Pentagon Park Fred Richards letter.docx

Dear Mayor, City Council Members, Planning Director and City Manager,

I have attached a letter I wrote for you explaining my concerns for my neighborhood regarding the Pentagon Park/ Fred Richards Golf Course development proposals. I hope you will have time to read it! Thank You!

Sincerely,
Marie Sullivan (4512 Hibiscus Ave., Edina)

March 7, 2014

Dear Mayor, City Council Members, Planning Director and City Manager,

Please consider my concerns about the Pentagon Park/ Fred Richards development.

1). Height and evening light pollution. A few years ago when another Pentagon Park development was proposed, much time and effort went into protecting our neighborhood and minimizing the height of any new structures. Not only was height limited, but the tallest of the allowed buildings were to be located at the end of the property closest to Hwy. 100 where they would have the least impact on single family homes. My biggest concern is that height and lighting will devalue our neighborhood. Please stand up to the acrimonious developers who do not care about our neighborhood homes and families. Please limit the location and height of any new buildings!

2). Holding Pond for Developers a bad idea. Turning Fred Richard's into a holding pond for the development would also hurt our neighborhood property values and desirability. We would be the only quadrant in Edina not to have a golf course. Also, a large body of water would be a safety hazard for many neighborhood children, especially those from the apartments who often lack the ability to swim. Holding ponds often smell terrible!

3). Adding to current neighborhood problems. Before we remove a neighborhood amenity, we should take into account the detractions it buffers. Our neighborhood endures a lot of noise and air pollution from 494, Hwy 100, Seagate and airline traffic! Road traffic noise is 24 hours continuous. Automated announcements at the Seagate plant often wake us up at 1:00 and 3:00 am! Recent maps published in the StarTribune showed most pathways going over our part of the city! When the city supported the Country Club area in fighting the re-routing of flights, I felt bad because it seemed no one cared about the heavy traffic we now get over our part of the city that would have been relieved if the new plan went into action. If the city wants to protect other Edina neighborhoods from airport noise at our neighborhood's expense, I would like to ask that you at least protect us from the visibility pollution of a new Pentagon Park development and keep in mind how very important the golf course land is to us!

In conclusion, our neighborhood is feeling stressed. We've just experienced a very costly and disruptive road repair project. We continue to experience increased noise/ air pollution from 494, Hwy 100, airline traffic and the Seagate plant. I ask that when you make decisions affecting our neighborhood that you please protect our neighborhood from further devaluation. Please do not allow tall buildings at Pentagon Park and please be very careful what you allow to happen to Fred Richard's. We shouldn't have smelly water ponds, more light or noise pollution, or cars parked on our streets to access the possible addition of playing fields.

Thank you so much for listening!
Marie Sullivan (4512 Hibiscus Ave., Edina)

Heather Branigin

From: Hunzelman, Nick <Nick.Hunzelman@cnfinternational.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 08, 2014 8:35 AM
To: Sprague, Josh
Cc: jonibennett12@comcast.net; Edina Mail; Mary Brindle (Comcast); swensonann1@gmail.com; Hunzelman, Nick
Subject: RE: City Council and Fred Richards

Mr. Sprague,

Your quick response to my email (15 minutes) is very telling how you and the city view themselves as they "RULE" on the Edina's golf enterprise. My request is to announce an extended delay to the closure of Fred Richards executive course in order to gather more facts and develop a more responsible plan. The Save The Fred group has offered a more detailed investigation into this issue than the city. This is just one example of how the many qualified Edina residents can offer input into Edina's golf.

The city's refusal to listen and reach out to its residents is astounding. You offer no respect to the Edina tax payers/voters.

This "I know better than you" attitude and past actions has created mistakes and yes city embarrassment to the following city issues;

The poor decision and waste of city funds used to purchase the Edina Realty building in the 50th and France area.

The terrible decision to declare eminent domain on the Hooten's Cleaners building attempting to force a minority family out of their retirement plan.

The push to expand Wooddale, encroaching on private citizen property for bike lanes.

The decision to paint bike lanes on Wooddale, then removing them just to paint another bike lane stripe.

And now the latest \$2 million dollar mistake with the Braemar ice rink project.

I must ask you. Now that the Pentagon project has been approved for possible residential living, Does this improve your financial opportunity as an Edina realtor? I wonder.

Please delay your March 18th vote to close Fred. Form a " staff and citizen's committee and figure out a way to totally improve the financials and experience of golfing in Edina. There are many retired CFO's and CEO's and others that are brilliant business people. If you asked for volunteers to form a committee I think you would be amazed by the response and talent.

Nick Hunzelman | Regional Manager | C & F International Inc.
Office 952 . 886 . 7092 | Mobile 952 . 250 . 2323

From: Sprague, Josh [mailto:joshsprague@edinarealty.com]
Sent: Friday, March 07, 2014 3:32 PM
To: Hunzelman, Nick
Subject: RE: City Council and Fred Richards

Thank you Mr. Hunzelman. I was just talking about the issue with another neighbor on Kellogg today.

I think the information is very clear that total rounds played in Edina is down, that utilization at both Exec courses is down, and that 45 holes of golf is no longer sustainable going forward. The Save the Fred option brought forward involves closing the Braemar 9 instead of the Fred, that is being reviewed by staff (and hence one of the reasons for the 2 week delay). Everyone involved understands the weight of the issue before them, and certainly we'd love not to be in a position to have to close anything and displace anyone. But the times have changed, and we have to take action or else we will most certainly be shirking our fiduciary duties. There are ongoing financial issues that have been around for years that we have been wrestling with that need to be solved, and are connected to the larger issue of the impact of recreational enterprises on the city budget. But moving forward this year decisively on the Golf Enterprise is integral to our success.

In terms of the facts, Fred Richards is not maintaining a break even scenario. There are expense allocations that have not been listed in the operating statements noted in the staff report (about 50K a year), plus debt service for the purchase/improvement of Fred that was never charged, that would put that entity at a loss. That also does not include liability for future capital improvements necessary there in the next 5-10 years, and the ongoing labor/material expenses of maintaining two campuses.

Look forward to hearing more about this at our next Council meeting.

Best,

:: js

josh sprague, realtor
edina realty 6800 france
cell/text 612.501.0252
<http://joshsprague.com>

From: Hunzelman, Nick [<mailto:Nick.Hunzelman@cnfinternational.com>]

Sent: Friday, March 07, 2014 3:17 PM

To: jonibennett12@comcast.net; mail@EdinaMN.gov; mbrindle@comcast.net; Sprague, Josh; swensonann1@gmail.com

Cc: Hunzelman, Nick

Subject: City Council and Fred Richards

Council Members & Mayor,

I attended the council meeting that was held earlier this week. I strongly urge you to delay your decision to close Fred Richards and instruct the city manager to expand research into the state of Edina golf to include other options that are available. The report submitted to the city and presented to the council members was not at all a deep comprehensive investigative dive as described by Scott Neal. It was simply a justification to close Fred Richards.

You as council members are challenged to find a solution for the golf issues in Edina. To create and offer solutions you must explore all aspects of the issue. To date, you have failed in your investigation because your scope is so limited to closing a popular golf course that is maintaining a break even financial status. To add further problems the original 6 point plan presented back in January's Park Board meeting was changed prior to this week's council meeting to include a \$500,000 irrigation expense for 2025 and some meager attempt to respond to the junior female golfers that would be forced play at a the larger more intimidating Braemar course. Comprehensive, deep dive investigations do not change in 40 days of original submittal.

Without a larger scope and more options, the city council, the city manager and most importantly the residents of Edina will forever doubt the decisions to close Fred Richards and all future financial decisions.

Each of you have a responsibility to the city to improve on your actions specific to this issue.

Nick Hunzelman
7461 West Shore Drive
Edina Mn 55435

Heather Branigin

From: Kelly Bennewitz <kellybennewitz@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 08, 2014 10:50 AM
To: Edina Mail
Subject: Pentagon Office Park

To the Edina City Council-

I am a long time resident of Edina and my company has banked at Fidelity Bank in Pentagon Office Park for years. I have had some dealings with Hillcrest Development in the past and have always admired their work and vision in redeveloping older buildings.

I was excited to see the redevelopment signs going up amongst the Pentagon buildings as they have shown a lot of decay over the last 10-20 years. We looked for space for our business not too long ago and I have to admit we took a quick look at Pentagon, but found there are more attractive alternatives available.

Centennial Lakes has always been a showcase project, it would be great to continue that trend. As a taxpayer in Edina, I wanted to show my support for Hillcrest Development and their vision for Pentagon Office Park.

Sincerely,

Kelly Bennewitz
6400 Ridgeview Drive

Heather Branigin

From: Hunzelman, Nick <Nick.Hunzelman@cnfinternational.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 08, 2014 12:30 PM
To: Sprague, Josh
Cc: jonibennett12@comcast.net; jonibennett12@comcast.net; Edina Mail; Mary Brindle (Comcast); swensonann1@gmail.com; Scott Neal
Subject: RE: City Council and Fred Richards
Attachments: Edina Golf Operations Proposal_Council_342014.pdf

Mr Sprague,

Your response is symptomatic of the problem the city has with the golf issue. You are quick to criticize and discredit but refuse to look at another view.

If I made my position clear than you would understand why I am questioning your quick response to my original email. Again, My point is that you quickly typed out a response that did not address my request of delaying the golf issue decisions. All you and the council wants to do is disqualify the Save the Fred team report despite the inaccuracies and recent changes in the city's financial report on golf. My request is you slow down your decision process, listen to other ideas and make a more accurate decision on golf in Edina.

I have attached the report to make sure you can prepare yourself to make an informed decisions on this issue.

The city council seems to rush to judgment on the latest issue (listed in previous email) and most of them have turned out wrong. All of which have cost the city of Edina money.

Trust me Council Member Sprague, this year's election will not come soon enough for a very large group of dissatisfied Edina voters.

Nick Hunzelman
7461 West Shore Drive

-----Original Message-----

From: Sprague, Josh [mailto:joshsprague@edinarealty.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 08, 2014 10:15 AM
To: Hunzelman, Nick
Subject: RE: City Council and Fred Richards

Mr. Hunzleman,

Not sure I understand why responsiveness is an issue with respect to your email. At any rate, you've made your position clear.

Best,

:: js

josh sprague, realtor
edina realty 6800 france
cell/text 612.501.0252
<http://joshsprague.com>

-----Original Message-----

From: Hunzelman, Nick [Nick.Hunzelman@cnfinternational.com]

Received: Saturday, 08 Mar 2014, 9:35am

To: Sprague, Josh [joshsprague@edinarealty.com]

CC: jonibennett12@comcast.net [jonibennett12@comcast.net]; mail@EdinaMN.gov [mail@EdinaMN.gov]; mbrindle@comcast.net [mbrindle@comcast.net]; swensonann1@gmail.com [swensonann1@gmail.com]; Hunzelman, Nick [Nick.Hunzelman@cnfinternational.com]

Subject: RE: City Council and Fred Richards

Mr. Sprague,

Your quick response to my email (15 minutes) is very telling how you and the city view themselves as they "RULE" on the Edina's golf enterprise. My request is to announce an extended delay to the closure of Fred Richards executive course in order to gather more facts and develop a more responsible plan. The Save The Fred group has offered a more detailed investigation into this issue than the city. This is just one example of how the many qualified Edina residents can offer input into Edina's golf.

The city's refusal to listen and reach out to its residents is astounding. You offer no respect to the Edina tax payers/voters.

This "I know better than you" attitude and past actions has created mistakes and yes city embarrassment to the following city issues;

The poor decision and waste of city funds used to purchase the Edina Realty building in the 50th and France area.

The terrible decision to declare eminent domain on the Hooten's Cleaners building attempting to force a minority family out of their retirement plan.

The push to expand Wooddale, encroaching on private citizen property for bike lanes.

The decision to paint bike lanes on Wooddale, then removing them just to paint another bike lane stripe.

And now the latest \$2 million dollar mistake with the Braemar ice rink project.

I must ask you. Now that the Pentagon project has been approved for possible residential living, Does this improve your financial opportunity as an Edina realtor? I wonder.

Please delay your March 18th vote to close Fred. Form a " staff and citizen's committee and figure out a way to totally improve the financials and experience of golfing in Edina. There are many retired CFO's and CEO's and others that are brilliant business people. If you asked for volunteers to form a committee I think you would be amazed by the response and talent.

Nick Hunzelman | Regional Manager | C & F International Inc.

Office 952 . 886 . 7092 | Mobile 952 . 250 . 2323

From: Sprague, Josh [mailto:joshsprague@edinarealty.com]

Sent: Friday, March 07, 2014 3:32 PM

To: Hunzelman, Nick

Subject: RE: City Council and Fred Richards

Thank you Mr. Hunzelman. I was just talking about the issue with another neighbor on Kellogg today.

I think the information is very clear that total rounds played in Edina is down, that utilization at both Exec courses is down, and that 45 holes of golf is no longer sustainable going forward. The Save the Fred option brought forward

involves closing the Braemar 9 instead of the Fred, that is being reviewed by staff (and hence one of the reasons for the 2 week delay). Everyone involved understands the weight of the issue before them, and certainly we'd love not to be in a position to have to close anything and displace anyone. But the times have changed, and we have to take action or else we will most certainly be shirking our fiduciary duties. There are ongoing financial issues that have been around for years that we have been wrestling with that need to be solved, and are connected to the larger issue of the impact of recreational enterprises on the city budget. But moving forward this year decisively on the Golf Enterprise is integral to our success.

In terms of the facts, Fred Richards is not maintaining a break even scenario. There are expense allocations that have not been listed in the operating statements noted in the staff report (about 50K a year), plus debt service for the purchase/improvement of Fred that was never charged, that would put that entity at a loss. That also does not include liability for future capital improvements necessary there in the next 5-10 years, and the ongoing labor/material expenses of maintaining two campuses.

Look forward to hearing more about this at our next Council meeting.

Best,

:: js

josh sprague, realtor
edina realty 6800 france
cell/text 612.501.0252
<http://joshsprague.com><<http://joshsprague.com/>>

From: Hunzelman, Nick [mailto:Nick.Hunzelman@cnfinternational.com]
Sent: Friday, March 07, 2014 3:17 PM
To: jonibennett12@comcast.net<mailto:jonibennett12@comcast.net>;
mail@EdinaMN.gov<mailto:mail@EdinaMN.gov>; mbrindle@comcast.net<mailto:mbrindle@comcast.net>; Sprague,
Josh; swensonann1@gmail.com<mailto:swensonann1@gmail.com>
Cc: Hunzelman, Nick
Subject: City Council and Fred Richards

Council Members & Mayor,

I attended the council meeting that was held earlier this week. I strongly urge you to delay your decision to close Fred Richards and instruct the city manager to expand research into the state of Edina golf to include other options that are available. The report submitted to the city and presented to the council members was not at all a deep comprehensive investigative dive as described by Scott Neal. It was simply a justification to close Fred Richards.

You as council members are challenged to find a solution for the golf issues in Edina. To create and offer solutions you must explore all aspects of the issue. To date, you have failed in your investigation because your scope is so limited to closing a popular golf course that is maintaining a break even financial status. To add further problems the original 6 point plan presented back in January's Park Board meeting was changed prior to this week's council meeting to include a \$500,000 irrigation expense for 2025 and some meager attempt to respond to the junior female golfers that would be forced play at a the larger more intimidating Braemar course. Comprehensive, deep dive investigations do not change in 40 days of original submittal.

Without a larger scope and more options, the city council, the city manager and most importantly the residents of Edina will forever doubt the decisions to close Fred Richards and all future financial decisions.

Each of you have a responsibility to the city to improve on your actions specific to this issue.

Nick Hunzelman
7461 West Shore Drive
Edina Mn 55435

To: Edina City Council

James Hovland
Mayor
mail@EdinaMN.gov

Joni Bennett
City Council Member
Jonibennett12@comcast.net

Mary Brindle
City Council Member
mbrindle@comcast.net

Josh Sprague
City Council Member
joshsprague@edinarealty.com

Ann Swenson
City Council Member
swensonanni@gmail.com

From: Gaylen Ghylin

Date: March 5, 2014

Subject: The Fred

My name is Gaylen Ghylin. My wife Penny and I live at 5032 Park Terrace. We have attended two public meetings about the Edina Golf Enterprise and the City Staff's recommendation to close the Fred Richards Golf Course (the Fred) after 2014. The first was held in the Braemar Golf Course Club House on January 30, 2014 where the City Staff (City Manager Scott Neal and Parks & Recreation Director Ann Kattreh) announced a 6-point plan to improve the Edina Golf Enterprise (the first point of the Plan is to close the Fred). Then we attended the Edina City Council Meeting on March 4, 2014. This again included a presentation by Neal and Kattreh, requesting the Council's adoption of their Plan. The Council conducted a Public Hearing about the proposed Plan, and also discussed the Plan, as well as issues and questions raised. Formal Council action on the Plan was deferred to a future meeting.

Penny and I have lived in Edina since 1971. We have raised two daughters here. They both graduated from the Edina Public School system, and now live in Edina with their husbands and two children each. Our four grandchildren are also part of the Edina Public School program. The public golf courses in Edina are very important to us. I have been playing golf regularly at Braemar since 1985. I have been a Men's Club member for almost 30 years. I have played many, many rounds of golf on Thursday afternoons and Saturday mornings on the 27 regulation holes at Braemar. Over the years I have also frequently played the Braemar Executive Course, and I am no stranger to the Braemar driving range, golf dome, pro shop and grill. For the past several years Penny and I have also played the Fred regularly. Penny is relatively new to golf, and we are very much at home on the Fred. Our extended family frequently joins us for golf there. It is so much fun to spend time together, and watch our grandchildren enjoy golf.

The question about the Fred comes up as part of a more comprehensive assessment of the City of Edina public golf operations. Staff was requested to develop a plan to improve golf operations. We support their effort and applaud their recommendations to improve operations at Braemar. Edina residents want and will support a world class golf enterprise. We do not, however, believe adequate analysis has been done to support the recommendation to close the Fred.

The Fred was opened in 1962. It is the longest running public golf course in the City. Over that time the Fred has become a significant part of the fabric, history and tradition of our City. The Fred is truly a gem, and provides a life time of memories and experiences, not only for those in the neighborhoods around the Fred, but throughout Edina.

The Proposal to close the Fred seems very clinical, and without appreciation for the impact the Fred has on quality of life in Edina. It is most apparent the Fred is a very significant and meaningful Edina amenity. Art, passion and consideration for life's qualities do not draw one to conclude the Fred should be closed. Some say our population will grow 11% in the next twenty-five years. Density around the Fred is also expected to increase with redevelopment of the Pentagon Office Park. Preparing for these developments is part of the art of governance. This meat cleaver approach seems to tie this closing to an act of leverage for the cost of improvements at Braemar. I have not seen all of the information provided the City Council, but this connection is not clear. It sounds like the Fred makes money, so the rush to close is perplexing, and seems unusual. It will be disappointing if a decision about this issue is reached "because we have spent enough time on this already", and not based on a process that takes adequate time to fully investigate all reasonable options and gather the necessary information to reach the best decision for the citizens of Edina. If we close the Fred, we will have lost it forever.

Accordingly, I support the recommendations of the "Golf Operations Proposal" presented to the Edina City Council on March 4, 2014 by Save the Fred Association, namely –

1. Vote to TABLE city staff's recommendations to close Fred Richards Golf Course indefinitely to allow for further study before making an unreasonably quick decision about a long-time treasured community asset.
2. Vote to approve staff's recommended improvements to Braemar with the exception of converting Braemar Exec to Par 3.
3. Direct City staff to work with appropriate resources and residents to produce a master plan for the future of Edina Golf Operations. We believe there are options that should be explored that better serve Edina golf and that are more fiscally responsible than the current list of proposals by City Staff.

Heather Branigin

From: Gaylen Ghylin <gpghylin@msn.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 08, 2014 2:24 PM
To: Edina Mail; Joni Bennett ; Mary Brindle (Comcast); Josh Sprague ; Ann Swenson
Subject: The Fred
Attachments: The Fred.docx

Heather Branigin

From: Hunzelman, Nick <Nick.Hunzelman@cnfinternational.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 08, 2014 2:35 PM
To: joshsprague@edinarealty.com
Cc: jonibennett12@comcast.net; swensonann1@gmail.com; Mary Brindle (Comcast); Edina Mail; Scott Neal
Subject: FW: City Council and Fred Richards

I was aware of the Friday meeting. Good sources inside the city have informed me that "staff" had many chances to challenge the Save the Fred report but instead agreed with the Save the Fred Financial Team and the financial data and summary.

To correct the record, you moved to table this issue because of the environmental petition. You made statements toward the end of the golf discussion you wanted to vote on approval of the implementation of the Parks Board 6 Point plan. Look it up.

Looking forward to the November election process.

Nick Hunzelman | Regional Manager | C & F International Inc.
Office 952 . 886 . 7092 | Mobile 952 . 250 . 2323

-----Original Message-----

From: Sprague, Josh [mailto:joshsprague@edinarealty.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 08, 2014 1:37 PM
To: Hunzelman, Nick
Subject: RE: City Council and Fred Richards

Staff met with members of the Fred group on Friday to discuss their proposal and go over their assumptions at greater length. I moved to table this issue for that very reason. I've had multiple conversations and meetings on both sides of the issue, I understand and appreciate the different views, including yours. But ultimately our views on the best strategy and necessary timeline may diverge. I remain open to finding the best possible solution for the long-term until the decision is made, whether you choose to support me next election or not.

Enjoy the rest of your weekend.

Regards,

:: js

josh sprague, realtor
edina realty 6800 france
cell/text 612.501.0252
<http://joshsprague.com>

-----Original Message-----

From: Hunzelman, Nick [Nick.Hunzelman@cnfinternational.com]
Received: Saturday, 08 Mar 2014, 1:30pm
To: Sprague, Josh [joshsprague@edinarealty.com]
CC: jonibennett12@comcast.net [jonibennett12@comcast.net]; jonibennett12@comcast.net [jonibennett12@comcast.net]; mail@EdinaMN.gov [mail@EdinaMN.gov]; mbrindle@comcast.net

[mbrindle@comcast.net]; swensonann1@gmail.com [swensonann1@gmail.com]; sneal@EdinaMN.gov
[sneal@EdinaMN.gov]

Subject: RE: City Council and Fred Richards

Mr Sprague,

Your response is symptomatic of the problem the city has with the golf issue. You are quick to criticize and discredit but refuse to look at another view.

If I made my position clear than you would understand why I am questioning your quick response to my original email. Again, My point is that you quickly typed out a response that did not address my request of delaying the golf issue decisions. All you and the council wants to do is disqualify the Save the Fred team report despite the inaccuracies and recent changes in the city's financial report on golf. My request is you slow down your decision process, listen to other ideas and make a more accurate decision on golf in Edina.

I have attached the report to make sure you can prepare yourself to make an informed decisions on this issue.

The city council seems to rush to judgment on the latest issue (listed in previous email) and most of them have turned out wrong. All of which have cost the city of Edina money.

Trust me Council Member Sprague, this year's election will not come soon enough for a very large group of dissatisfied Edina voters.

Nick Hunzelman
7461 West Shore Drive

-----Original Message-----

From: Sprague, Josh [mailto:joshsprague@edinarealty.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 08, 2014 10:15 AM
To: Hunzelman, Nick
Subject: RE: City Council and Fred Richards

Mr. Hunzleman,

Not sure I understand why responsiveness is an issue with respect to your email. At any rate, you've made your position clear.

Best,

:: js

josh sprague, realtor
edina realty 6800 france
cell/text 612.501.0252
<http://joshsprague.com>

-----Original Message-----

From: Hunzelman, Nick [Nick.Hunzelman@cnfinternational.com]
Received: Saturday, 08 Mar 2014, 9:35am
To: Sprague, Josh [joshsprague@edinarealty.com]
CC: jonibennett12@comcast.net [jonibennett12@comcast.net]; mail@EdinaMN.gov [mail@EdinaMN.gov]; mbrindle@comcast.net [mbrindle@comcast.net]; swensonann1@gmail.com [swensonann1@gmail.com]; Hunzelman, Nick [Nick.Hunzelman@cnfinternational.com]

Subject: RE: City Council and Fred Richards

Mr. Sprague,

Your quick response to my email (15 minutes) is very telling how you and the city view themselves as they "RULE" on the Edina's golf enterprise. My request is to announce an extended delay to the closure of Fred Richards executive course in order to gather more facts and develop a more responsible plan. The Save The Fred group has offered a more detailed investigation into this issue than the city. This is just one example of how the many qualified Edina residents can offer input into Edina's golf.

The city's refusal to listen and reach out to its residents is astounding. You offer no respect to the Edina tax payers/voters.

This "I know better than you" attitude and past actions has created mistakes and yes city embarrassment to the following city issues;

The poor decision and waste of city funds used to purchase the Edina Realty building in the 50th and France area.
The terrible decision to declare eminent domain on the Hooten's Cleaners building attempting to force a minority family out of their retirement plan.

The push to expand Wooddale, encroaching on private citizen property for bike lanes.

The decision to paint bike lanes on Wooddale, then removing them just to paint another bike lane stripe.

And now the latest \$2 million dollar mistake with the Braemar ice rink project.

I must ask you. Now that the Pentagon project has been approved for possible residential living, Does this improve your financial opportunity as an Edina realtor? I wonder.

Please delay your March 18th vote to close Fred. Form a " staff and citizen's committee and figure out a way to totally improve the financials and experience of golfing in Edina. There are many retired CFO's and CEO's and others that are brilliant business people. If you asked for volunteers to form a committee I think you would be amazed by the response and talent.

Nick Hunzelman | Regional Manager | C & F International Inc.
Office 952 . 886 . 7092 | Mobile 952 . 250 . 2323

From: Sprague, Josh [mailto:joshsprague@edinarealty.com]

Sent: Friday, March 07, 2014 3:32 PM

To: Hunzelman, Nick

Subject: RE: City Council and Fred Richards

Thank you Mr. Hunzelman. I was just talking about the issue with another neighbor on Kellogg today.

I think the information is very clear that total rounds played in Edina is down, that utilization at both Exec courses is down, and that 45 holes of golf is no longer sustainable going forward. The Save the Fred option brought forward involves closing the Braemar 9 instead of the Fred, that is being reviewed by staff (and hence one of the reasons for the 2 week delay). Everyone involved understands the weight of the issue before them, and certainly we'd love not to be in a position to have to close anything and displace anyone. But the times have changed, and we have to take action or else we will most certainly be shirking our fiduciary duties. There are ongoing financial issues that have been around for years that we have been wrestling with that need to be solved, and are connected to the larger issue of the impact of recreational enterprises on the city budget. But moving forward this year decisively on the Golf Enterprise is integral to our success.

In terms of the facts, Fred Richards is not maintaining a break even scenario. There are expense allocations that have not been listed in the operating statements noted in the staff report (about 50K a year), plus debt service for the purchase/improvement of Fred that was never charged, that would put that entity at a loss. That also does not include liability for future capital improvements necessary there in the next 5-10 years, and the ongoing labor/material expenses of maintaining two campuses.

Look forward to hearing more about this at our next Council meeting.

Best,

:: js

josh sprague, realtor
edina realty 6800 france
cell/text 612.501.0252
<http://joshsprague.com><<http://joshsprague.com/>>

From: Hunzelman, Nick [mailto:Nick.Hunzelman@cnfinternational.com]
Sent: Friday, March 07, 2014 3:17 PM
To: jonibennett12@comcast.net<mailto:jonibennett12@comcast.net>;
mail@EdinaMN.gov<mailto:mail@EdinaMN.gov>; mbrindle@comcast.net<mailto:mbrindle@comcast.net>; Sprague,
Josh; swensonann1@gmail.com<mailto:swensonann1@gmail.com>
Cc: Hunzelman, Nick
Subject: City Council and Fred Richards

Council Members & Mayor,

I attended the council meeting that was held earlier this week. I strongly urge you to delay your decision to close Fred Richards and instruct the city manager to expand research into the state of Edina golf to include other options that are available. The report submitted to the city and presented to the council members was not at all a deep comprehensive investigative dive as described by Scott Neal. It was simply a justification to close Fred Richards.

You as council members are challenged to find a solution for the golf issues in Edina. To create and offer solutions you must explore all aspects of the issue. To date, you have failed in your investigation because your scope is so limited to closing a popular golf course that is maintaining a break even financial status. To add further problems the original 6 point plan presented back in January's Park Board meeting was changed prior to this week's council meeting to include a \$500,000 irrigation expense for 2025 and some meager attempt to respond to the junior female golfers that would be forced play at a the larger more intimidating Braemar course. Comprehensive, deep dive investigations do not change in 40 days of original submittal.

Without a larger scope and more options, the city council, the city manager and most importantly the residents of Edina will forever doubt the decisions to close Fred Richards and all future financial decisions.

Each of you have a responsibility to the city to improve on your actions specific to this issue.

Nick Hunzelman
7461 West Shore Drive
Edina Mn 55435

Heather Branigin

From: J B <jab229@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2014 3:17 PM
To: Edina Mail
Subject: Save the FRED timeline

Dear Mayor Hovland,

As a Save the FRED advocate, I appreciate your steering the city council to delay a final vote of approval for the city staff's recommendation to close the FRED. The citizens in our neighborhood feel we have been discounted--even steamrolled--by the city manager and Park Board. We feel we have a stake in the outcome of that decision, as do the young people and others who choose to learn and play golf at the FRED.

Since you were at the first public hearing as well as the City Council meeting on March 4, you realize that the proposal has been massaged from its first iteration. The additional information provided by city staff at the Council meeting should have been available earlier. But more importantly, the neighborhood and the stakeholders who play at the FRED need to be included in the planning process.

We are asking that a citizen-city task force be initiated to look both at the city's needs and its process in making decisions that affect so many people without their input.

Thank you very much,

JoAnn Blatchley

7432 West Shore Drive
952.922.0308

Heather Branigin

From: KENNETH HODGES <joken7672@msn.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2014 4:07 PM
To: Edina Mail; jonibennett12@comcast.net; Mary Brindle (Comcast);
joshsprague@edinarealty.com; swensonann1@gmail.com
Subject: Please Save "The Fred"!

We have lived across the street from "The Fred" since 1966. We, as well as our children and grandchildren, have enjoyed it immensely. For them, it was an important part of their upbringing. It grieves us immensely that it is going to be destroyed. We urge you, as a City Council member, to realize that this is more than just a venture capital opportunity, but please take a look at the human side. Not only for the recreation aspect, but also for the green space it provides in a growing industrial park area.

Please take time to save "The Fred"!

Sincerely,

Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth Hodges
7428 West Shore Drive
Edina, MN 55435

Heather Branigin

From: Tari Sherry <tarisherry@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2014 4:30 PM
To: Edina Mail; jonibennett12@comcast.net; Mary Brindle (Comcast);
joshsprague@edinarealty.com; swensonann1@gmail.com
Subject: Fred Richards

We ask that the vote on the Fred Richards be postponed until the end of 2014 so that other options can be considered.

Steve and Tari Sherry

Heather Branigin

From: Philip Sherry <pwsherry@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2014 4:36 PM
To: Edina Mail; jonibennett12@comcast.net; Mary Brindle (Comcast);
joshsprague@edinarealty.com; swensonann1@gmail.com
Subject: Fred Richards Vote

We ask that the vote on Fred Richards be postponed until the end of 2014 so that other options can be considered.

Philip and Audrey Sherry

Heather Branigin

From: Jack Mendesh <jmendesh@umail.iu.edu>
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2014 5:03 PM
To: Edina Mail

Hi my name is Jack Mendesh and I am currently a sophomore at Indiana University. I have an assignment for one of my classes regarding our hometown and the problems that the city has. Being from Edina I was contacting you to see if I could ask the mayor, James Hovland, a few questions regarding the city of Edina. I look forward to hearing back from you as soon as possible. Thank you in advance.

Best,
Jack Mendesh

Heather Branigin

From: Phomtalikhith, Pounnaphone <Pounnaphone.Phomtalikhith@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2014 4:42 PM
To: Edina Mail
Subject: RE: Congressman Ellison's March 17th Event

Dear Mayor Hovland,

I am writing to follow-up on my March 5th email. If you are not able to attend, please feel free to send a member of your staff. We would like a representative from each city to be present. Please let me know if you have any questions. We look forward to hearing from you.

Warm Regards,
Pounnaphone Phomtalikhith, Intern
Office of Congressman Keith Ellison (MN-05)
2100 Plymouth Ave North
Minneapolis, MN 55411
Office: (612) 522-1212
E-mail: pounnaphone.phomtalikhith@mail.house.gov
Website: www.ellison.house.gov

From: Phomtalikhith, Pounnaphone
Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2014 5:43 PM
To: 'mail@EdinaMN.gov'
Subject: Congressman Ellison's March 17th Event

Dear Mayor Hovland:

This is a friendly reminder following up on a letter sent to you by Congressman Keith Ellison about an informational meeting on public safety and immigrant populations. The meeting will be held on **Monday, March 17, 2014, from 2:00-3:30 p.m. at the Golden Valley City Council Chamber, 7800 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, MN 55427.**

We hope to have the pleasure of your company for this discussion. For questions or to RSVP, please contact me or Aya Johnson at aya.johnson@mail.house.gov. We can also be reached by phone at (612) 522-1212. Congressman Ellison looks forward to seeing you on Monday, March 17.

Sincerely,
Pounnaphone Phomtalikhith, Intern
Office of Congressman Keith Ellison (MN-05)
2100 Plymouth Ave North
Minneapolis, MN 55411
Office: (612) 522-1212
E-mail: pounnaphone.phomtalikhith@mail.house.gov
Website: www.ellison.house.gov
[E-Newsletter](#) - [Twitter](#) - [Facebook](#) - [Flickr](#) - [YouTube](#)

This message (including any attachments) is intended only for the use of the person(s) to whom it is addressed, and may contain information that is privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If you receive this

Heather Branigin

From: Bernadette Daly <bndaly60@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2014 5:17 PM
To: Edina Mail
Subject: Closing the Fred Richards

Dear Mayor Hovland,

I respectfully ask that you slow down this whole process and delay a vote to close the Fred Richards until at least the end of 2014. This give all parties time to explore all the options. This community deserves to have its views considered seriously.

Bernadette Daly
4521 Sedum Lane
Edina MN 55435.

3/6/2014

Jay Lebakken
5524 Concord Avenue
Edina, Minnesota 55424

The City of Edina
Members of City Council
4801 W. 50th St.
Edina, MN 55424

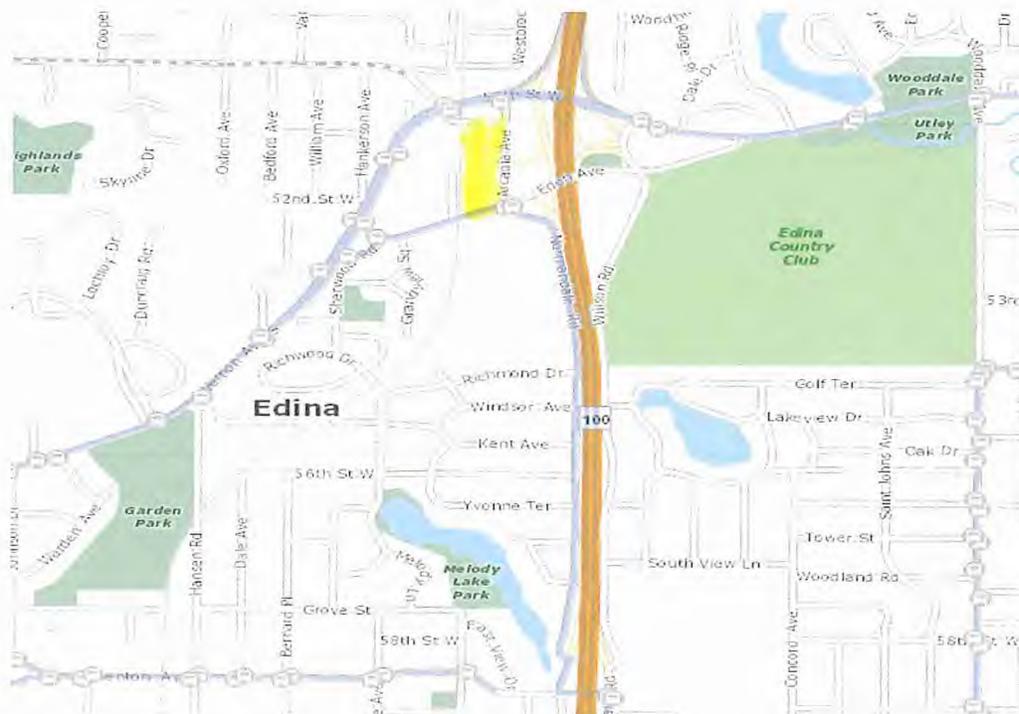
Dear members of City Council,

Would you consider raising awareness about unnecessary greenhouse gas usage by promoting driving less, driving in carpools and taking the bus? Another thing you could consider is spreading the idea of park and ride. The idea of park and ride is that if you work in the cities you park your car in a parking ramp and take a bus to the cities and at the end of the day you take a bus to the parking ramp and drive home. You could build a parking ramp where the public's work center used to be. I would really appreciate it if you considered this because I am concerned about our climate. I am considering making posters to put up around my school (Concord Elementary) telling people to not drive a lot in big cars.

Sincerely,



Jay W. Lebakken (age ten)



(P.S I looked on metro transit's website and there is currently one park n' ride in Edina)

Christopher R. Morris
6100 Arctic Way
Edina, MN 55436

March 11, 2014

Mayor James Hovland
4801 W. 50th St.
Edina, MN 55424

Joni Bennett, Council Member
4801 W. 50th St.
Edina, MN 55424

Mary Brindle, Council Member
4801 W. 50th St.
Edina, MN 55424

Josh Sprague, Council Member
4801 W. 50th St.
Edina, MN 55424

Ann Swenson, Council Member
4801 W. 50th St.
Edina, MN 55424

Re: ***Braemar and Fred Richards Golf***

Dear Mayor and City Council members:

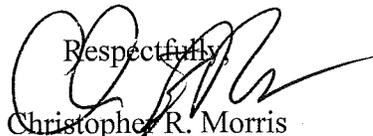
As a Braemar patron and resident north of Braemar, I have followed with interest the controversy regarding a proposal to make improvements at Braemar and close Fred Richards. I would like to add my perspective before the Council makes a final and irreversible decision.

While I welcome the proposal to make improvements at Braemar, I am puzzled by the apparent rush to close Fred Richards. It seems to me that if Braemar is torn up for extensive renovations, Fred Richards should remain open at least during that period of construction, so Braemar patrons such as myself have the opportunity to spend our golfing dollars in Edina rather than other public courses throughout the metro, and so youth leagues can continue to more fully operate.

I attended recent meetings at City Hall and Braemar, not to testify, but to learn whether there was any compelling reason to close Fred Richards while (or before) Braemar is under construction. I heard references to spending thousands of dollars in capital improvements at Fred Richards in the coming years, but surely the bulk of that expense could be put off until after 2015. I heard talk of potential cost savings by closing Fred Richards, but a future dollar saved cannot fund current construction at Braemar; and in any event, I believe City staff acknowledged that Fred Richards currently operates at a roughly break-even basis. Based on the information presented thus far, it certainly seems fiscally prudent to keep Fred Richards operating through 2015.

Finally, I must acknowledge that even though I personally enjoy playing the Braemar regulation course, including the Clunie 9, many golfers do consider that group of 9 holes too difficult, and there seems to be a trend in favor of playing shorter executive courses given modern-day time constraints. So I believe Mayor Hovland makes a good point that more scrutiny should be given to the alternatives recently presented to the City before such a controversial decision is finalized.

Respectfully,



Christopher R. Morris

Heather Branigin

From: Kilian, Mitch <Mitch.Kilian@mspmac.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 9:36 AM
To: Edina Mail; sneal@edina.mn
Cc: Kilian, Mitch
Subject: Fwd: Attached Image
Attachments: 3142_001.pdf

Jim and Scott, I am around the conference most of the day if you have a few minutes to talk or if you are on the hill and want to get together between your meetings up there let me know.

Attached are a couple letters that have been written and sent regarding the proposed EIS legislation back in mn. Note the 2nd last paragraph in the US EPA's letter.

Here is my cell. Call or send me a note anytime. 612-919-3469.

Mitchell

>



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

JAN 30 2013

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF

E-19J

MSP 2020 Improvements Draft EA/EAW File
C/O Environment Department
Metropolitan Airports Commission
6040 28th Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55450

RE: Final Environmental Assessment/Draft Finding of No Significant Impact: Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport – Proposed 2020 Improvements; Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minnesota

To Whom It May Concern:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed a Final Environmental Assessment (Final EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (Draft FONSI) prepared by the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for proposed improvements to the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (MSP) in Minneapolis, Minnesota. This letter provides EPA's comments on the Final EA and Draft FONSI, pursuant to our authorities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA Implementing Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

MSP is the primary air transportation hub of Minnesota. The airport is located within Hennepin County, approximately seven miles south of downtown Minneapolis, and is operated by the Metropolitan Airports Commission. MSP is the only major airport in the country to have two terminals located on entirely separate roadway systems. The need for the proposed improvements is based on the existing and projected unacceptable levels of service at MSP facilities. Airport facilities (terminal and landside¹ facilities) do not currently meet existing demand and will not meet future demand. Current congestion will be exacerbated as passenger activity grows. Congestion will spread to other airport facilities (terminals and landside facilities), and conditions will continue to deteriorate.

Specifically, MSP is experiencing unacceptable levels of service within Terminal 1 - Lindberg at both terminal and landside facilities; the arrivals curb, parking, and international arrivals facility are currently congested. Additionally, the demand for gates at Terminal 2 - Humphrey exceeds capacity during winter months. As passenger activity grows, the levels of service for landside facilities, including access roads, are expected to deteriorate further. Similarly, the levels of service within

¹ Landside facilities include terminal curb roadways, ground transportation centers, parking facilities, rental car facilities, and access roads.

terminals at gates, ticket counters, passenger check-in areas, security screening checkpoints, and baggage claim areas are projected to deteriorate to unacceptable levels (based on standard airport planning practices).

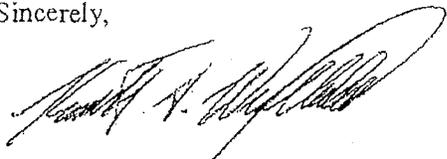
The MAC is proposing to address these needs through 2020 by implementing the Proposed Action. The overall purpose of the project is to accommodate the expected demand such that the airside and landside level of service at MSP is acceptable through the 2020 planning timeframe and that the regional roadway level of service is acceptable through the 2030 planning timeframe.

Alternative 2 was ultimately selected as the Preferred Alternative/Proposed Action. The Proposed Action, Airlines Relocate, will involve relocation of non-Sky Team airlines (currently located in Terminal 1 – Lindberg) to Terminal 2 – Humphrey, in addition to many terminal, landside/roadway, and airside projects at both Terminals. Additionally, regional roadway improvements (out to 2030, as per Federal Highway Administration [FHWA] planning guidance) have been identified and studied, based on the existing 2030 Long Term Comprehensive Plan [LTCP] and background traffic growth, and are part of the Proposed Action.

In a scoping letter sent by EPA on January 7, 2011, and a Draft EA comment letter sent on October 10, 2012, EPA provided comments on the proposed project. EPA had previously identified concerns relating to historical properties, water quality, cumulative impacts, and energy use/conservation. EPA's concerns were thoroughly and appropriately responded to in the Final EA and its appendices. Thank you for making changes and providing additional information as requested by EPA. EPA does not have any additional substantive comments on the Preferred Alternative, the Final EA, or the Draft FONSI.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this Final EA and Draft FONSI. We are available to discuss our comments with you in further detail if requested. Please send us a copy of the final, signed FONSI once it becomes available. If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Ms. Liz Pelloso, PWS, of my staff at 312-886-7425 or via email at pelloso.elizabeth@epa.gov.

Sincerely,



Kenneth A. Westlake, Chief
NEPA Implementation Section
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

cc: Kandice Krull, FAA
Phil Forst, FHWA
Melissa Jenny, USACE-St. Paul District (2011-00061-MMJ)
Rich Davis, USFWS
Mary Ann Heidemann, Minnesota Historical Society (SHPO)
Lisa Joyal, MnDNR
Melissa Doperalski, MnDNR
Linda Peterson, Mn BWSR
Roy Fuhrmann, MAC



7100 147th Street W
Apple Valley, MN 55124-9016

Telephone (952) 953-2500
Fax (952) 953-2515
www.cityofapplevalley.org

April 5, 2013

Senator Greg Clausen
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Room 320
St. Paul, MN 55155-1606

Dear Senator Clausen: ^{Greg}

Legislation was introduced this week (HF 1717, sponsored by Representative Hornstein) that would require the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) to conduct an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on their 2020 Capital Improvement Project. The City of Apple Valley finds this proposal troublesome for several reasons.

First of all, the MAC has already conducted a very thorough Environmental Assessment (EA) for this project and received public comments on their findings. Delaying the implementation of the improvements identified in the 2020 plan would be a detriment to the entire metropolitan region and the State of Minnesota.

Second, the actions taken by the MAC were done so under federal law and were strictly followed. The EA was conducted in a professional manner using sound science and engineering standards. If the MAC is required, after the fact, to spend duplicative time and expense on these and other efforts in the future, MSP International Airport may lose competitive advantages as a hub airport.

Lastly, related to the topic of aircraft noise, the Noise Oversight Committee (by unanimous consensus) and the MAC, through the EA process, have established momentum for one of the most aggressive noise mitigation programs in the country, at a time of unprecedented FAA scrutiny over the use of aviation revenue for noise mitigation programs. This bill threatens to undermine this significant progress, and could jeopardize the implementation of future noise mitigation efforts at MSP.

In summary, HF 1717 is unnecessary and merely adds further costs and delay to the process. For all of these reasons, we urge you to oppose HF 1717.

Senator Greg Clausen
April 5, 2013
Page 2

We would be happy to meet with you at your convenience to further review this issue and answer any questions you may have. If you would like to meet, please contact our City Administrator, Tom Lawell, at 952-953-2578 to arrange for a convenient meeting time.

Sincerely,

CITY OF APPLE VALLEY



Mary Hamann-Roland
Mayor



John Bergman
City Council Member
MAC Noise Oversight Committee
At-Large Representative

cc: Apple Valley City Council
Chad Leqve, MAC



April 5, 2013

Representative Rick Hansen
451 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Representative Hansen:

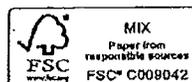
It has come to our attention that legislation has been introduced (HF 1717, sponsored by Representative Hornstein), that would require the Metropolitan Airports Commission to conduct an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on their 2020 Capital Improvement Project. The City of Mendota Heights finds this proposal troublesome for several reasons.

First of all, the MAC has already conducted a very thorough Environmental Assessment (EA) for this project and received public comment on their findings. Numerous cities adjacent to the airport provided feedback on this plan in a timely fashion. Delaying the implementation of the improvements identified in the 2020 plan would be a detriment to the entire metropolitan region and the State of Minnesota.

Second, the actions taken by the MAC were done so under federal and state environmental law and were strictly adhered to. If the MAC is required after the fact to spend duplicative time and expense on these and other efforts in the future, it may lose competitive advantages as a major international airport.

Lastly, related to the topic of aircraft noise, the Noise Oversight Committee (by unanimous consensus) and the MAC, through the EA process, have been able to craft a path forward for the continuation of one of the most aggressive noise mitigation programs in the country, at a time of unprecedented FAA scrutiny over the use of aviation revenue for noise mitigation programs. This bill threatens to undermine this significant progress, and could jeopardize future noise mitigation program implementation at MSP International Airport.

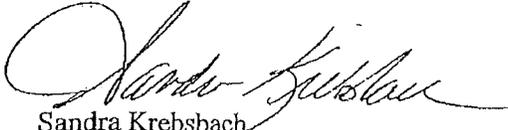
The City of Mendota Heights is supportive of many components of the 2020 plan and further delay of implementing the plan will serve as a detriment to our community. The EA was conducted in a professional manner and this legislation serves to insert politics into an area that sound science and engineering standards should be adhered to.



We ask that you support the City of Mendota Heights and oppose this particular piece of legislation.

Thank you again for your time, and please feel free to contact me if you need anything.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sandra Krebsbach".

Sandra Krebsbach

Mayor

cc: Mendota Heights City Council and Airport Relations Commissioners



City Manager's Office

April 5, 2013

The Honorable Representative Linda Slocum
House of Representatives
415 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

MAYOR
DEBBIE GOETTEL

CITY COUNCIL
PAT ELLIOTT
TOM FITZHENRY
EDWINA GARCIA
SUZANNE M. SANDAHL

CITY MANAGER
STEVEN L. DEVICH

Subject: House File 1717 – Related to Requirement of EIS for MSP 2020 Plan

Dear Representative Slocum:

This week the City of Richfield became aware of a bill (HF 1717, sponsored by Representative Hornstein), that would require the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the MSP 2020 Capital Improvement Project. A component of the required EIS would be an analysis of performance-based navigation procedures (RNAV) – a contentious subject considered by the MAC Commission back in November 2012. The City of Richfield has several concerns about HF 1717.

- The MAC already conducted a very thorough Environmental Assessment (EA) for this project and received public comment on their findings. Numerous cities adjacent to the airport, Richfield included, provided feedback on this plan in a timely manner. Delaying the implementation of the improvements identified in the 2020 plan would be a detriment to the entire metropolitan region and the State of Minnesota.
- The actions taken by the MAC were done so under federal and state environmental law and were strictly adhered to. If the MAC is required, after the fact, to spend duplicative time and expense on these and other efforts in the future, it may lose competitive advantages as a major international airport.
- Specifically related to the topic of aircraft noise, the Noise Oversight Committee (by unanimous consensus) and the MAC, through the EA process, have been able to craft a path forward for the continuation of one of the most aggressive noise mitigation programs in the country, at a time of unprecedented FAA scrutiny over the use of aviation revenue for noise mitigation programs. This bill threatens to undermine this significant progress, and could jeopardize future noise mitigation program implementation at MSP International Airport.
- The City supports the implementation of performance-based navigation at MSP for two reasons: safety and improvement to the noise environment of our community. An EIS would delay EVEN LONGER full implementation of RNAV at MSP.

The City of Richfield is supportive of many components of the 2020 plan and further delay of implementing the plan will serve as a detriment to our community. The City of Richfield respectfully requests that you support the City of Richfield and oppose HF 1717.

The Urban Hometown

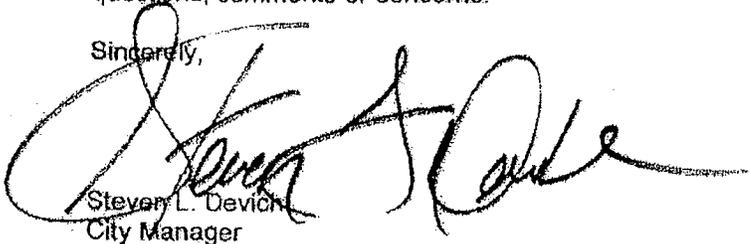
6700 PORTLAND AVENUE, RICHFIELD, MINNESOTA 55423 612.861.9700 FAX: 612.861.9749

Page 2

Furthermore, we would appreciate any assistance you can give to prevent further consideration of this proposal or its insertion into any omnibus bill during the course of the session.

Thank you again for your help and consideration. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, comments or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven L. Devich". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "D".

Steven L. Devich
City Manager

SD:pd
Enclosure

Copy: Richfield City Council
Lisa Peilen, MAC Commissioner District C

Reasons for Concern with HF 1717

April 5, 2013

- The MAC's development of an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for the MSP 2020 long term comprehensive plan fully complies with Minnesota statutes.
- The EAW, as well as the federal Environmental Assessment, found that the proposed improvements will have no significant environmental impacts and that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not needed.
- There is unanimous support among community representatives on the Noise Oversight Committee to move forward with the noise mitigation proposal as developed through the EA/EAW process.
- An EIS would be costly, provide no relevant new environmental information and result in a needless years-long delay in improvements vital not only to the airport but also to surrounding communities:
 - For **Richfield**, it would mean years of additional over flight noise over hundreds of unmitigated homes.
 - For **Bloomington**, it would mean an unnecessary delay to the I-494/34th Ave. interchange project, integral to the development of the "Airport South" area of Bloomington.
- The delay could hamper Sun Country Airlines' ability to grow service at MSP and to accommodate competition from new entrants such as Jet Blue.
- A recently published study estimates that MAC construction projects in 2012 supported more than 1,500 jobs and generated \$220 million for the area economy – the kinds of jobs creation and economic boost that would be delayed by a requirement to conduct an EIS.
- There are many good reasons not to waste time and public money on developing an EIS and not a single good reason to complete such a study. Moreover, the FAA controls air space issues, and its decisions are not subject to state environmental laws.



October 4, 2012

MSP 2020 Improvements Draft EA/EAW File
C/O Roy Fuhrmann-Vice President Management and Operations
Metropolitan Airports Commission
6040 28th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55450-2799

Dear Mr. Fuhrmann:

MN Airlines, LLC dba Sun Country Airlines appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the potential environmental impact of the MSP 2020 Improvement Plan. At the present time, Sun Country Airlines operates fourteen 737 new generation aircraft out of our MSP hub. We plan to grow the airline at a rate of at least two or three aircraft per year for the foreseeable future, with the potential to increase that growth rate after 2013.

Gate and operating space at Terminal Two is absolutely essential to our planned growth. Without the planned expansion of gates at T2, Sun Country's planned growth, at least at MSP, would be severely constrained. Sun Country needs the growth at T2 to continue to provide the greater Minnesota public with competitive air fares and enhanced direct air service. We very much support the MSP 2020 planned improvements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Fredericksen", written in a cursive style.

John S. Fredericksen
Vice President and General Counsel

Heather Branigin

From: Carl Michaud <Carl.Michaud@hennepin.us>
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 10:55 AM
To: Carl Michaud
Cc: Peter McLaughlin; Linda Higgins; Debra R Brisk; Mary E. Davidson; Anthony G Hainault; Benjamin L Knudson
Subject: Please support bill to increase funding for recycling
Attachments: IGRsheet_2014-Score_final.pdf

Dear Mayors and City Managers,

I'm writing to alert you to a bill before the Minnesota Legislature that would substantially increase state funding to city and county recycling programs (SCORE grants). Increasing SCORE funding is a priority adopted by the Hennepin County Board in its 2014 State Legislative Platform.

Please contact your state representative and state senator to ask them to support this bill, HF 2564, and to consider being a co-author.

Hennepin County received \$2.85 Million in SCORE grants in 2013, and **100 percent of it was given to cities**. HF2564 could double the SCORE grant Hennepin County provides cities. Local governments have adopted new recycling strategies to increase recycling rates by transforming collection systems, addressing changes in waste composition, and finding effective ways to communicate with residents and businesses about the benefits to reducing, reusing and recycling materials that would otherwise be waste.

Every year the state puts one third of the Solid Waste Management Tax into the general fund. HF2564 will return all of this money to its original intent by restoring SCORE grants to local government. Our legislators will want to know there is oversight for this money. They can be satisfied that the MPCA audits all SCORE grants. Furthermore, all counties, including Hennepin, report annually to the MPCA on the results of our recycling programs, how the money we receive from the state is spent, and how much local match it leverages. Our recycling programs are implemented by counties in accordance with solid waste plans approved by the MPCA. In the metro area, cities are integral to the success counties attain in these recycling programs. We know how to raise recycling rates if we have the resources to do it.

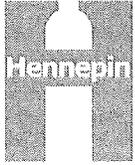
Additional SCORE grants to counties will leverage new program activities and spending by counties and cities. We can recycle more if we have resources to pursue these goals. For more information, please see the attached fact sheet.

Please contact your legislators in the next week to express strong support for HF2564 and its Senate companion.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 612-348-3054.

Thank you,
Carl Michaud

Carl Michaud | Director | Hennepin County Department of Environmental Services
701 Fourth Avenue South, Suite 700 | Minneapolis, MN 55415
Carl.Michaud@hennepin.us | Office: 612-348-3054 | Mobile: 612-919-2302



Hennepin County platform priority

Restore SCORE funding

Contacts

Hennepin County
Intergovernmental Relations

Mary Beth Davidson
Director

Office: 612-348-5120
Cell: 612-799-0323
mary.davidson@co.hennepin.mn.us

Hennepin County
Environmental Services

Carl Michaud
Director

Office: 612-612-348-3054
carl.michaud@hennepin.us

Website

[www.hennepin.us/
solidwasteplanning](http://www.hennepin.us/solidwasteplanning)

Ambitious goals require innovation and funding

The state of Minnesota requires counties to meet ambitious recycling and waste reduction goals. However, state funding for local efforts has not kept pace with available revenues. Hennepin County requests that the Minnesota Legislature restore SCORE funding to its original purpose, to fund county waste reduction, recycling and composting efforts to meet state solid waste goals.

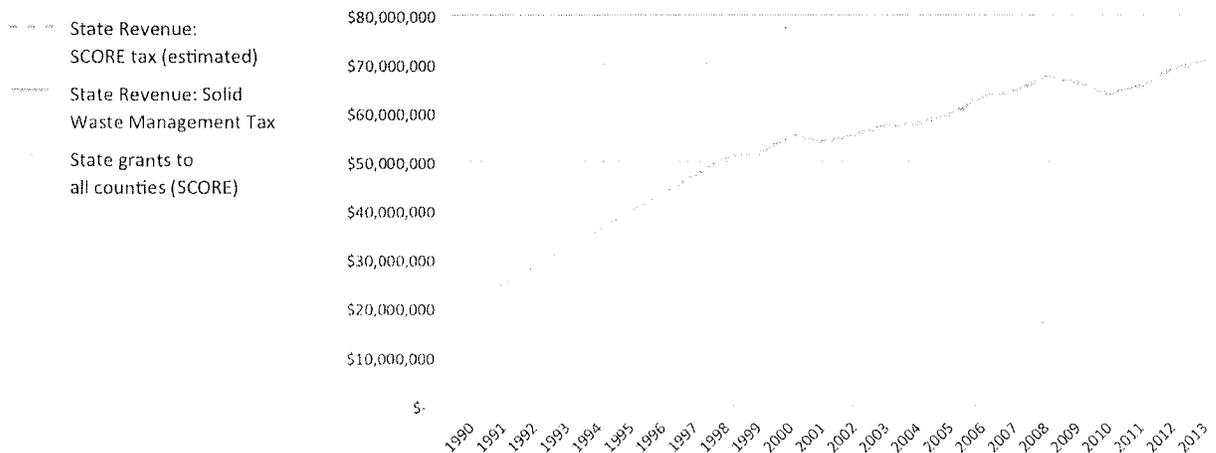
The state established a funding source for local recycling programs in 1989 when the legislature adopted recommendations of the Governor's Select Committee on Recycling and the Environment (SCORE). However, only a fraction of SCORE funding is allocated to local governments while a larger proportion is distributed to the State General Fund. The state's financial support is critical to our success, and local governments need additional financial support to meet the new recovery goals that we all agree are worthwhile.

Keeping pace with new technologies and changes in waste composition

To increase recycling rates, counties and cities must adapt recycling services offered to residents and businesses to keep up with changing technology and to collect more material. These efforts must include increasing opportunities for organics composting, expanding public education and creating programs that take a new approach to encouraging residents and businesses to reduce, reuse and recycle more.

Hennepin County takes seriously its state-mandated responsibility to ensure that all residents have the opportunity to recycle. The decision to allocate the larger share of funding to the State General Fund means that local governments are carrying a heavy burden of maintaining and enhancing recycling services. This has limited our ability to aggressively implement new ways to increase recycling and composting.

Minnesota solid waste tax revenues do not support recycling



Funding support has not kept up with tax revenues

Since 1989, tax revenues collected by the state to support waste and recycling programs have more than tripled, but the amount of funding allocated to counties has not increased. The SCORE tax established in 1989 became the Solid Waste Management Tax in 1998. In 2013, the State of Minnesota collected \$70 million by way of the Solid Waste Management Tax. Only 22 percent—\$14 million—was allocated to all 87 Minnesota counties. At the same time, 30 percent—\$21 million—of SCORE funding went to the State General Fund.

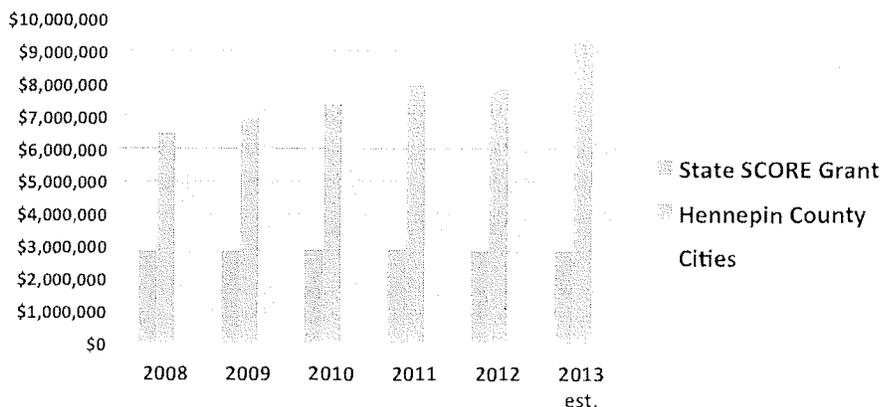
Local recycling innovation continues

Despite stagnant funding from the state, counties and cities have increased investments in recycling programs. Last year, Hennepin County:

- Received only \$2.85 million in SCORE funding from the state, all of which was distributed among the county's 44 cities to support curbside recycling programs. At the same time, Hennepin County spent \$9.3 million and its cities spent an additional \$8.6 million on waste reduction and recycling programs.
- Required cities to accept more materials for recycling and to collect recycling using single sort collection, which is proven to significantly increase participation and recovery rates.
- Offered \$700,000 in grants to businesses and schools to implement or improve recycling and organics composting programs, and provided assistance to property owners to improve recycling at apartment buildings and townhomes.
- Implemented several public education campaigns, supported city-based educational efforts and developed uniform signage for recycling efforts throughout the county.
- Shared its recycling signage and educational materials with other counties and cities, helping to cut costs and ensure a consistent regional message.

To achieve the mutual goals set by the state and local governments to increase recycling rates and manage more waste higher on the waste hierarchy, we must aggressively implement new programs to increase waste reduction, recycling and composting. The state can support local efforts to achieve greater waste recovery rates by reallocating the Solid Waste Management Tax for its original intent. For example, Hennepin County estimates that it would cost at least an additional \$7 million a year to offer curbside organics composting in all cities in the county. Dedicating this tax to its original funding intent will provide the support counties and cities need to boost recycling rates to reach state goals.

Hennepin County and cities strong commitment to recycling



Heather Branigin

From: Vicoula4@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 1:03 PM
To: Edina Mail; jonibennett12@comcast.net; Mary Brindle (Comcast);
joshsprague@edinarealty.com; swensonann@gmail.com
Subject: Fred Richards

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

The timeline proposed for the Fred Richard decision is unacceptable. There are alternative solutions and they should be fully explored.

It is the belief of many residents that there is a "**hidden agenda**", despite denial from the council. This is a decision that should not be rushed. This past year the debt for the course has been retired and it will make a profit. If there were effort into marketing and advertising, even as simple as signs on France Ave. and in the hotels that surround the immediate area, the profitability would be even greater. It is a huge leap of optimism to think that Braemar will satisfy the golfers from Fred Richards.

It is the feeling that Council Members and the Mayor are **NOT LISTENING** to the input offered. Please delay this decision until after this golf season.

Vicki Withers

Heather Branigin

From: Frazell, Kevin <KFrazell@lmc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 3:45 PM
To: pattyacomb@yahoo.com; kj.anderson3311@gmail.com; gbarone@eminnetonka.com; jonibennett12@comcast.net; mbilderback@rochestermn.gov; Brede, Ardell; Mary Brindle (Comcast); timbusse@hotmail.com; ashley.fairbanks@minneapolismn.gov; jconsidine@city.mankato.mn.us; Annie Coyle; mayor@ci.rosemount.mn.us; jane.eastwood@ci.stpaul.mn.us; edwinagarcia44@gmail.com; Goettel, Debbie; smarschall@cityofapplevalley.org; smarschall@ci.apple-valley.mn.us; jimhamilton@pacemn.com; patharris1@comcast.net; Edina Mail; thowe@coonrapidsmn.gov; eiago@cityofwsp.org; dave.jacobsen@newbrightonmn.gov; andrew.johnson@minneapolismn.gov; Johnson, Marvin; pj37@comcast.net; Johnson, Shaunna; mitchell.kilian@mspmac.org; dklint@coonrapidsmn.gov; jkoch@coonrapidsmn.gov; jeanette.clawson@ci.owatonna.mn.us; Jeffrey.Lunde@brooklynpark.org; sandrameans@charter.net; Miller, Jim; suzie.nakasian@ci.northfield.mn.us; Scott Neal; joleson@BloomingtonMN.gov; john.quincy@minneapolismn.gov; chuckrepke@aol.com; michael.schultz@bhshealth.org; tom.smith@ci.stpaul.mn.us; joshsprague@edinarealty.com; staver.randy@rochestermn.gov; ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us; ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us; mike.trepanier@brooklynpark.org; Verbrugge, Jamie; abdi.warsame@minneapolismn.gov; Jeff.Weisensel@ci.rosemount.mn.us; swells@coonrapidsmn.gov; votewojcik@gmail.com; jzanmiller@cityofwsp.org
Subject: Wednesday on Capitol Hill -One Last Time With Feeling!!
Attachments: 2014 Federal Policy Priority Paper Final.docx

Good Afternoon Minnesota Delegates -

Hope this e-mail finds you either having productive meetings at the Capitol OR out enjoying the Washington weather. I strolled up to the National Zoo and actually got to see Bao Bao, the baby panda, and his parents.

I'm sending this e-mail as a final reminder of the details of our meeting with the Minnesota members of Congress tomorrow morning and to let you know of a slight last minute change - that Senator Klobuchar will now be joining us right at 8:30 a.m. All the more reason to be there as early as you can.

So our full schedule is:

8:30 - Senator Klobuchar and Representative Walz
8:45 - Representative Ellison
9:00 - Representative Nolan
10:00 - Representative McCollum
10:15 - Senator Franken

A copy of our final policy paper is attached for your review. We'll have hard copies for you at the meeting.

And here again, are the rest of the logistic details for the meeting:

Wednesday, March 12, 8:30 – 10:30 a.m. Meeting with Our Congressional Delegation

Library of Congress, Thomas Jefferson Building, 1st Floor Members Room (LJ 162) – The Jefferson Building is located at the northeast corner of 1st Street and Constitution Avenue, immediately east of the Capitol and south of the Supreme Court. It is a short two blocks directly north of the Capitol South Metro station

The trip from the conference area (Wardman Hotel) to the Library of Congress can take a good 30 - 45 minutes during rush hour traffic, so be sure to allow plenty of time.

I look forward to seeing you in the morning!

Kevin

Kevin Frazell, ICMA-CM
Director of Member Services
Tel: (651) 281-1215 Cell: (651) 303-6034
kfrazell@lmc.org | www.lmc.org
League of Minnesota Cities
145 University Ave. West
St. Paul, MN 55103

From: Frazell, Kevin

Sent: Friday, February 28, 2014 12:15 PM

To: pattyacomb@yahoo.com; kj.anderson3311@gmail.com; gbarone@eminnetonka.com; jonibennett12@comcast.net; mbilderback@rochestermn.gov; abrede@rochestermn.gov; mbrindle@comcast.net; timbusse@hotmail.com; ashley.fairbanks@minneapolismn.gov; jconsidine@city.mankato.mn.us; acoye@edinamn.gov; mayor@ci.rosemount.mn.us; jane.eastwood@ci.stpaul.mn.us; Kevin Frazell (kfrazell@lmc.org); edwinagarcia44@gmail.com; Goettel, Debbie; smarschall@cityofapplevalley.org; smarschall@ci.apple-valley.mn.us; jimhamilton@pacemn.com; patharris1@comcast.net; mail@edinamn.gov; thowe@coonrapidsmn.gov; eiago@cityofwsp.org; dave.jacobsen@newbrightonmn.gov; andrew.johnson@minneapolismn.gov; marvdjohnson@gmail.com; pj37@comcast.net; shaunna.johnson@ci.waipark.mn.us; mitchell.kilian@mspm.com; dklint@coonrapidsmn.gov; jkoch@coonrapidsmn.gov; jeanette.clawson@ci.owatonna.mn.us; Jeffrey.Lunde@brooklynpark.org; sandrameans@charter.net; Miller, Jim (JMiller@lmc.org); suzie.nakasian@ci.northfield.mn.us; sneal@edinamn.gov; joleson@BloomingtonMN.gov; john.quincy@minneapolismn.gov; chuckrepke@aol.com; michael.schultz@bhshealth.org; tom.smith@ci.stpaul.mn.us; joshsprague@edinarealty.com; staver.randy@rochestermn.gov; ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us; ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us; mike.trepanier@brooklynpark.org; jamie.verbrugge@brooklynpark.org; abdi.warsame@minneapolismn.gov; Jeff.Weisensel@ci.rosemount.mn.us; swells@coonrapidsmn.gov; votewojcik@gmail.com; jzanmiller@cityofwsp.org

Subject: Mn Activities During the Upcoming NLC Congressional-City Conference

Good Afternoon –

I am happy to let you know that the MN delegation to the upcoming NLC Congressional-City Conference Washington is growing! I look forward to seeing all of you there.

A copy of the memo for MN delegates, describing our events during the conference, is attached. Rather than send this to just the new registrants I am sending it to everyone as a reminder. For those of you who received it about a week ago, there have been no changes from that earlier copy.

If you are a staff member who registered your mayor or city councilmember for the conference, please be sure he or she receives a copy.

And do feel to contact me if you have any questions prior to or during the conference. All of my contact information is below.

Kevin

Kevin Frazell, ICMA-CM
Director of Member Services

Tel: (651) 281-1215 | Fax: (651) 215-4104

Cell: (651) 303-6034

kfrazell@lmc.org | www.lmc.org

League of Minnesota Cities

145 University Ave. West

St. Paul, MN 55103

Connecting & Innovating since 1913

Stay connected with the League of Minnesota Cities:



[Web](#)



[Facebook](#)



[Twitter](#)



[Blog](#)



2014 Federal Priorities

Support Marketplace Fairness

Difficulties collecting already owed taxes for on-line sales are costing the State of Minnesota nearly \$500m annually in lost revenue and is putting the brick-and-mortar retail businesses critical to our communities at a competitive disadvantage. We thank the Senate for passing the Marketplace Fairness Act to rectify this inequity and ask the House to do the same.

Invest in Local Transportation Priorities

Cities, along with their partners in transportation, are alarmed that the Federal Highway Trust Fund will be out of money by late summer, forcing state and local governments to suspend critical projects and/or substitute local funds for federal dollars. Further, we are disappointed at the seeming inability of Congress to renew a multi-year transportation bill with a level of funding that makes the federal government a key partner in addressing the nation's seriously lagging and deficient system of roads, bridges, and transit. The federal gas tax has not been increased in over 20 years. We ask Congress to authorize a new, long-term federal surface transportation program that recognizes the central role of transportation to local economies and that includes city, community, and regional voices in planning and project selection.

Protect Tax-Exemption on Municipal Bonds

Cities strongly oppose any attempt to eliminate or even cap the traditional tax exemption for municipal bonds, whether as a part of a deficit reduction plan, a push for comprehensive tax reform or as an offset for new spending. At a time when there is broad agreement on the need to upgrade the nation's infrastructure it is shortsighted to raise the cost of municipal borrowing. Further, while it may be tempting to see elimination or restriction of the exemption as a matter of tax progressivity, the fact is that much of the additional interest cost will be covered by higher levels of local property taxation, the most regressive tax there is.

Fix the Nation's Broken Immigration System

We call on Congress and the Administration to pass a comprehensive immigration reform bill that will fix the nation's broken immigration system that hurts families, communities and our economy. For far too long our immigration system has threatened our sense of community and held back economic growth by keeping a substantial population from being able to fully participate. This broken system also imposes unnecessary burdens and costs on the delivery of local city services. Cities commend the Senate for having passed a plan that includes a path to citizenship, strong border enforcement and support for cities and towns to integrate immigrants into their communities and allow them to make both cultural and economic contributions to the nation. We ask the House to pass legislation that achieves similar outcomes.

Strengthen the Nation's Education Pipeline

Cities seek to partner with the Department of Education in strengthening the education pipeline from early childhood through improved postsecondary success. That means supporting the role that cities can play in advancing early childhood opportunities, high-quality afterschool programs and strategies to improve postsecondary success rates. We need Congress to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), which includes important education programs such as Title I, so that states and localities will have the tools they need to improve their local education systems.

Support Community Resilience

Since about the mid-2000's, extreme weather events have become more common in Minnesota, significantly increasing losses for our cities and for the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust. Local governments in all geographic and climatic regions are looking for resources to assist them in anticipating, preparing for and adapting to these events. We ask Congress and the Administration to help local governments conduct vulnerability assessments, and develop and implement adaptation and resilience action plans. This includes passing the STRONG Act (Strengthening the Resiliency of our Nation on the Ground).

For further information contact Kevin Frazell at 651-281-1215 or kfrazell@lmc.org

Heather Branigin

From: Dean Mathews Sr. <deansr@marathonfoods.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 8:02 PM
To: Edina Mail
Cc: Dean Mathews; Kelly McCoy; Timothy Nasby; bramsay@bernatellos.com; Sue; John Stang
Subject: Fred Richards golf course

Reading the March 6 issue of the Sun Current has led me to correspond as follows:

- 1)EQB advises city that an EAW is not required; Minnesota rules require an EAW if a golf course is involved....???
- 2)staff has a master plan...No, we cannot afford a master plan.... Fred loses money..No, Fred makes money.
- 3)MMD-6 to PUD, and how does AUAR come into play?... There is so much obfuscation here that how does your typical constituent know "Who's on First"
- 4)Hillcrest and Lankenoff quotes clearly demonstrate impatience and disregard for anything That gets in the way of "their plan"... They were asked to leave a planning meeting?!!!
- 5) So Edina really doesn't have a golf plan , and Hillcrest really doesn't have a development plan, so let's close a profitable enterprise-the Fred.????

There are sufficient questions that need to be addressed.. I encourage that you all will vote to do so in the upcoming session.

Office at 5100 Edina Industrial Blvd...work and live here!

Thanks,

Dean
(952) 835-5151 Office
(612) 819-4073 Cell

Sent from my iPad

Heather Branigin

From: Tim Zellmer <Tim.Zellmer@genmills.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 11:31 PM
To: Edina Mail
Subject: Edina City Council

Mr Mayor: we support keeping Fred Richards a city golf course. Please vote to keep it. We Live on Casco, FYI . Thank you, Tim Zellmer

Sent from my iPhone

Heather Branigin

From: hunzelman@comcast.net
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2014 7:08 AM
To: jonibennett@comcast.net
Cc: Mary Brindle (Comcast); Joshsprague@edinareality.com; swensonann1@gmail.com;
Edina Mail
Subject: 3/4/14 Edina City Council Meeting

Ms. Bennett,

I am copying all the council members on this email because this is information that all of you need to be more aware of as you continue your tenure on the council as it is on TV for all to view. You may want to take a look at the 3/4 meeting, I have watched it several times. If you have time take a look at the Planning Commission Meeting 2/28, where the developer of Pentagon Park turned around and pointed at the camera saying, **I am not trying to change Fred Richards Golf Course, I have nothing to do with Fred Richards Golf Course!!!**

As I was attending the Edina High School Baseball meeting last evening, I was able to talk to many voters about "The Fred". Almost all of them have been following the story in the news papers and many watched the meeting on March 4th. There were many questions and comments but one comment was repeated many times and one question so I told the group I would email the council for comment.

The comment: We saw the group debate for almost an hour about how to save the trees (there was even discussion about the species of trees) on the lots that 2 houses were going to be torn down for 3 new houses. The developer was even required to show detailed drawings of house plans and when the placement of the driveways was missing there was another 30 minute discussion about driveway placement to assist the home owner to back out with a better view of traffic. The same council barely asked "The Fred" group questions about their financial analysis and presentations. The only thing that seemed to be discussed was the environmental issues that the group wanted evaluated more thoroughly before moving forward. The city manager was very quick to let the council know this was an option to look at but ultimately the mayor and council can go forward without any further review. This made all of you relieved (watch yourselves on the tapes). While your are watching, look at your reactions when the tax issues were discussed. You saved the trees on 3 lots thank you!!! What is really planned for the golf course everybody wants to know?

The question: Ms. Bennett, you ran across the stage with a letter from someone that had written you the summer of 2013 about the rumors that Fred Richards was going to be closed, what was your response to that letter? And, are you for the environment or are you against it?

I am going to be talking to voters this weekend at the Jr. Gold State Tournament at Braemar Ice Arena. I would appreciate any comments you have so your comments can be shared with the voters. Everybody I talked to wants to be more informed about what is going on, not everybody is for keeping the golf course open and were upfront with their comments knowing I live on Fred Richards Golf Course. They all agreed taking more time would be wise on your part.

Renee Hunzelman
7461 West Shore Drive
952-270-7305

Heather Branigin

From: Citizens For A Better Grandview <abettergrandview@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2014 12:33 PM
To: Edina Mail
Subject: For the City Council
Attachments: Citizens For A Better Grandview.pdf

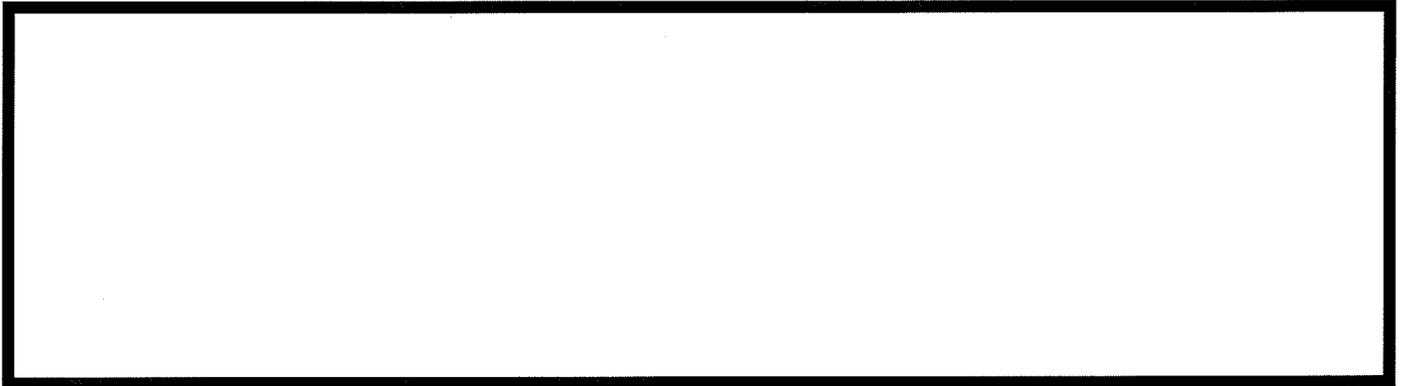
Please include the attached in the City Council packet for their March 18 meeting.

Thank you very much,

Kim Montgomery

--

Citizens For A Better Grandview
<http://abettergrandview.weebly.com>



Public land in the heart of our community is an invaluable, irreplaceable resource that will be lost forever for public use if we don't speak up.

WHO WE ARE

Citizens For A Better Grandview is a growing group of Edina residents concerned about the City economic development plans to partner with a real estate developer to develop 3.3 acres of public land in the heart of our community. This land is located at 5146 Eden Avenue in the Grandview neighborhood (near

Our Lady of Grace and Jerry's Foods).

WHY WE'RE CONCERNED

The process to seek a developer partner to redevelop the site has already begun. With every day, we get closer to losing our public land to private redevelopment.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

Public land in the heart of our community is an

JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST

Name *

First

Last

Email *

Please select (optional)

- OK to include my name on your supporters list
- Please contact me about volunteering



Public land in the heart of our community is an invaluable, irreplaceable resource that will be lost for public use if we don't speak up.

WHAT WE WANT

For the City of Edina to immediately stop the process to pursue redevelopment through the sale **or lease** of public land at 5146 Eden Avenue and for the City to begin an open, inclusive process to identify and meet current and future community needs through public use of this site.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Contact the Edina City Council today and ask them to immediately end the process to pursue redevelopment through the sale **or lease** of public land at 5146 Eden Avenue and to begin an open, inclusive process to identify and meet community needs through public use of this site.

Sign up for our email list (above)

Sign our petition here

Write a letter to the Edina Sun Current in support of preserving the public land at 5146 Eden Avenue for public use

Invite us to speak at your civic or service group

Share this website with your friends, neighbors and other contacts

Share this website on Facebook, Twitter and Nextdoor (go to nextdoor.com to find your online neighborhood)

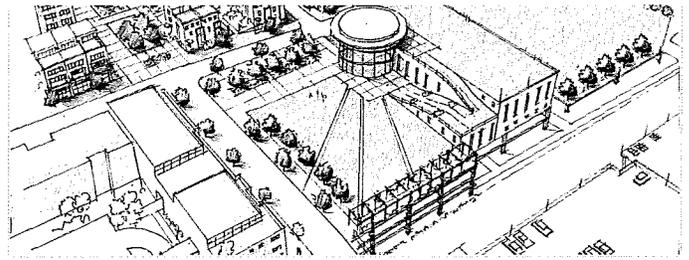


Illustration from Grandview District Redevelopment Framework modified to show green space in place of proposed high density housing

MISSION

The mission of Citizens For A Better Grandview is to raise awareness, invite conversation, and join together as a community to preserve the public land at 5146 Eden Avenue for public use.

We invite you to add your voice. Please join our **email and supports list** above.

NEWS

In January 2014 the Morris Leatherman Company conducted a representative survey of Edina residents to get their views about public land and redevelopment of the former public works site. Survey results are now in and can be viewed here.

Highlights from the survey:

61% of residents agree with the statement "The city should not sell publicly-owned land."

66% of residents agree with the statement "Publicly-owned land should be retained and used for public purposes only."

68% of residents agree with the statement "The city should create more recreational opportunities for people of all ages."

72% of residents agree with the statement "The city should create more cultural and arts opportunities for people of all ages."

93% of residents agree with the statement "A strong sense of community is important to me."

86% of residents are somewhat or very familiar with the Grandview district. Just 36% of residents are

somewhat or very familiar with the Grandview Redevelopment Framework, and 46% have not heard of it.

37% of residents support only public uses of the site. 9% support only private uses. 46% support a combination of private and public uses. The survey consultant remarked that while mixed use would be appropriate (based on the answers to this question), the high number of residents who support only public use compared to the low number of residents who support only private use is "strongly suggestive" that any mixed use development should be predominantly public.

Residents were read a list of potential uses for the site and asked to rank their top two. The uses with the most support were an outdoor plaza or park (25%), exercise/fitness center (22%), performing arts space (21%), art center/gallery (21%), and indoor pool/play area (17%).

The least preferred uses for the site were apartments (64% opposed), town homes/condos (54% opposed), and office space (47% opposed).

53% of residents support the construction of a new community center. Residents were asked what amenities they would like to see included in a community center. The top answers were a fitness center (30%), performing arts center (20%), indoor pool (16%) and meeting rooms (14%).

PUBLIC WORKS

Edina will be the preeminent place for living, learning, raising families and doing business.

Edina's Vision 20/20

Our vision for the former public works site at Grandview begins with acknowledging that Edina has high standards.

Edina has achieved success as a community by preparing itself for tomorrow.

Edina's Vision 20/20 Update

Our vision continues by acknowledging that Edina must prepare itself for tomorrow. The way we live, learn, raise families and do business is changing.

Our population is changing too. Edina could have as many as 70,000 residents by 2030, according to the Metropolitan Council.

Edina must prepare itself for tomorrow. The place to start is by **preserving public land for public use.**

As Citizens For A Better Grandview, we believe that public land in the heart of our community is an invaluable, irreplaceable resource that is needed to meet the growing and changing needs of our community.

These needs have not been fully identified, but by looking at the changes in the way we live, learn, work, and play we can begin to see emerging needs and imagine innovative ways to respond.

LIVE

Change: Many residents are looking for places where

WHAT'S YOUR VISION?

Something New?

- Community fitness center
- Community meeting rooms
- Work and study areas with free wi-fi
- An outdoor public park
- Gyms
- Performing Arts Center
- Metro Transit park and ride

Something Moved?

- Edina Art Center
- Community Education adult classes
- ECFE and early childhood center
- Edina Historical Society

Something Else?

Submit

INSPIRATION

Today's community centers are often beautiful, functional spaces that enhance the image of the community and add vibrancy to surrounding land uses.

Below are some examples of beautiful **public** spaces. Take a look, then tell us what public spaces inspire you.

Firstenburg Community Center Vancouver, WA
Read more about this facility here.

Change: Young parents are looking for places where they and their children can meet up with friends, burn off some energy, and engage in relaxed or structured recreational and learning activities.

Response: Create a family-centered community space for recreation and learning that blends a community fitness center with an early childhood learning center.

Change: Home buyers are looking for communities that provide the public infrastructure and amenities that support their active lifestyles.

Response: Create a community activity center for fitness and fun in the heart of our city and accessible by foot, bicycle, transit and car.

Change: Baby boomers do not want to be labeled as "seniors."

Response: Create an intergenerational community center to replace the traditional senior center and provide social, learning and fitness activities for people of all ages, together and under one roof.

LEARN

Change: Edina's school age population is increasing. Edina Public Schools may need to reclaim the current Community Center (old Edina East High School) for K-12 classrooms.

Response: Create a new community center that provides space for Edina Community Education, ECFE and early childhood learning.

Change: For years, Edina schools have attracted new residents. As nearby communities also become known for their schools, Edina will need additional ways to compete for new residents.

Response: Create the kind of public amenities that attract and retain new residents.

WORK

Change: More people work from home; small businesses need office and meeting space.

Response: Create an innovative co-working community space that provides flexible seating areas, work tables, wi-fi and office technology, and meeting



Photo: Michael Mather

Lynwood Recreation Center Lynwood WA



NAC Architecture

Bryant Park New York NY



Photo: PPS

The Forks Winnipeg MB



rooms.

PLAY

Change: People are looking for recreational opportunities close to home. Edina has historically located its major public recreational facilities near the southern edges of our community, making them inconvenient for many and inaccessible for most by anything other than car.

Response: Construct a new public recreational amenity in a central, convenient location that can be accessed by foot, bicycle, and transit, as well as car.

Change: Edina's community fitness spaces are cramped, outdated and losing money. The current community center looks tired and unwelcoming. (See photos here.) Surrounding communities offer modern, profitable fitness and activity centers.

Response: Consolidate these facilities into a new integrated community fitness and educational center.

Change: Looking for modern recreational amenities, Edina residents are taking their fitness and activity dollars out of the community, taking their shopping and service dollars as well.

Response: Keep these dollars in Edina by providing a community fitness and activity center in a mixed use district, with easy access to shopping and services.

All of this is possible in Edina if we have the vision. Any of it is possible if we have the will.

What changes do you see affecting Edina? What are your ideas for responding to these changes? Tell us below.

What changes to you see affecting Edina?

What are your ideas for responding to these changes?



www.theforks.com

Indianapolis Cultural Trail Indianapolis IN



indyculturaltrail.org

Need more inspiration? [Click here.](#)

What public spaces inspire you? Tell us below.

Submit

PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT

When it comes to our public land at 5146 Eden Avenue, Citizens For A Better Grandview supports private development on the site if secondary to and compatible with public uses. We believe that public uses for the site should be primary, both in terms of the area devoted to these uses and in terms of the process employed to define them.

PUBLIC COSTS

Submit

Private development will come with public costs, whether to upgrade the sewer, water or transportation infrastructure needed to support the new development, add public parking, or provide development bonuses or public financing.

We support a thorough and open analysis of the public costs associated with private development prior to making assumptions about the financial feasibility of any public or private development scenario.

All ideas and comments submitted through this site become the property of Citizens for a Better Grandview.

Questions? Please email abettergrandview@gmail.com.

Create a free website with

[HOME](#) [VISION](#) [PROJECT STATUS](#) [CONTACT](#) [RESOURCES](#) [COMMENTS](#) [MORE...](#)

PHASE 1

Grandview Small Area Guide Plan Process

April-May 2010 — Citizen Advisory Team meetings
December 2010 — Final Report

PHASE 3

Redevelopment of 5146 Eden Avenue process

July 2013 — present
[Grandview District Update page on City of Edina website](#)

PHASE 2

Grandview District Redevelopment Framework process

April 2011 — April 2012
Final Report

Thanks to everyone who has written the City Council to support preserving 5146 Eden Avenue for public use. Some of you have received a response from a Council member assuring you that the City will not sell the land and calling into question the "wrong information" that is floating around the community. So, what's the real story? Read more [here](#).

A BRIEF HISTORY

The City of Edina had been looking for years for a place to move its Public Works operations. In 2008, it settled on the former Con Agra facility at 7450 Metro Boulevard. At that time, a real estate developer had an option on the property. The City offered to swap the public land at 5146 Eden Avenue for part of the purchase cost of 7450 Metro Boulevard. The real estate developer would then own 5146 Eden Avenue and develop it for private use.

On learning that the City planned to dispose of 5146 Eden Avenue in this way, a group of citizens joined together to stop the deal. Over 600 people signed a petition to call for a referendum on the sale of bonds to finance the purchase of the Con Agra site and the construction of a new Public Works facility.

The real estate developer backed out.

The City went ahead and purchased the Con Agra site and moved its Public Works operations to this site in 2010.

That same year, a group of Planning Commission members proposed a process to "engage the community in planning for the future of the former public works site and the area around it." This process, now referred to as **Phase 1**, included a series of citizen advisory committee meetings, the first of which produced a laundry list of potential uses for the former public works site. These ideas were not further developed. Phase 1 yielded a report

promoting seven Guiding Principles for redevelopment of the 37-acre Grandview District. The City Council adopted these Guiding Principles in 2010.

Phase 2 began in April 2011 and was a continuation of Phase 1. This phase brought together community members and consultants to craft a vision for how to bring the Guiding Principles to life. Although, during this process, there were two separate public conversations about potential public uses for 5146 Eden Avenue, the ideas presented were not further developed. Phase 2 resulted in the *GrandView District Redevelopment Framework*. The Council adopted the *Framework* in April 2012.

A year passed and, during a joint work session of the City Council and Edina Planning Commission, the City's economic development manager, Bill Neuendorf, pitched the idea of using a request for interest (RFI) process to identify a real estate developer to partner with the City to redevelop the former public works site. Mr. Neuendorf opened the discussion by saying that he wanted to get the Council's input on two things. "Number one," he said is the disposition and redevelopment of the public works site." Number two was community input.

Whether the City should dispose of and redevelop the site—the reasons for doing so, the pros and cons of alternatives—was not presented for discussion. Disposition and redevelopment of the site were assumed.

The meeting ended without Council members verbalizing consensus to move forward with the proposed plan. Yet, the approved minutes of the meeting read: "Following discussion of the Council and Planning Commissioners, *it was determined* that in [Phase 3] the plan would be to send out an RFI (Request For Information) allowing developers to submit proposals for redevelopment of the public works site...." And, with that, Phase 3 was born.

The purpose of Phase 3 is to prepare and distribute an RFI to the real estate development community, with the goal of identifying a developer to partner with the City to redevelop the former public works site. This process is led by the City's economic development manager, with participation from a citizen advisory team (CAT). The CAT began meeting in July 2013.

In September 2013, the CAT sought guidance from the City Council on how to move forward. Half or more of the CAT members supported identifying and vetting community uses for the site before engaging a private developer. Consensus of a majority of City Council members, though, was to direct the CAT to continue to prepare the RFI and, concurrently, to gather data (in the form of a telephone survey) that could shed some light on potential public uses for the site.

In January 2014, the CAT again sought guidance from the City Council on how to proceed. The data directed to be collected in September was not yet ready, and half or more of the CAT members still supported identifying and vetting community uses for the site before engaging a private developer.

Council member Josh Sprague had a similar perspective. In an email follow up to the January 21, 2014 City Council and CAT work session, Council member Sprague shared his position:

"At our work session, we met with the Grandview Community Advisory Team (CAT) to give some requested clarity on the current redevelopment process. Up to this point, there was a principled difference of opinion among

CAT members about how much public use was envisioned for the site, and therefore what the best next step in the process would be. I stated that the presumption with publicly-owned land should be to retain all or most of it for public use (80-100% in this case), either for today or in the future, unless some countervailing consideration rebuts that, like: economic feasibility, design feasibility, lack of demand, lack of community support, etc. If you start with the presumption, then a better next step might be to investigate the community's preferred uses for the site, put together options for the building and outdoor space, and then run those through design and cost feasibility analysis. Then, once you arrive at a reasonable public amenity, go forth with the RFI process to determine how much of the site needs to be leveraged for private development to support an economically sustainable model. This would have the added advantage of more clearly communicating to the development community what the public realm will look like and, therefore, what private uses would be most complimentary and feasible."

A majority of the remaining Council members, however, did not share this view. In fact, a majority of Council members stated that there are no identified and vetted public needs for the site. Council member Swenson said the only public need at Grandview is parking. [Read a partial transcript of this meeting here.](#)

The consensus of three out of five Council members was to direct the CAT to continue preparation of the RFI and the process to identify a real estate development partner.

Six years of process and very little has changed. The City sought private development on the former public works site in 2008 and seeks private development today.

And yet there has never been an open, inclusive process specific to identifying and planning to meet current and future community needs through public uses on this land.

As Citizens For A Better Grandview, we believe that public land in the heart of our community is an invaluable, irreplaceable resource that is needed to meet the growing and changing needs of our community. Our mission is to raise awareness, invite conversation, and join together as a community to save the public land at 5146 Eden Avenue for public use.

Please join us in asking the City Council to immediately stop their plans to partner with a real estate developer to develop the public land and 5146 Eden Avenue and to begin an open, inclusive process specific to identifying and planning to meet current and future community needs through public use of the site.

Sign our petition or share your thoughts directly with the City Council at mail@edinamn.gov. We have a better chance of being heard if you add your voice.

[HOME](#) [VISION](#) [PROJECT STATUS](#) [CONTACT](#) [RESOURCES](#) [COMMENTS](#) [MORE...](#)

WHAT'S THE REAL STORY?

Thanks to everyone who has written the City Council to support preserving 5146 Eden Avenue for public use. Some of you have received a response from a Council member assuring you that the City will not sell the land and calling into question the "wrong information" that is floating around the community. So, what's the real story?

As the following shows, the assumption throughout this process has been that the former public works site (all or part) would be sold for private development.

April 16, 2013 City Council work session--Economic development manager Bill Neuendorf presented the idea of partnering with a real estate developer to redevelop the former public works site. He began the discussion by saying he wanted to get the Council's input on the "*disposition* and redevelopment" of the site. There was no discussion about whether to keep or sell the site, and no Council member raised an objection to the disposition and redevelopment of the land.

September 2013 Grandview CAT meeting--The CAT discussed key steps in the redevelopment process. Bill Neuendorf stated that, once final site plans are approved, the full terms of the contract with a developer would go into effect and the *property would be transferred*.

November 8, 2013 Draft RFI (prepared by Bill Neuendorf)--The draft included the following: "The City is not wedded to this particular combination of uses [as shown in the Development Framework] but is committed to having *at least a portion* of the site available for *perpetual community use*. "...*at least a portion*" communicates to the developer that most of the site is available for private use. "...*available for perpetual community use*" communicates to the developer that the community spaces could be privately owned (such as POPOS--publicly owned public open spaces). CAT members raised questions about the sentence and it was not included in the next draft.

December 3, 2013 Draft RFI (prepared by Bill Neuendorf)--The draft included the following: "If the City Council accepts the Feasibility Study [for proposed redevelopment], 'tentative developer' will be granted an exclusive right to prepare a full proposal for the site including a term sheet to address the possible *sale* or lease and terms of redevelopment."

January 21, 2014 City Council work session--CAT members sought guidance from the Council on how to proceed. At issue was whether the Council wanted to pursue private development on the site and, if yes, how much private development. While Council members Bennett and Sprague supported a predominantly public use of the site, Mayor Hovland and Council members Swenson and Brindle argued that there was no need that would

require a predominantly public use of the site. They assumed some public use, but argued in favor of private development. Council member Swenson brought up selling "air rights" to a developer. Council member Brindle stated that she wanted to keep ownership of the property, but sell the "air rights." Read a partial transcript of this meeting [here](#).

While it's true that the Council has not voted to sell the land, the opposite is also true: they have not voted to retain it. In fact, throughout this phase of the Grandview process, the Council has voted only once: to appoint members to the CAT. They put this process into place without a vote. They've given direction to the CAT without a vote.

Selling "air rights" is a way of saying the City Council is open to entering into a long-term lease with a developer. Functionally, a 50-99 year lease of public land to a developer is really no different from a sale. In essence, it is giving up control of valuable public land.

The record shows that the sale/disposition of the former public works site (all or part) was assumed from the start. It was only after CAT members and other residents raised questions that some Council members began to clarify that they didn't intend to sell the land, but would sell the "air rights."

Citizens For A Better Grandview has incorporated this into our message. We ask that the Council end the process to pursue redevelopment through the *sale or lease* of the former public works site. Please continue to write the City Council. If they don't intend to sell any part of the public land at 5146 Eden Avenue, ask them to vote on it-- before partnering with a real estate developer to redevelop the site.

Assurances via email that the City will not sell the land is one thing. A public vote is another. It's up to us, Edina citizens, to keep them honest.

updated March 11, 2014

Create a free website with

[HOME](#) [VISION](#) [PROJECT STATUS](#) [CONTACT](#) [RESOURCES](#) [COMMENTS](#) [MORE...](#)

COMMENTS

Thank you to everyone who has signed the petition so far and submitted comments. Below are some of your thoughts. New comments will be added to the top of this page, so please check back. If you haven't signed the petition or shared your thoughts, please do. We want to hear from you and greatly value your support.

It's about the citizens enjoying the public land, not about the short-sightedness. *-PH*

Public space is the new "anchor tenant" — we can create value and community by investing in and retaining this public space for all residents. *-KB*

As someone who grew up in Edina and is now a homeowner here and member of the next generation of Edinans I am disappointed to hear the city is considering the sale or long term lease of this public land. Specifically, I believe that being near to both a highway and a rail line makes this an exceptionally suitable site for future transit improvements which will be needed in the Edina and Twin Cities area in the future. Turning over this land to a private developer now only harms our future potential for a more transit oriented community. I strongly urge the council to reconsider seeking private development of this property and instead focus on public uses which would keep the land available for the future. *-BF*

Not only do we need to keep public land public, I believe we should be developing a public, municipal early childhood center for the youngest citizens of our community. *-KO*

Let's not waste a golden opportunity to serve our community. *-MM*

Thank you for listening to citizen input. It's important to use this opportunity to preserve the PUBLIC purpose of the site for all residents rather than a private enterprise. Previously, as the public works site, the location served all of Edina. In the future, using [the site] as a community center would continue that public, civic role. *-HB*

This land should be used for the community. A fitness center and community center would be far better for Edina than a private residence or other commercial use. *-MC*

Edina has enough commercial development and too little community space. The ECC is old and has to be shared with an elementary school. There is the possibility of exciting, unique land use with community involvement. *-SS*

I support the Citizens For A Better Grandview petition because this land is close to my home, and I believe it belongs to the citizens of Edina. *-AG*

It seems like a necessary step to involve people of the community in the planning process of the public land at 5146 Eden Ave. We pride ourselves on being a future-oriented city, so let's have the people come forward with ideas for the space, and discuss them so there will be an all inclusive decision going forward. -MK

We need a true community center. This is the ideal location! -MO

Create a free website with

SUPPORTERS

We support the mission of Citizens For A Better Grandview:

Mindy Ahler
Reema Anwar
Katherine Bass
Patty Dronen
Susan Marty Eldridge
Sally Euson
Jennifer Hovelsrud
Giovanna Ingram
Lynn Johnson
Ellen Jones
Virginia Kearney
Bruce Kieffer
Alan Koehler
Joseph Leach
Rosanne Malevich
Steven Malevich
Hope Melton
Bill Melton
Kim Montgomery, chair
Kurt Nisi
Laura Nisi

Katie Oberle
Mic O'Brien
Paul Thompson
Linda Urban
Louise Waddick
Jeff Werbalowsky
Mary Werbalowsky
Catharine Williamson

MISSION

The mission of Citizens For A Better Grandview is to raise awareness, invite conversation, and join together as a community to preserve the public land at 5146 Eden Avenue for public use.

We invite you to add your voice. Please join our **Supporters List** below.

Name *

First

Last

Email *

Choose Any

- Please add me to your email list
 Please contact me about volunteering

Submit

OTHER WAYS YOU CAN HELP

Contact the Edina City Council today and ask them to immediately end the process to pursue redevelopment through the sale or lease of public land at 5146 Eden Avenue and to begin an open, inclusive process to identify and meet community needs through public use of this site.

[Sign up for our email list \(above\)](#)

[Sign our petition here](#)

[Write a letter to the Edina Sun Current in support of preserving the public land at 5146](#)

support or preserving the public land at 6110
Eden Avenue for public use

Invite us to speak at your civic or service group

Share this website with your friends, neighbors
and other contacts

Share this website on Facebook, Twitter and
Nextdoor (go to nextdoor.com to find your online
neighborhood)

Create a free website with

Heather Branigin

From: Kirsten Llanes <llankirs@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2014 7:46 PM
To: Edina Mail
Cc: jonibennett12@comcast.net; Mary Brindle (Comcast); joshsprague@edinarealty.com; swensonann1@gmail.com
Subject: fred richards golf course

To All Whom it Concerns:

I'm a resident of Edina in the South Cornelia neighborhood and am concerned about the timeline involved with discerning the use of the Fred Richards Golf Course.

I have lived here since Halloween 2012 and am incredibly glad my husband and I decided to buy property in this neighborhood. I looked all over Edina with my Edina Realty agents, taking tours of dozens of houses in every quadrant, and by far found these quiet streets to be the most valuable; I very much believe the neighborhood is as such because it is near enough but not too near to Southdale and other mercantile areas.

If a decision is made about the golf course within the next few days, I think it would be a missed opportunity to see how many people use the golf course over this upcoming summer. I walk by that area often and love the paved bike path that was installed near Kellogg Ave. In particular, I remember the enthusiasm from many prospective buyers I witnessed at a open house on Trillium Lane held by Josh Sprague the summer of 2012 just before the construction of the bike path and Lake Edina area was improved.

Please take some time to consider your decision about the best use of this golf course for Edina, and consider approving an ad hoc team of concerned residents to develop alternative proposals for this space. Together, I am sure we can all come up with the best solution for our city.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Llanes

Heather Branigin

From: Marc Andrew <marc@cityage.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 10:27 AM
To: Edina Mail
Subject: Your Invitation to CityAge: Seattle

Dear Mayor Hovland,

I write to ensure you've received your invitation to attend the third edition of The New American City in Seattle on June 10 & 11. We're very hopeful that someone from Edina can join us.

America's cities are the engines of the national economy. By 2040, the United States will add almost 100 million people, which stands to re-shape America's built environment. This two-day event will address the new models of development, innovation and partnership that are can drive a new era of growth in jobs and the economy.

Speakers will join us from **Boeing, Populous, Seattle, Paul Allen's Vulcan Real Estate, AutoDesk, Grosvenor Americas, McKinsey, San Francisco, NBBJ, JP Morgan Chase, the West Coast Infrastructure Exchange, Burns & McDonnell**, and many others. Information on timing and registration is available at: www.cityage.org/seattle.

Full background on CityAge and our prior events across North America can be seen at: www.cityage.org. Please let me know if you have any questions. We hope you can join us!

Kind regards,
Marc.

Marc Andrew
Partner
CityAge America
www.cityage.org

Heather Branigin

From: Dale Stier <dstier10@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 10:38 AM
To: Edina Mail
Subject: Edina Golf Courses

Dear Mayor Hovland,

I have been following the story of the proposed closure of the Fred Richardson Golf Course in your city. I am a former golf course owner and former President of the Mn Golf Course Owners Assn. Currently, I am consulting in the golf and recreation business.

In conversation with representatives from the "Save the Fred" organization, they mentioned that the option of using a golf management company to operate Edina's golf courses was dismissed without consideration. I am currently working with Billy Casper Golf. They manage 160 golf courses nationwide and have successfully turned around several failing municipal golf facilities for the cities of Chicago, Cincinnati, and Philadelphia among others.

I am puzzled by this apparent prejudice, and it leaves me wondering about the future of not only the Fred Richardson course, but the Braemar Facility as well.

I would encourage you to take a minute to visit the website at billycaspergolf.com. You owe it to yourselves and your constituents to consider all the options available to you in operating your golf facilities.

Please contact me if I can be of any assistance.

--

Dale Stier
Change Course Consulting
612-201-0116
dstier10@gmail.com

Heather Branigin

From: Doug Nelson <dnelson@theminikahdaclub.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 12:22 PM
To: Edina Mail; joshsprague@edinarealty.com; swensonann1@gmail.com; Mary Brindle (Comcast); jonibennett12@comcast.net
Subject: Fred Richards

Mr Mayor and City Council Members

I am sure you have heard from plenty of Edina residents over the past weeks concerning the possible closing of the Fred Richards Golf Course. I would like to give you my thoughts based on my knowledge of the golf business. I have been working at golf courses since the early 1970's and am currently employed at The Minikahda Club as the Pro Emeritus and am a resident of Edina. My wife and I both play at Braemar and Fred Richards. She plays the Clunie course in a Ladies group and always comes home minus a few golf balls. When we play Fred Richards she feels much more comfortable because of the way it is set up. Golf in my opinion is meant to be played while walking and this is why many Seniors are attracted to Fred Richards. The senior population is growing and it is important to introduce the game to as many juniors as possible. The Fred Richards Course is set up perfectly for that. I feel it is important to not lose the Fred Richards Golf Course.

It seems like the City is in a panic to find money to make repairs to a broken down facility (Braemar). Their financing solution happens to be giving up a wonderful Golf Course (Fred Richards) that satisfies the needs of many Edina residents. In my opinion this is the easy way out. According to the City Manager Braemar has been losing money for the past 10 years. Who has been doing the Budgets and setting the expectations to the General Manager all those years. The way I see it shame on those who have let it go this far! It is not the Edina Residents fault but they are the ones who will be waiting in line to get on the other courses in the future because of this possible short sighted decision.

Another Park?? Does Edina really need another Park? We have a great Park System the way it is but they aren't over crowded every day. I live one block from Pamela Park and it is only busy when they have an outside event or tournament on the Softball Fields. Otherwise I would call it empty most of the time.

Is this the Edina way of doing things? Far from it. If we need Ice we build a new facility. Baseball...we have some of the best fields to be found in the State. Swimming...we have developed a great outdoor facility. Edina resident pride themselves on having great facilities and great programs. It is one part of what makes Edina a great place to live. Taking away Fred Richards is the opposite.

Yes the Braemar facility needs some work to get it back to a great facility. But it needs a Master Plan so that something doesn't get lost on the way.

The Range has needed work for years. Residents have been hitting off of dirt or worn out range mats for a number of years. This isn't something that just happened this past year. I wonder if the grounds department seeded the hitting area last fall so Edina Residents would have some grass to hit off this spring and or summer?? Yes I think the Range needs to be enlarged and lengthened because the ball is going further and safety has to be of a concern. Edina has the only Public Range in the area and could be a money maker for the Facility.

The Par 29 is fun but not an easy "short course". There are many forced carries to the greens and many hills to walk up. Making it into a Par 3 course will not eliminate those things.

The Clunie 9 has 2 holes that are virtually unplayable. (Holes 6 and 8) It also has a couple of steep hills that make it difficult for the Seniors and Juniors to walk.

The Championship Course also needs some work to keep Guests coming from outside of Edina to play. Many fine Public Facilities have been built that makes this business very competitive. But I believe with proper conditioning and management Braemar could recover from the hole that it is now in. (When was it last rated in the top 75 in the Country?) There was talk about bringing in an outside company to train the employees on how to treat the guests. Isn't that the job of the General Manager when he or she hires the employees?

At the Council Meeting I heard about how great the Junior Program was having 600 to 700 participants. In looking at the Edina Programs that just came out I believe that is maximum. We should never be turning kids away from these programs. I believe these numbers could and should be twice as big as they currently are.....but not if we close Fred Richards and close the Executive course for a season or two. Junior golfers are our future residents.

There were also comments made that ALL of the tee times were not being used. If all of the times were used no one would ever come out again. Play would be too slow, the course maintenance team would not have a chance to maintain it and the experience would keep golfers from coming back. Of course not all the tee times are being used!! Is the ice rink busy all day long? Are the baseball fields busy all day long?

The MAIN thing is HOW WAS THE EXPERIENCE. And give your STAFF a budget that is attainable and ask them to work within those guidelines.

Fred Richards doesn't have to be closed to accomplish these goals. Fred Richards is DIFFERENT than the rest of the BRAEMAR Facilities. It is friendly, easy to walk, and not as challenging as the other courses. The City of Edina should work at making all Facilities first class. It is what the Residents (and voters) would want. Edina is a great place to live. I would like to see this decision delayed so that future discussions could be held.

Thank you for your time.

Doug Nelson
6117 Oaklawn Ave
Edina, MN
Pro Emeritus
The Minikahda Club

Heather Branigin

From: Broderick, Sean <Sean.Broderick@chsinc.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 12:44 PM
To: Edina Mail
Subject: Grandview development process

Please do not pursue any private re-development options for the "Grandview" land without more public discussion as to the best use for the public land.

I vehemently oppose a private sale without a full debate.

Sean Broderick

CHS

5500 Cenex Dr MS 365

Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077

PH 800 769-1066

sean.broderick@chsinc.com

This outbound email has been scanned for all viruses by the MessageLabs Skyscan service.
For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>

Bill Neuendorf

From: Lynette Biunno on behalf of Edina Mail
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 8:22 AM
To: Bill Neuendorf
Subject: FW: 5416 Eden Ave. Grandview District

Good morning,

This message has been forwarded to the Mayor and Council members and Bill Neuendorf.



Lynette Biunno, Receptionist

952-927-8861 | Fax 952-826-0389

lbiunno@EdinaMN.gov | www.EdinaMN.gov

...For Living, Learning, Raising Families & Doing Business

From: Karen Haff [<mailto:karen.haff@gmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 9:51 PM
To: Edina Mail
Subject: 5416 Eden Ave. Grandview District

I am writing to urge the City of Edina to immediately end the process to pursue redevelopment through the sale **or lease** of public land at 5146 Eden Avenue and to begin an open, inclusive process to identify and meet community needs through public use of this site. The public deserves to have input about a piece of land right in the middle of our land-locked community. Opportunites like this do not come up often.

Thank you,
Karen Haff

March 11, 2014

RE: Closure of Fred Richards Golf course

Dear Mayor James Hovland, City Manager Scott Neal, Parkboard Director Ann Kattreh, and Council Members:

I have been a city of Edina resident for 44 years and currently live at 7505 Kellogg Avenue S (on the cul de sac) next to the park and Fred Richards golf course. I realize you have heard from me before, but I must reiterate my points of concern regarding the above:

- 1) If the intention is to turn the Fred Richards property into a park, what is the price tag of the development, bonds, and the yearly maintenance costs? This decision is ostensibly about saving money, or is it? As I said in my previous letter, parks do not pay for themselves.
- 2) I understand that a master plan is in the future, but money is not available; if this is true, how can a financial decision be made about the future without a plan? Plan FIRST, DO Later. If a detailed plan is designed and accepted and you then need fiscal donations? I will be first in line. Do diligent planning.
- 3) Pentagon Office design: I believe the finality of a design is being pushed and perhaps orchestrated by the developers of Pentagon Office Park. City/Developer talks did occur at least a year before any public meetings in which designs were disclosed to the public. Even an amateur can see that a park design would be in their best interest, and of course they have a vested interest in the future of the land. An investment of \$500,000,000 is a guess, at best. Maybe that is in inflated dollars considering a development time for the 77th street section may take 10-15 years, but even so, what's the rush? I will say that Mayor Hovland appeared to be the only person that seemed to grasp this vision.
- 4) We've had open hearings and again heard the same presentation by Scott Neal (not elected) which does not address the many questions asked. The decision to close Fred Richards cannot be made without answering one fundamental question: What will become of the space?
- 5) In summary, my discussions with neighbors and my own concerns leave me with the feeling that these hearings are an exercise without merit. We've been given a pitch that Edina's golf courses (i.e. Braemar) are losing money and that closing Fred Richards will "save" them. We know this is a farce.
- 6) What are our options? Few; remember it is election time. Legal action? This is unnecessary.

Sincerely,



Art Lowell

p.s. After speaking with many of my neighbors, their feelings of anger, frustration, and distrust of this whole process are obvious. At the risk of sounding paranoid, and speaking only for myself, there is an undercurrent of deceit regarding the fate of Fred Richards. It seems a decision has already been made by a few that potentially negatively affects the many.

Allen & Christine Nelson
4351 Parklawn Avenue
#202E

(952) 835-2845

Edina City Council Edina, MN 55435-4636 USA

03/12/2014

Edina City Hall
4801 W. 50th Street
Edina, MN 55424

Dear Mayor Jim Hovland, Council Member Joni Bennett, Council Member
Mary Brindle, Council Member Josh Sprague, + Council Member
Ann Swenson:

Paul Rosenthal suggested I share the following observations with all of you. I was unable to stay late on the 4th of this month.

My name is Christine Nelson. My husband Allen and I live at ⁴³⁵¹ Parklawn Avenue, condo unit #202E. We moved from renting in Linden Hills to owning a condo in North Edina in 2001. Since 2004, we have lived in South Edina.

Fred Richards is an experience from the past!
Valuable precisely because it isn't high-tech!
Valuable because it teaches us about balancing technology with the natural world!

A wisely-designed, Metropolitan-wide marketing plan for the Edina Public Golf Courses could easily feature Fred Richards as "a trip back in time -- where the past and present can connect."

The grandparents, parents and grandchildren who have spoken in support of Keeping Fred Richards, as it is, understand the importance of intergenerational thinking and feeling to well-being. Where a sense of ~~enjoy~~ continuity between past and present gives focus to an anticipated future. Where all ages are welcome at the same time.

These three Edina generations may well be on the 21st Century cutting edge movement to ensure continuity is maintained in Edina. Fred Richards is an intergenerational golf course experience. Why destroy what can mark Edina as a leader in the Metropolitan Area?

I encourage you to vote with your heart as well as your head! Both are necessary to advance human-sized growth and development!

Thank you,
Christine Nelson

Heather Branigin

From: David Mooty <David@continentalgolf.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 5:22 PM
To: Edina Mail; Joni Bennett; Mary Brindle (Comcast); joshsprague@edinarealty.net; swensonann1@gmail.com
Cc: John Stang; Derek Johnson; Colleen Wolfe; akellar234@comcast.net
Subject: Additional thoughts on Fred Richards golf course

Mayor Hovland, City Council members and City Manager Scott Neal,

After the meeting with City staff on Friday that I attended by telephone, I would briefly like to give you my thoughts on the future of Fred Richards golf course.

I believe that the best course of action for Edina is to postpone the decision on the future of Fred Richards until the 2014 golf season is completed. There was discussion by Edina staff that the decision to close Fred Richards now was necessary because of the proposed Braemar driving range project. However, since the funding of the driving range project will be done internally, and any savings from the closing of Fred Richards will not occur until 2015 under the current proposal, there seems to be no logical connection between the driving range project and Fred Richards. No other compelling reason was given by staff on the need to decide now to close Fred Richards in 2015.

There are several advantages to the City waiting until the end of the 2014 golf season to decide on the future of Fred Richards.

First, the additional time would allow Andrea Kellar, the PGA and the other supporters of Fred Richards to prove what additional marketing and programming can do to the profitability of the golf course.

Second, there are significant differences of opinion regarding the financial projections that have been prepared by staff. More time would allow for a thorough discussion of these projections to ensure the final recommendations upon which they are based are the best available.

Third, and foremost, more time can be spent on the creation of a Master Plan for golf in Edina. Millions of dollars have been spent on Fred Richards, and many millions more are being discussed to improve the golf experience at Braemar. It seems quite reasonable to allow the input of Edina residents and golf experts in this process and to spend an adequate amount of time doing so. Two months is not an adequate amount of time. An additional eight months would be sufficient to ensure that all reasonable options are explored and that Edina ends up with the best golf product for the most economical cost.

If at the end of eight months of additional study the decision is to close Fred Richards, there would be little opposition. On the other hand, if the current proposal is adopted, there will be a large contingent of Edina residents who believe that the City has failed both in process and conclusion.

Given the lack of any downside to an extension of time, I respectfully ask that the City Council vote to defer any decision on the future of Fred Richard for eight months and approve the continued study of golf in Edina to ensure it reaches the best decision possible.

Thank you.

David Mooty

Heather Branigin

From: Karen Haff <karen.haff@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 9:51 PM
To: Edina Mail
Subject: 5416 Eden Ave. Grandview District

I am writing to urge the City of Edina to immediately end the process to pursue redevelopment through the sale **or lease** of public land at 5146 Eden Avenue and to begin an open, inclusive process to identify and meet community needs through public use of this site. The public deserves to have input about a piece of land right in the middle of our land-locked community. Opportunites like this do not come up often.

Thank you,
Karen Haff

Heather Branigin

From: Barbara Hoganson <barbara.hoganson@hardeninc.com>
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 8:43 AM
To: Edina Mail
Subject: RE: save the fred - get final plan done first

Dear City Council,

Thanks for giving a 2 week extension to vote on what to do with Fred Richards. However, the same points raised in previous email below are the same concerns that will exist in two weeks. Two weeks still is not enough time. Again, what is the rush in voting on Fred Richards until the Braemar plan is finalized? I hear that we will lose "\$1 million dollars" if we don't close Fred Richards now. Not that anyone wants to waste money, but \$1 million over the population in Edina would work out to be about \$21 per resident in Edina. This is not outrageous to require such a sense of urgency that it must be closed right now. I would guess there are other expenses that could be trimmed back from the city budget to absorb this. There always are ways in any budget to cut costs. Or charge higher fees to residents that use Fred Richards, and see if any push back to use the course if it will require higher fees to keep it open.

Edina residents have invested in Fred Richards for a lot of years. It is an asset of the community. If we keep it open for this next season, or until the Master Plan is finalized, to get all the details needed, then we can make the best solution for residents. A solution based upon people that live in Edina.

I would guess there are other amenities in Edina that don't carry their weight based on usage. But if Edina residents don't mind paying them because they want to have them available, then that should be ok. Are there any Edina residents saying, we must close Fred Richards it is not worthwhile to keep open?

I appreciate consultants recommendations but these people don't live here and there are other factors as mentioned below that should be taken into account. The residents that live here should have the greatest say in whether to keep Fred Richards open. I don't know what the best solution is right now but more time is needed before that decision should be made. All I know is I would sure like to have my questions below answered before any decision to close Fred Richards is made. And no one from the City is able to answer my first three questions which I think are the most critical ones before a decision like this should be made.

Thank you again for delaying your decision to vote, or VOTE NO to closing Fred Richards at this time.

Barbara Hoganson
5724 Duncan Lane
Edina MN 55436

From: Barbara Hoganson
Sent: Sunday, March 2, 2014 10:43 AM
To: 'mail@EdinaMN.gov'
Subject: save the fred - public process should be done

Dear City Council and City Manager,

Please vote no to closing Fred Richards on Tuesday March 4th. There is no need to rush the closure of Fred Richards before there is public input, public discussion and a master plan of the golf courses.

Here are some questions I personally have around this topic that I would appreciate answers for as well.

1. Golf is on the rise for the 5 – 17 years old. Parents are rethinking football, hockey, and sports that can cause concussions. Edina is all about families and supporting our youth. Fred Richards could become a significant destination to reach this age group. What would it take to make Fred Richards address this growing need? If not Fred Richards, what is going to replace it in Edina? Will the updated Braemar Golf course update these needs? And how will that be accomplished?
2. The Golf Association is looking to change the game to have it be shorter in length, not as difficult to appeal to more youth and people in general. Is this really the time we should be dumping the Fred? Or how will this need to be addressed in Edina? Will the updated Braemar Golf course update these needs? Again, how?
3. In addition, it is very important to remember that baby boomers will drive the game of golf for the next two decades as well. Baby Boomers are just starting to retire. And from my understanding, Fred Richard's target market is for youth and seniors. I have heard grandparents take their kids to the Fred to share a game of golf together. If not Fred Richards, what is going to replace it in Edina?
4. When taking away public land for residents, the process should be fair and open and residents should be able to understand the options. E.g. hold work sessions for open and honest dialogue, to really get the facts, survey residents electronically through City Extra as it is easy enough to do, have a vote electronically. As residents, we should at least know what would it take to keep Fred Richard's open and if not, what is going to replace it before you take it away. Will it remain a green space, or what are the options on the table?
5. Especially in this kind of matter when the city is a fully developed city, the City needs to think really long and hard in taking away public spaces from residents, especially when in all essence it is a park for shared enjoyment. Once it is gone, there is no going back.
6. How is the Fred any different than any of the other Parks in Edina? Could it be added to the Edina Park system? The other parks are not bringing in profits either, e.g. ice skating rinks, which is seasonal also, hire high schools students every year to sit in the warming houses, paying thousands of dollars, when I don't always see a lot of skaters. But I do want to continue to offer ice skating to residents. How does this compare to the cost/usage of Fred Richards in comparison the skating rinks seasonal cost budget?

Let's begin the discussion on how we can upgrade Braemar and keep Fred Richards golf. Have work sessions for interested residents so we can have good honest dialogue. Residents are reasonable and once we understand the facts, then we can make smarter decisions together. Please vote no to closing Fred Richards until the residents requests and questions are answered. I also would greatly appreciate answers to my questions too.

Thanks!

Barbara Hoganson

5724 Duncan Lane, Edina MN 55436

952-926-9190

Heather Branigin

From: Patty <pastang@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 9:04 AM
To: jonibennett12@comcast.net; swensonann1@gmail.com; Edina Mail
Subject: Vote No to Closing Fred Richards

Hello,

Please vote no on closing Fred Richards golf course on Tuesday, March 18th. The only logical choice is to have a master plan (by a qualified planner) for golf in Edina and the dollars associated with that plan made public before making any decision to close a historical amenity utilized by so many. Amenities don't have the burden of being profit generating so why are we forcing Fred Richards golf course to be under the microscope and not other amenities in Edina. Fred Richards executive course had around 30,000 more rounds than the executive course at Braemar- that should mean something. The reason is the relaxed atmosphere and flat landscape.

Please listen to the residents. Vote no to closing Fred Richards.

Respectfully,

Patty Stang

Heather Branigin

From: Perry, Erik <Erik.Perry@tenantco.com>
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 11:16 AM
To: joshsprague@edinarealty.com; Edina Mail
Subject: Fred Richards Golf Course

Josh,

I live at 4916 Poppy Lane in Edina, and wanted to express a thought and a concern about the golf course issue facing the city. I am not an avid golfer but do appreciate the green space near my house. Having heard about the opportunity to make this into a park is very appealing to my family (we have two boys seven and four), but the comments at the last city council meeting made me wonder:

- 1) If one of the major drivers of the course consolidation is cost savings (future capital, annual maintenance etc.) and the fund for building these types of investments is very low, how will the city be able to afford the construction of the new park area? Are there funds from the county, state, etc. that can be tapped to help? Are there ways to charge a CAM fee to the new business park developers? This was very unclear to me.
- 2) If the Fred does get closed, I would love to volunteer my time to help determine the next best use for the area as we plan to raise our children in Edina and be here for many years to come. Every house sold in our neighborhood seems to be a new young family, and it would be awesome to have input into the future.

Thanks for your consideration in this matter.

Erik Perry | Fabrication Value Stream Manager

T. +1.763.540.1506 | M: +1.612.267.1685 | F: +1.763.540.1553 | www.tenantco.com

Tennant Company | Creating a cleaner, safer, healthier world



File

**JACK RICE
4001 West 49th Street
Edina, MN 55424**

February 25, 2014

Dear Mayor Hovland and City Council Members Bennett, Brindle, Sprague and Swenson:

It's nice to see the progress that's been made in the process of deciding what to do and how to pay for 50th and France Parking and Wayfinding Improvements. It's been several years and represents hundreds of hours of time on the part of City staff and stakeholders.

I particularly want to compliment the consulting team from Kimley-Horn. They held non-confrontational information sessions and reported back to those who attended. They updated information and listened to the business and property owners, City staff and neighbors. This process was the reverse of the last attempt by other consultants in 2012.

While there will never be total agreement on priority of improvements, funding and assessment specifics, it was encouraging to hear the many favorable comments from stakeholders at the public hearing on February 18 regarding Resolution No. 2014-18.

Some reactions and comments re the February 18 meeting:

1. It's discouraging to hear that once again the City of Minneapolis has turned a deaf ear to discussing joint concerns at 50th and France.
2. The suggested changes for employee parking permit fees are needed and reasonable. Some tweaking may be in order but it seems more than fair to me.
3. The total repair and capital costs include an elevator for the South ramp, extensive interior painting for all ramps, exterior painting of the South ramp and general repairs and maintenance. This is 66.4% of the total repair and capital cost and could reasonably be thought of as deferred maintenance that would have occurred earlier had the stakeholders been in agreement.
4. There seems to be no current debate about customer parking remaining free. About fifteen years ago the Southdale Medical Building was sold and the new owners installed fees for parking. There was an uproar from patients and doctors and the new policy was abolished in a month. "Customers First", was repeated several times at the public hearing and that means continued free customer parking.
5. The "Dynamic Public Parking and Wayfinding System" is a very important piece of an upgraded emphasis on "management" of the ramps and general circulation at 50th and France. There will be a learning curve for the public but well worth it. Perhaps the merchants will come up with promotions to educate the public.

Mayor Hovland, et al
Page Two

6. While there are always questions about who should pay how much for assessments, the new matrix showing owners, use, zoning, square feet, required parking, provided parking and parking demand is a great tool. Maybe not perfect but very very useful.

Congratulations! It looks like the stakeholders are on the same page. I hope the final wrinkles can be worked out before the next Council meeting and approval granted.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Scott Neal".

cc: Scott Neal ✓
Bill Neuendorf
Rachel Thelemann