

# REPORT / RECOMMENDATION



**To:** MAYOR & COUNCIL

**Agenda Item #:** IX. A.

**From:** Debra Mangen  
City Clerk

**Date:** May 19, 2015

**Subject:** Correspondence

**Action**   
**Discussion**   
**Information**

**Action Requested:**

No action is necessary.

**Attachment:**

Attached is correspondence received since the last Council meeting.

## Heather Branigin

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**From:** Mike Minor <mike.minor@stepbystepmontessori.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 07, 2015 11:03 AM  
**To:** James Hovland  
**Cc:** Mary Brindle; Kevin Staunton; Robert Stewart; swensonann1@gmail.com; Bill Neuendorf  
**Subject:** \$550k for Beacon?

Dear Mr. Mayor and Councilmembers,

Based on recent council meeting minutes I see the Council is considering some economic development giving associated with the 66<sup>th</sup> West Beacon Interfaith project, specifically, contributing \$550,000 tax payer dollars directly to the project. During the numerous city council meetings I attended regarding this project it was repeatedly stated that the council didn't get involved in understanding the project's financing and it wasn't the council's job to make a determination as to the whether this was a good use of tax payer money. Now you're considering making a contribution to this project in the name of economic development. Let me remind you that the cost per unit of these 350-450 sq foot studio apartments will be between \$200k-\$250k. That at its max will only accommodate 39 residents and cost tax payers in excess of \$10M. This project is an incredibly inefficient use of tax payer dollars. You now need to understand the implications of these numbers.

As a business owner and tax payer in the city of Edina for the last 25 years I fail to see how this will contribute to economic development in the city. The property will generate no sales tax given there is no economic activity at the site, they will pay no property tax given their tax exempt status. What return does the city expect to get on their \$550k contribution? What will this money be used for? This project will only potentially benefit 39 people who may or may not be residents of the city, that's \$14,102 per resident. That could pay \$1175 of rent per month for 1 year per person, that would be a pretty nice apartment for most people. Plus I am aware of no investment the city has made with that high of a cost per resident.

Moreover, it is not the responsibility of the city to pick charitable organization winners and losers, make no mistake, this is charity. If the city has so much extra money that it can engage in charitable giving I would suggest they return it to the tax payers in the city and suggest they donate the money to the charity of their choice. It is not the job of the city to determine the charities in which the residents must contribute. As such you should reject this proposal and look for more efficient uses for this money.

Sincerely,

Mike Minor  
Step By Step Montessori Schools  
6519 Barrie Road  
Edina, MN 55435

## Heather Branigin

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**From:** Diane Rice <jdarice@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 07, 2015 1:05 PM  
**To:** Mary Brindle; James Hovland; kstauton@EdinaMN.gov; Robert Stewart; swensonann1@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Parking plan for Bruce Avenue and Bruce Place

May 7, 2015

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for listening to the concerns of the neighbors of Bruce Avenue last evening. After the meeting we all spoke and I would like to summarize our thoughts and reply to your comments concerning our project.

You mentioned Mayor Hovland that the information about our project had been out there and we had the ability to see and voice our opinions.

I do have the June 10, 2014 information that was sent to us about the "proposed local street typical section". While it does say the streets could be reduced to 24' or 27' depending on sidewalks, it didn't specifically call out which.

I did attend 2 of the Living Streets Hearings. I like other concerned citizens, looked at the charts, and the PROPOSED plans. We all voiced our thoughts and concerns to the members of the engineering and planning staff. There were many neighborhoods that were represented. The staff listened, and said they would pass our concerns on.

At the time I went it was after speaking with other neighbors who had heard that there were to be sidewalks on our street and the street was to be narrowed. The consensus of the neighbors I spoke with was to please leave everything as it is! I learned that there weren't to be sidewalks. I knew that the neighbors on Indianola had signed a petition asking that their street not have sidewalks and a narrower street. We spoke at the meeting of the traffic from 50th that does use our street and of the real elephant in the room, the traffic on 50th. I did ask at that time why our street needed to be narrowed.

I spoke with other neighbors who had met with you to talk about our street and the project and was occasionally updated about what had been said. But it wasn't until the project began that we heard that yes, the street was going to be narrowed and there would be parking on one side. On April 22, 2015 I first called and spoke with Chad Miller and then he suggested I call Mark Nolan.

Mark said that the street was being narrowed and that because of that there would be parking on the east side and signs on the west. That was the final plan. He then called me back and said that he misspoke. He said our street wasn't being narrowed to 24' but to 27'. He said there were streets in Edina that were 27' that did have parking on both sides of the street, so there could be another options to the plan. He suggested the petition. Again, this was on April 22, 2015. So at that point we weren't sure if the street was to be 24 or 27 feet.

So several of us wrote a note to our neighbors saying that the street was being narrowed to 27' and the parking was to be only on one side. The petition was then walked around. Do you know how hard it is finding 27 families at home? Seventy percent of the 27 people that signed the petition were not aware that the street was being narrowed or that parking was to be on only one side. They knew that they had to get their sewer lines taken care of, they knew what the

project was going to cost, they knew they had been sent a questionnaire about which street lamps they wanted, but they didn't know specifically what was happening to their street.

I know that you and Mark and his staff have worked very hard on the Living Streets program and a plan for the future. I understand a need for future planning as old streets need to be repaired. But I do think it just can't be a cookie cutter plan. As I said in the meeting, ours is a meandering street with an island and a cul du sac that presents its own problems. As it stands right now, I don't believe there would be any street parking on Bruce Place!

While I know you feel you have offered our neighbors an input as to our street by having the hearings on the proposed plan, the fact that over 70 percent didn't know what was occurring is telling. Many of our neighbors spend the winter elsewhere. Many are busy families who don't have the time to follow the proposed plans and attend the hearings. So suddenly they feel they are blindsided.

Perhaps instead of sending out what the proposed local street typical section would look like it would be better to say, this is what Bruce Avenue is going to look like. And it's not a proposal, it is fact. That would have gotten everyone's attention. And sadly, I doubt there are many of us that go to the website and check what is happening. We live in a busy world, so perhaps good old fashion mail is the best way of reaching us.

I know that Cary Schilling and Karen McGalbraith met with several of you and expressed concerns. Might this have been a moment when some more discussion concerning our street and it's quirks could have been considered? I know the McCarys have contacted you about Bruce Place. I realize there are way too many streets in Edina for you all to take an individual look at each one. But when there are residents of the street that have genuine problems with the proposed plan; isn't it worth looking at what the proposed plan would actually do to that street and neighborhood?

We, as a neighborhood, have now taken the plan, not proposed plan, seriously. We have all signed the petition asking that you leave the parking as it currently is, on both sides of the street. It appears, as we have now studied the living street options, that this is possible. Having lived on this street for 34 years, I can say that it works. And the rest of the neighbors agree.

I hope that this helps explain our thoughts to the future of our living street and that you will seriously consider our request. May I also ask, when and how will we know what the final determination might be?

Sincerely, Diane Rice 5013 Bruce Ave.

## Heather Branigin

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**From:** Pat Olson <patolson5@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 07, 2015 2:50 PM  
**To:** kstaunton@edinamngov  
**Cc:** Edina Mail  
**Subject:** City Council Meeting

Hi Kevin,

I was remiss at the meeting last night in not thanking you for returning my emails, and doing so in such a timely fashion. Others did not respond to my emails.

I would like to get some correct information to the Mayor. A number of us on Bruce have been active on this issue. My daughter and I and others on our street attended the info meeting and some the council meeting. I would have liked to have been much more involved, but with two surgical heart procedures and a skin cancer surgery I was deterred.

At 80 years old I have seen many changes, and I'm not adverse to change if it benefits the people involved and meets the criteria of common sense along with other criteria. I happen to have loved Bruce Ave. from the day I moved in and I can't tell you how many people over the years that have told me it's their favorite street. I happen to think it's unique in it's beauty and I would like to see it kept that way...the good Lord willing I hope to spend many more years here.

Incidentally, it has some of the greatest neighbors that I could possibly wish for.

Thanks Kevin for your attention to this plea. Pat Olson

Sent from my iPad

## Heather Branigin

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**From:** Mark K. Nolan  
**Sent:** Friday, May 08, 2015 8:34 AM  
**To:** Edina Mail  
**Subject:** FW: Bruce Ave parking issue

Please forward to the Mayor and rest of Council.



**Mark Nolan, AICP, Transportation Planner**

952-826-0322 | Fax 952-826-0392

[MNolan@EdinaMN.gov](mailto:MNolan@EdinaMN.gov) | [www.EdinaMN.gov](http://www.EdinaMN.gov)

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

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**From:** Pat Lawrence [<mailto:patlawrence50@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 08, 2015 8:22 AM  
**To:** [kstauton@edinamn.gov](mailto:kstauton@edinamn.gov); Mark K. Nolan  
**Subject:** Fwd: Bruce Ave parking issue

Dear Mayor, Council Members, and Edina Government Representatives;

Needless to say, the residents of Bruce Place and Bruce Ave felt extremely disappointed after Tuesday's meeting. We are not opposed to *Edina Living Streets* and we appreciate all the work that has gone into it. However, we only wanted to request consideration for one small part of the bigger plan that concerns us so directly. **We would like to maintain two-sided parking without unsightly no -parking signs lined up and down our charming street.** That option evidently was there in your original plans for this street.

We appreciated being invited to the meeting and to discuss our request. However, it was so very clear and obvious that a decision had already been made. Mr. Mayor, you said repeatedly that this has been in the works for two years, but the decision about Bruce Ave became known to us much more recently, and unfortunately, many of us were out of town for the winter and unable to attend that meeting.

**But more important to me now are two questions begging to be asked:**

First, **WHY** are you insisting on making this change? Is it for safety? Because our street is already safe. I have lived on it for 43, years, with children and grandchildren, and never, ever has there been an accident. If anything, you will increase the danger and speed of cars turning right off of 50<sup>th</sup> Street during rush hour. Now, they will be provided a very convenient right hand lane with little opposing traffic, people who don't live on our block or in our neighborhood but who are cutting through to reach France and beyond.

Is it for appearance and charm? Again, it's not necessary as our street is picture postcard charming – and very desirable as far as realtors are concerned. One-sided parking gives a street an efficient look, a street that is set up for the convenience of cars rather than residents. Arden Ave north of 50<sup>th</sup> is a good example of that. I realize that their street is already narrower and this is a must but it is not an attractive street and totally lacks charm. In fact, why does our street even need to be narrowed so that this has become an issue?!

Secondly, **FOR WHOM** are you making this change? Certainly not for those of us who live on it, many of us having lived here for 30-45years. Is it to make it more convenient for those passing through and using our street as a short cut? To make it easier for street maintenance? To satisfy a grand Master Plan, without consideration for those who live on it? **Where did this reasoning come from?**

One-sided parking will make it considerably less convenient for us and our guests. We share our street parking with St Stephen's Church, lawn service trucks, and of course, a never ending parade of construction vehicles. To limit parking options on our short street will cause no end of inconvenience to us and our guests.

You all casually remark that we can look at these changes in another year, but **we all know that something that is already in place is difficult to change once again.** But why change it in the first place?! It is perfect the way it is!

I would greatly appreciate your replies, giving me a simple WHY and FOR WHOM, and of course, your reconsideration of this planned change.

Thank you for your time.

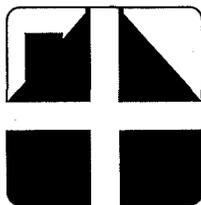
Sincerely,

Pat Lawrence, (formerly Pat Rice)

5015 Bruce Ave

Pat Lawrence  
[patlawrence50@gmail.com](mailto:patlawrence50@gmail.com)

Happy Travels



## FOUNDATION FOR HOSPICE AND HOMECARE

228 SEVENTH STREET, SE • WASHINGTON, DC 20003 • (202) 547-7424

Dr. Ruth L. Constant  
*Chairman*

Honorable Robert J. Dole  
*Chairman, Honorary Board of Trustees*

Honorable Mark Begich  
*President and CEO*

Val J. Halamandaris,  
*Founder*

Honorable James B. Hovland, Mayor  
Edina, MN 55424-1330

Dear Mayor Hovland:

The purpose of this note is to ask you to share a statement which captures your feelings and experience with hospice. We plan to publicize these comments, along with your photograph in our publications, on our website, and in a national ad campaign.

I am writing to you in my new role as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Foundation for Hospice and Homecare and because I know the important role that Mayors play in shaping public policy. I had the honor of having been the Mayor of Anchorage Alaska prior to being elected to represent the people of Alaska in the United States Senate.

I know that as a Mayor you are the closest public official to the people. You have to know their problems and spend all your waking hours trying to solve them. You have to be practical and pragmatic and put the public's need ahead of partisan considerations. It is difficult work. As you know Mayors, for the most part, do the job not for the money or recognition but because it is a superb platform from which to serve others and do good.

As I weighed my decision about what to do following my service in the US Senate, I looked for a position that would allow me to advance a vitally important cause—something that was urgently needed by the American public. Hospice and homecare came to the top of my list. As the Mayor of Anchorage, I helped to insure the first hospice in Alaska was successful by working with them to secure the best possible location to operate from. This was a highly gratifying experience. I learned that nurses, physicians and others who care for the sick and dying are among the most competent, caring and compassionate human beings. I continued to be a strong advocate of hospice and homecare during my Senate career. I encouraged the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to make greater use of these services, and to expand their telehealth services which connect patients in fragile health via an internet or phone connection with medical professionals 24/7. Allowing patients to literally be seen continuously was a huge advance in Alaska.

In weighing my options, I was struck by one imperative. The 78 million Baby Boom generation is now reaching the age of 65 at the rate of 10,000 a day. I learned that what this group wants more than anything is to lead a long and healthful life and remain independent in their own homes. To make this possible, they want and need homecare services and when the time comes, they want hospice, which means to die with dignity at home surrounded by their family and loved ones. This is the same need that is expressed as a top priority by the 51 million seniors and disabled persons who are currently enrolled in Medicare. Another relevant statistic for me is the fact that 10 percent of the U.S. public is responsible for 82 percent of all U.S. health care costs. These are persons who suffer from multiple chronic diseases—in short, they need homecare and hospice to keep them at home and out

(over, please)

*Representing the interests of hospice patients through quality standards, certification, research, and public awareness.*

of institutions. If we made better use of hospice and homecare, experts are convinced we could save billions in the cost of unnecessary hospitalizations.

One would think that with a growing need which currently embraces roughly half of the U.S. population, that we would be expanding our homecare programs. The opposite is true. Medicare homecare services have, in fact been cut by some \$76 billion since 2009 and Medicare hospice services are currently under attack.

I decided to take on this important cause because of all of the above reasons. Moreover I have never met anyone whose family members have experienced hospice who were not pleased with the services. I also have enormous respect for the National Association for Home Care & Hospice (NAHC), our Foundation's, parent organization. NAHC is unmatched in its integrity, the quality of its leadership and its staff, some of whom played a key role in writing the Medicare and Medicaid home care and hospice benefits.

**The bottom line is that I believe that how we treat our infirmed and disabled citizens will be one of the defining issues for us in the 21st Century.** I am determined to use my time and talents to inspire and rally the American public. I believe that we are at the tipping point. So many people have had positive experiences with hospice that all we need to do is encourage each person to speak out. **Please join me by sending a brief statement and a high resolution photo in your mailed response, or send it to me by Email to [mbegich@foundationhhc.org](mailto:mbegich@foundationhhc.org). Thank you in advance for joining this crusade that we call The Last Great Civil Rights Movement. It is important.**

Sincerely,

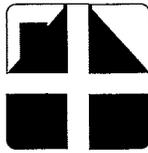


Mark Begich,  
President and CEO,  
Foundation for Home Care & Hospice

P.S. By way of inspiration, I am enclosing a list of quotations concerning hospice the we have received over the years.

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\* Hospice relates to home delivered professional services including palliative care, pain control and personal care given to those who are in the last few months of their lives. Homecare relates to in-home services ordered by physicians given to homebound patients by nurses and health aides to ameliorate their complex and chronic medical problems which otherwise would require hospitalization.



## FOUNDATION FOR HOSPICE AND HOMECARE

### Hospice Quotes

Hospice is part of a movement to humanize the way medical care is given.

— *Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA), former U.S. senator and sponsor of the Medicare hospice benefit*

Hospice care takes place in the best place of all: home

— *Hugh Downs, TV anchor and chairman of PBS's first TV series on aging*

Hospice nursing was the essence of nursing.

— *Virginia Henderson, dean of Yale School of Nursing and author of the most widely accepted text on nursing*

They say that hospice is the best medical care no one wants because it signals the end of life and American culture is all about fighting until your last breath. But all of you know it generally means an end to futile curative care and getting the best quality care until the end.

— *Eleanor Clift, political reporter and TV pundit whose husband died in hospice*

I am a hospice drop out. I received such good care I refused to die. Tender loving care is the reason that I'm still around.

— *Art Buchwald, Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist and humorist*

My mother died and received the most wonderful care from hospice. I've been through it with my daughter. But the people in hospice are so caring that I wanted to take this opportunity from the bottom of my heart to say, 'thank you.'

— *Tommy Thompson, former United States Secretary of Health and Human Services, and governor of Wisconsin*

I really believe that beyond the instincts of survival, sex, and power, there is a fourth instinct that makes us give of ourselves. You, as the movement of hospice and home care, know that because it takes that special instinct to do that job. Tapping into that and encouraging others to tap into that is the only way to change the country.

— *Arianna Huffington, co-founder and editor-in-chief of the Huffington Post*

The age wave is already straining access to hospice and palliative care for many Americans. Providing more training and incentives to study and practice palliative and hospice care would mean fewer patients suffering from the symptoms, stress, and pain of serious illness.

— *Ron Wyden, U.S. senator, and ranking democrat on the Senate Finance Committee*

We must ensure there is a trained workforce capable of meeting the demands of new models of health care delivery. Hospice and palliative care have become the standard of care for so many seriously ill persons and their families. These services can provide significant health cost savings while also improving outcomes. Supporting the education and training of providers in these areas of health care delivery will help enhance care for individuals and families coping with severe illness and life-threatening conditions.

— *Jack Reed, U.S. senator (D-RI)*

We want to make sure that nobody dies unloved and uncared for. We are hoping that they will be able to live and die in peace by getting tender love and care.

— *Mother Teresa, founder of the Missionaries of Charity upon opening an AIDS hospice in New York*

We live in a particularly death-fearing society. We isolate both the dying and the old, and it serves a purpose. They are reminders of our own mortality. We should not isolate people. We can give families more help with home care and visiting nurses, giving families and the patient the spiritual, emotional, and financial help in order to facilitate the final care at home.

— *Elisabeth Kübler-Ross, psychiatrist and author of the seminal book *On Death and Dying**

As parents of a beloved child who died of leukemia, the president and I know beyond any doubt that hospice is a compassionate service of invaluable worth.

— *Former First Lady Barbara Bush*

I have long advocated for hospice care because its supportive environment can help terminally ill patients do better and actually live longer than they might otherwise.

— *John Breaux (D-LA), former U.S. senator and chairman of the Senate Special Committee on Aging*

You matter because you are you, and you matter to the end of your life. We will do all we can not only to help you die peacefully, but also to live until you die.

— *Dame Cicely Saunders, nurse, physician and writer, and founder of St. Christopher's Hospice*

Issues affecting home care and hospice have been at the top of my priority list since I came to the Senate. Home health and hospice have consistently proven to be compassionate and cost-effective alternatives to institutional care. Additional deep cuts in spending for these programs are completely counterproductive to our efforts to control overall health care costs.

— *Susan Collins, U.S. senator and chairman of the Senate Special Committee on Aging*

I am for providing hospice care at home. For too long we have structured our reimbursement system so that people die in institutions with cold, ugly green walls and little comfort.

We can and should do better.

— *Bob Dole (R-KS), former Senate majority leader and sponsor of the Medicare hospice benefit*

In life you try your best to hold on tight to your dignity; in death sometimes others have to hold onto it for you. The premise of hospice care is very close to the bone for me. The hospice was available to look after my father before he died of cancer. These people are kind of angels. They escort you to the door of your death; they are the midwives for delivery into your next life. The comfort and relief they bring is exponential. It spills over to family, friends, colleagues. It's a blessing that everyone should be able to receive.

— *Bono, philanthropist, activist, and frontman of U2*

The needs of families requiring children's palliative care across the world are varied. Circumstances and environment can differ, but the aim of those supporting them is the same: to offer the best and most loving care possible.

— *Kate Middleton, Duchess of Cambridge*

Hospice provides a humanitarian way for a terminally ill patient to approach death with dignity, in relative comfort in a supportive atmosphere, and surrounded by family members. Its most important element is concern for patients and their families. Hospice advocates personal care and concern, living comfortably until death, the absence of pain, maintenance of personal control, and the close fellowship of the family unit.

— *Ronald Reagan, former President of the United States*

## Heather Branigin

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**From:** Jennifer Janovy <jjanovy@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 08, 2015 2:36 PM  
**To:** ann swenson swenson; Mary Brindle (Comcast); Bob Stewart; Kevin Staunton  
**Cc:** Edina Mail; Scott H. Neal  
**Subject:** Open Meeting Law Advisory Opinion--please include with council correspondence  
**Attachments:** 15002.pdf

Dear Members of the Edina City Council:

Please see the attached IPAD advisory opinion finding that the City Council did not comply with the MN Open Meeting Law as it relates to certain aspects of your handling of the city manager's performance evaluation earlier this year.

Thank you,

Jennifer Janovy

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Moxley-Goldsmith, Taya (ADM)" <[taya.moxley-goldsmith@state.mn.us](mailto:taya.moxley-goldsmith@state.mn.us)>  
**Date:** May 8, 2015 8:10:25 AM CDT  
**To:** "jjanovy@outlook.com" <jjanovy@outlook.com>  
**Cc:** "rknutson@ck-law.com" <[rknutson@ck-law.com](mailto:rknutson@ck-law.com)>, "jhovland@EdinaMN.gov" <[jhovland@EdinaMN.gov](mailto:jhovland@EdinaMN.gov)>  
**Subject:** Commissioner of Administration Advisory Opinion

Ms. Janovy,

Please find attached the Commissioner of Administration Advisory Opinion you requested regarding the Edina City Council.

Feel free to contact me with any questions.

**Taya Moxley-Goldsmith**

Information Policy Analysis Division

MN Department of Administration

651-201-2502

Visit our website at [www.ipad.state.mn.us](http://www.ipad.state.mn.us)



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### **Advisory Opinion 15-002**

This is an opinion of the Commissioner of Administration issued pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 13.072 (2014). It is based on the facts and information available to the Commissioner as described below.

#### **Facts and Procedural History:**

On February 23, 2015, the Information Policy Analysis Division (IPAD) received an advisory opinion request from Jennifer Janovy, dated February 22, 2015. In her letter, Ms. Janovy asked the Commissioner to issue an advisory opinion regarding the Edina City Council (Council) members' conduct under Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 13D, the Minnesota Open Meeting Law (OML). IPAD asked Ms. Janovy to provide additional information and clarification, which she submitted on March 16, 2015.

On March 20, 2015, IPAD wrote to Mayor James Hovland, Chair of the Council. In its letter, IPAD informed Mr. Hovland of Ms. Janovy's request and gave the members of the Council an opportunity to explain their position. On April 2, 2015, IPAD received a response, dated same, from Roger Knutson, City Attorney.

In her request for an advisory opinion, Ms. Janovy stated: "I am writing to request an Open Meeting Law advisory opinion related to how the Edina City Council handled the Edina City Manager's performance review in January 2015." According to Ms. Janovy's opinion request, the Council held two closed meetings, one on January 6, 2015, and one on January 20, 2015, to evaluate the performance of the City Manager. Specifically, Ms. Janovy asked whether the notice for the January 20, 2015, meeting was sufficient, whether the Council properly conducted the meetings, and whether the summary of the performance evaluation was sufficient.

#### **Issues:**

Based on Ms. Janovy's opinion request, the Commissioner agreed to address the following issues:

1. Did the Edina City Council comply with Minnesota Statutes, section 13D.04, subdivision 2(a), regarding notice for the January 20, 2015, special meeting?
2. Did the Edina City Council comply with Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 13D when it closed meetings on January 6, 2015, and January 20, 2015, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 13D.05, subdivision 3(a), to evaluate the performance of an individual subject to its authority?

3. Did the Edina City Council comply with Minnesota Statutes, section 13D.05, subdivision 3(a), regarding its summary of the City Manager's performance evaluation at the February 3, 2015, meeting?

**Discussion:**

*Issue 1. Did the Edina City Council comply with Minnesota Statutes, section 13D.04, subdivision 2(a), regarding notice for the January 20, 2015, special meeting?*

Any meeting that is not on the regular schedule of meetings on file at a public body's primary offices must be noticed as a special meeting. For a special meeting, a public body must post written notice of the date, time, place and purpose of the meeting on the principal bulletin board or the door of the usual meeting room at least three days before the meeting. (See Minnesota Statutes, section 13D.04, subdivision 2.) At issue here, is whether the stated purpose of the meeting was sufficient.

The Commissioner has previously opined that a special meeting notice must provide detail about the purpose of the meeting. The public body's discussion is then confined to the purpose stated on the notice. (See Advisory Opinions 07-014 and 10-013.) These requirements inform the public and also allow public bodies to fulfill the requirement to provide special meeting notice to individuals who specifically request notice about particular topics. (See section 13D.04, subdivision 2(d), and Advisory Opinion 04-004.)

Here, the January 20, 2015, special meeting notice provided:

THE CITY OF EDINA WITH THIS GIVES NOTICE that the Edina City Council will hold a closed work session for the purposes of completing the City Manager performance review, Tuesday, January 20, 2015, at 5:00 p.m. The work session will be held in the Community Room located on the second floor of Edina City Hall, 4801 West 50th Street, Edina, Minnesota.

The work session will be closed to the public.

In her opinion request, Ms. Janovy wrote:

A discussion about an employment agreement may be incidental to a performance evaluation; however, the facts indicate that the primary purpose of the closed session was to review the City Manager's employment agreement. This conflicts with the meeting notice, which only provided notice of the performance evaluation. That the City Council intended to discuss the performance evaluation is not disputed.

Mr. Knutson, on behalf of the Council, wrote:

The meeting notice stated that the purpose of the closed meeting was "completing the City Manager performance review." As an integral part of that performance review the City Council discussed the City Manager's compensation and prospective extension of his employment agreement. These issues are directly linked to his performance.

The Commissioner agrees with Mr. Knutson that it is reasonable for an evaluation of an employee's performance to include a discussion of the employee's continued employment and compensation. Therefore, "for the purposes of completing the City Manager performance review" provides adequate notice to identify the purpose of the special meeting.

*Issue 2. Did the Edina City Council comply with Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 13D when it closed meetings on January 6, 2015, and January 20, 2015, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 13D.05, subdivision 3(a), to evaluate the performance of an individual subject to its authority?*

Section 13D.05, subdivision 3(a), provides, in part:

A public body may close a meeting to evaluate the performance of an individual who is subject to its authority. The public body shall identify the individual to be evaluated prior to closing a meeting.

Mr. Knutson wrote to the Commissioner:

The Council did not complete its performance review discussion at the closed session meeting on January 6. The January 6 closed meeting was adjourned and a new closed session was held on January 20 to enable the Council to complete Mr. Neal's performance evaluation... The statute does not limit the number of closed meetings that can be held to evaluate an employee.

The Commissioner has previously opined that when a public body must hold multiple closed sessions to evaluate an employee under its authority, it should recess and resume the meeting, rather than adjourning and holding subsequent closed meetings. In Advisory Opinion 06-020 the Commissioner concluded:

If the Board identified the superintendent as the employee about to be evaluated in July 2005, and if the meeting was recessed and resumed, then it appears that the Board has complied with section 13D.05, subdivision 3(a).

If the Board did not identify the superintendent as the employee it was about to evaluate in July 2005, *or if the meeting was not recessed and resumed*, then the Board is not in compliance. [Emphasis added.]

Here, the City Council convened and adjourned two separate closed meetings. Consistent with Advisory Opinion 06-020, the City should have recessed or continued the closed session to evaluate the performance of the City Manager.

Ms. Janovy also provided the Commissioner with a copy of a memo written by the City Manager following the January meetings. In it, he states that the Council met in closed session on January 6 to discuss his evaluation with the consultant hired to perform the review. Following that meeting, the Council tasked the City Manager with drafting a proposed employment agreement. The City Manager wrote:

I met with Mayor Hovland and Council Member Swenson on January 9. I presented them a proposed employment agreement. They subsequently reviewed that proposal, and *then scheduled a closed session to review it with City Council Members on January 20*. HR Director Lisa Schaefer also attended the closed session to assist the Council's discussion about the proposed agreement. [Emphasis provided.]

Ms. Janovy noted that the consultant who performed the review did not attend the second meeting.

While these facts alone do not establish that the January 20 closed meeting went beyond the scope of the performance evaluation, the following comments are in order. The Open Meeting Law does not contain a provision allowing public bodies to close meetings for general personnel reasons; meetings can only be closed in the specific circumstances described in section 13D.05 or by other statutes. As discussed in Issue 1, a performance evaluation may naturally include references to "compensation and prospective extension of [an] employment agreement." However, once a public body has determined that the employee will remain employed with a possible change in pay based on his performance, and the discussion logically turns to the specifics about the employment agreement, the Council is no longer evaluating the performance of an individual per section 13D.05, subdivision 3(a). In these circumstances, contract negotiations must be done in an open meeting.

Ms. Janovy also raised the issue of whether the Council properly closed the January meetings by making the required statements on the record. When a public body closes a meeting, it must state the specific grounds allowing or requiring the meeting to be closed and describe the subject to be discussed. (See Minnesota Statutes, section 13D.01, subdivision 4.) Mr. Knutson wrote, "Before closing the meeting [sic] Mayor Hovland stated they were closing the meetings for purposes of evaluating the City Manager's performance."

According to emails between Ms. Janovy and the Edina City Clerk, the Council recorded only the public portion of the January 6, 2015, meeting following the closed session. Neither Ms. Janovy nor Mr. Knutson provided the statement closing the meeting. Therefore, the Commissioner cannot determine whether the Council's statement was sufficient, with regard to the January 6, meeting.

The Council recorded the open and closed portions of the January 20, 2015, meeting. However, because the Commissioner determined that closing the additional meeting for a performance evaluation was improper, the sufficiency of the January 20 statement is immaterial.

Additionally, section 13D.05, requires that public bodies record all closed meetings, except those closed per attorney-client privilege. Because the Council did not do so on January 6, it did not comply with that provision of the Open Meeting Law. While Mr. Knutson did not address this issue in his letter to the Commissioner, Mr. Hovland wrote, in a February 20, 2015, email to Ms. Janovy, "Going forward, the City staff and the Council will take greater care to refrain from such errors. City staff is committed to being more careful about this responsibility in the future." The Commissioner is encouraged by Mr. Hovland's comments.

*Issue 3. Did the Edina City Council comply with Minnesota Statutes, section 13D.05, subdivision 3(a), regarding its summary of the City Manager's performance evaluation at the February 3, 2015, meeting?*

Pursuant to section 13D.05, subdivision 3(a), when a public body closes a meeting for a performance evaluation, "at its next open meeting, the public body shall summarize its conclusions regarding the evaluation."

Here, Ms. Janovy raised concerns regarding both the timing and the content of the summary provided by the Council. The Council held separate meetings on January 6 and January 20 and provided the summary at its open meeting on February 3, 2015. However, the "next open meeting" following the January 6, meeting, was the open portion of the January 20 meeting, right before the Council went into closed session. Therefore, the summary was not timely. Had the Council announced its intent to *continue* the January 6 meeting to January 20 (by recessing and reconvening, instead of adjourning), so that it could finish the performance evaluation, the public would have known to expect the summary at the February 3, meeting, i.e., its next open meeting. (See also, Advisory Opinion 12-008.)

Regarding the content of the summary, the Commissioner offered the following guidance in Advisory Opinion 02-021:

Government entities seeking guidance on what to summarize can look to the language of the Open Meeting Law. Specifically, Chapter 13D directs a governing body to "summarize its conclusions" regarding a personnel evaluation. How a public body approaches the evaluation will determine exactly which data it should summarize. The public body should carefully review the specific points it established in reaching a conclusion about the performance evaluation. Clearly, the language of the Open Meeting Law indicates that the governing body ought to summarize each salient point of the evaluation so that the public is given the opportunity to get the best possible sense of the performance - good, bad, or indifferent - of the public employee.

The Commissioner addressed the sufficiency of several summaries in Advisory Opinion 14-007:

[In Advisory Opinions 99-018, 02-021, and 02-035] the Commissioner concluded that the following statements were insufficient to fulfill the public bodies' statutory obligations: "[the Board] discussed the superintendent's strengths and weaknesses"; "As a result of that review, strengths were noted and areas of improvement were defined. The board developed goals regarding communication and leadership"; and "areas of growth were identified and [the Superintendent's] evaluation is an ongoing process."

At the February 3 meeting, Mr. Hovland provided the following summary: "summarizing the conclusions of that evaluation, the council concluded that [the City Manager is] doing an excellent job and it's being reflected in this employment agreement that we are working on." While the statement provided by Mr. Hovland included a conclusion that the City Manager was "doing an excellent job," the City did not provide information consistent with guidance in prior advisory opinions that direct public bodies "to summarize each salient point of the evaluation so that the public is given the opportunity to get the best possible sense of the performance - good, bad, or indifferent - of the public employee." (See Advisory Opinion 02-021.)

**Opinion:**

Based on the facts and information provided, the Commissioner's opinion on the issues Ms. Janovy raised is as follows:

1. The Edina City Council complied with Minnesota Statutes, section 13D.04, subdivision 2(a), regarding notice for the January 20, 2015, special meeting.
2. The Edina City Council did not comply with Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 13D when it closed meetings on January 6, 2015, and January 20, 2015; the Council held two meetings to evaluate the performance of the City Manager and it failed to record the January 6, 2015, meeting. The Commissioner cannot determine if the Council made a proper statement on the record to close the January 6 meeting.
3. The Edina City Council did not comply with Minnesota Statutes, section 13D.05, subdivision 3(a), regarding the summary of the City Manager's performance evaluation because it should have provided a summary of the January 6 closed meeting during the open portion of January 20 meeting. As noted in previous opinions, a performance evaluation summary should include salient points of the evaluation so that the public is aware of the rationale upon which the public body based its conclusion.



Matthew Massman  
Commissioner  
May 7, 2015

## Heather Branigin

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**From:** Mitchell, David L. <DMitchell@RobinsKaplan.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 08, 2015 3:12 PM  
**To:** Mary Brindle; James Hovland; Kevin Staunton; Robert Stewart; Ann Swenson  
**Cc:** 'jemitchell922@gmail.com'  
**Subject:** Parking Plan for Bruce Avenue and Bruce Place  
**Attachments:** 2015-05-08 Mitchell letter to City Counsel.pdf; Proposed Schematic StreetPlan7.31.14.pdf

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Please see the attached letter.

**David L. Mitchell**

**ROBINS  KAPLAN LLP**

800 LaSalle Avenue | 2800 LaSalle Plaza | Minneapolis, MN 55402

Direct: 612.349.8282 | Fax: 612.339.4181 | [DMitchell@RobinsKaplan.com](mailto:DMitchell@RobinsKaplan.com)

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Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Robins Kaplan LLP  
<http://www.robinskaplan.com>

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**David L. Mitchell  
5011 Bruce Avenue  
Edina, Minnesota 55424**

*Via Email*

May 8, 2015

Mayor James Hovland  
City Council Member Mary Brindle  
City Council Member Kevin Staunton  
City Council Member Bob Stewart  
City Council Member Ann Swenson

Re: Bruce Avenue and Bruce Place Parking

Dear Council Members and Mayor Hovland:

I am writing to follow up on the comments expressed by a number of my neighbors (and my spouse) at this past Wednesday night's Council meeting in favor of continuing to permit parking on both sides of Bruce Avenue south of 50th Street, after completion of the street and sewer reconstruction project currently underway.

First of all, I would like to make clear that the fact that we made our comments and presented our signed petition at the same meeting at which the City's *Living Streets* Plan was scheduled for public hearing was purely coincidental. The expression of our collective and narrow concern regarding parking should in no way be interpreted as opposition to the City's *Living Streets* Plan.

In earlier discussions with City staff concerning this issue, we were encouraged to circulate a petition on the matter and present it to the City Council. At Wednesday night's meeting, we were troubled by sentiments expressed to the effect that the opportunities for resident input on elements of the Arden Park D Neighborhood Roadway Reconstruction project had been made available, that the one-side only parking issues had been thoroughly vetted by City staff and interested residents, that the Council had spoken on this issue and that it was a "done deal."

Reports; Presentations.

In reviewing the history of this project, however, it appears that there was not nearly the amount of clarity of information on the street and parking issues for Bruce Avenue as was suggested at the meeting. Information in the Engineering Study dated November 12, 2014 prepared by the City's Engineering Department (the "Study"), and the Appendices attached to the Study is illustrative.

On pages 4 and 5 of the Study, staff notes the open houses for residents held on October 8, 2012 and September 9, 2013, and the written presentations from those meetings included in Appendix A to the Study. These presentations did not address the width of Bruce Avenue or the expected parking configuration.

Another neighborhood informational meeting was held on July 31, 2014 and a copy of the presentation and related public input are contained in Exhibit C to the Study. Again, the presentation did not address the width or parking plan for Bruce Avenue.

However, question 19 in the summary of the question and answer session to the July 31 meeting asked "What is the proposed street plan where no sidewalks are proposed?" The City's answer: "**The cross-sections include a 2-way 17' driving lane and a 7' wide parking lane on one side.**" (Emphasis added)

Similarly, the "Proposed Schematic Street Plan: Indianola to Bruce Ave. Jul.31" on the City's web page for this project, clearly depicts Bruce Avenue as 24-feet wide. A copy of this Schematic Street Plan accompanies this letter.

As late as October 23, 2014, Mr. Toby Muse of SEH, Inc. reported to the City's Transportation Commission that "[s]treets without sidewalks will be 26 ft. wide except for Minnehaha Avenue which will be 27 ft. wide...." (See Transportation Commission meeting minutes, Appendix O to the Study)

Residents/Third Party Input.

In its Study, the Engineering Department noted (and provided copies of) the comments of area residents to the reconstruction project. Comments from Bruce Avenue/Bruce Place residents uniformly opposed parking on only one side of

reconstructed Bruce Avenue. There were no comments in favor.<sup>1</sup> There is, in fact, no indication in the Study or in any other City presentation concerning this project that 2-sided parking along Bruce Avenue has ever been a problem that needed a solution.

The Study also states that the Police Department noted that it does not have a history of parking problems along Bruce Avenue stemming from services at St. Stephens church.

Living Streets Policy and Plan.

The previously-adopted *Living Streets* Policy and the recently-adopted *Living Streets* Plan both provide that in the case of Local Streets of 27 foot width, the parking options are "None, one or both sides of the street, depending on context."

The *Living Streets* Policy (on page 3) addresses "context sensitivity" and provides, in pertinent part, that "[a]lthough many streets look more or less the same, every street is a unique combination of its neighborhood, adjacent land uses, natural features, street design, users, and modes. To accommodate these differences, the City will

- Seek input from stakeholders;
- Design streets with a strong sense of place;
- ...
- Be mindful of existing land uses and neighborhood character..."

We and our neighbors consider Bruce Avenue/Bruce Place a unique and special place. As a nine year old in the mid '50s, I traversed the street weekly on my way to piano lessons at Ms. Ylvisaker's home on Indianola. As a (likely) self-absorbed high school student in the mid '60s, I could not help but notice the beautiful canopied street as I drove past on 50th Street, not then knowing that a couple of decades later, I would own a home on this delightful stretch of Bruce Avenue.

In the absence of any articulated or perceived parking problem or need and in the face of strong and universal opposition by the affected Bruce Avenue residents to the one-side parking change, the City Council's decision to make this change seems like the application of a "one size fits all" solution to a non-existent problem without taking into account the "context" of our neighborhood. On behalf of our neighbors, I

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<sup>1</sup> We were able to reach 27 out of a possible 30 households to sign the petition delivered to the Council on Wednesday. All 27 are in favor of maintaining the status quo with parking on both sides of the street.

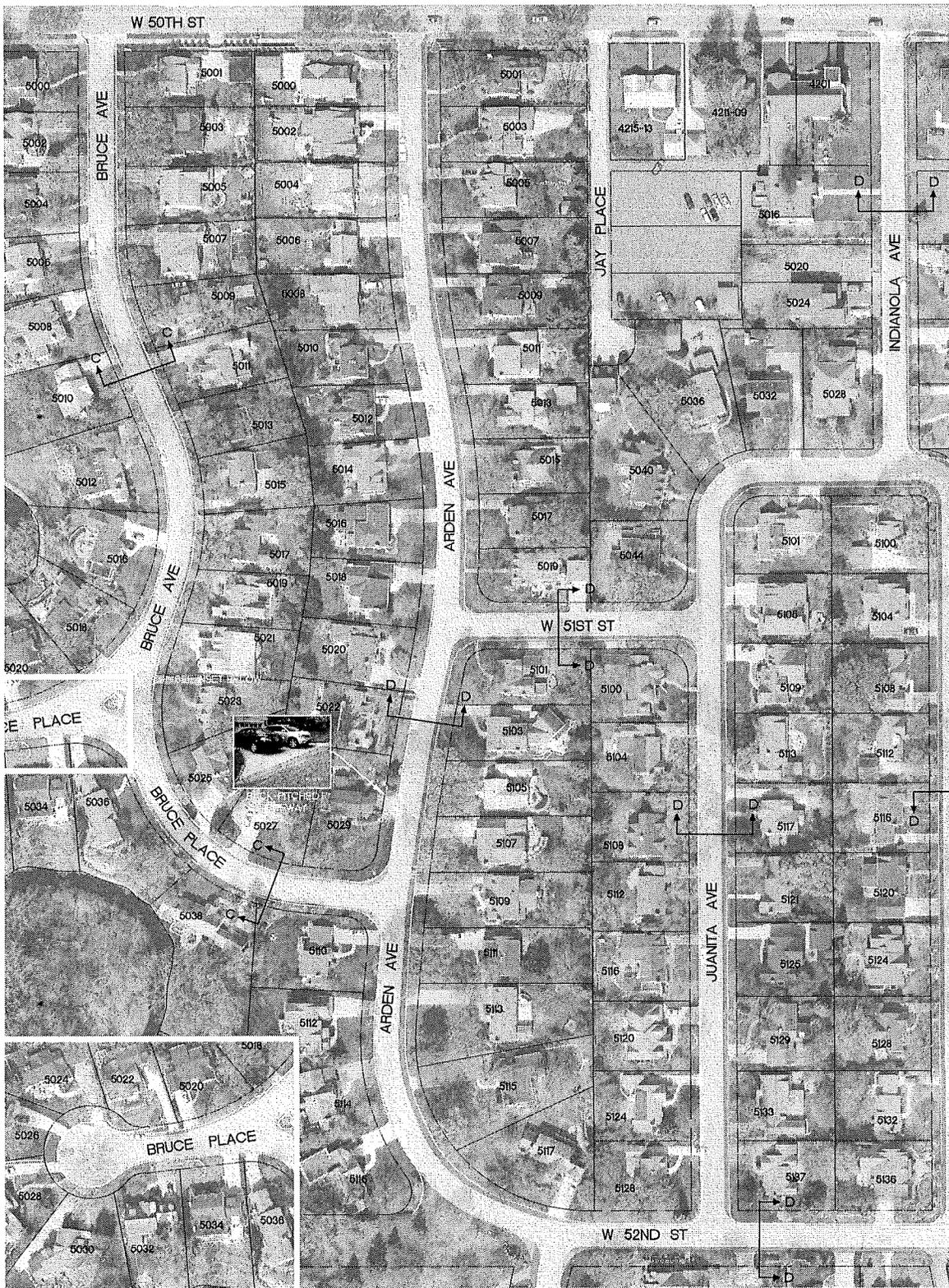
respectfully request that the City Council reconsider its prior action and permit parking on both sides of the street.

A suggestion: Don't do anything for a year after the street reconstruction is complete and then see if there is a problem.

Sincerely,

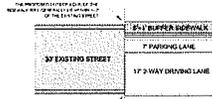
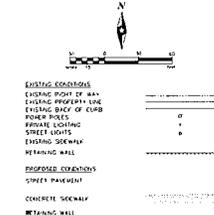
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David L. Mitchell".

David L. Mitchell

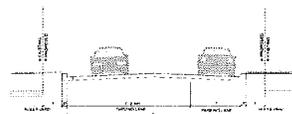


**ARDEN PARK  
NEIGHBORHOOD ROADWAY  
IMPROVEMENTS  
INFORMATIONAL MEETING**

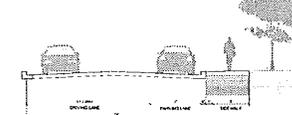
EDWA, WISCONSIN  
IMPROVEMENT NO. BA-471  
SE# 107, EDWA 128385  
JULY 31, 2014



**PROPOSED SCHEMATIC STREET PLAN  
(WITH 5' SIDEWALK)**



**PROPOSED STREET SECTION C-C  
(BRUCE AVE)  
(BRUCE PLACE)**



**PROPOSED STREET SECTION D-D  
(ARDEN AVE)  
(W 51ST ST)  
(W 52ND ST)  
(JUANITA AVE)  
(INDIANOLA AVE)**

## Heather Branigin

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**From:** Sue Welna (welavender@aol.com) <welavender@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 08, 2015 5:47 PM  
**To:** Edina Mail; Mary Brindle; Kevin Staunton; Robert Stewart; swensonann1@gmail.com  
**Subject:** thank you

Mayor and Council Members,

Thank you so much for voting for Edina to financially support the Beacon Housing project at 66 West. It is an excellent way for Edina to demonstrate its commitment to caring for homeless youth in our community. I appreciate your support.

*Sue Welna*  
5139 West 44th St  
Edina, MN 55436

## Heather Branigin

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**From:** Karen <kbikegirl@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 09, 2015 8:04 AM  
**To:** Edina Mail  
**Subject:** Sound Wall over Minehaha Creek

I am a resident at 5048 Edinbrook Lane, and am IN FAVOR of the much needed sound wall project moving forward.

The vote is on Tuesday May 19, 2015. I will be watching your votes in favor of this sound wall along Hwy. 100.

Karen Bryan

## Heather Branigin

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**From:** Mary <maltuvilla@earthlink.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 09, 2015 9:44 AM  
**To:** Edina Mail  
**Cc:** Mary Altuvilla  
**Subject:** Attention city council and engineering

Subject: TH100 noise wall improvement No. SA-17 Minneapolis Creek to Vernon Ave

Good morning,

As homeowners in the impacted area we are strongly in favor of the proposed sound wall improvement. We have been residents for over 36 years and feel the quality of life and safety aspect of the wall is long over due. Please vote YES on Tuesday, May 19.

The proposal before the Council is the most reasonable option ever presented to the neighborhood. I can't imagine a better offer in the future. Your vote assures strong neighborhood home values and safety for the residents.

If you have concerns or want to talk to a homeowner please contact us. We would be happy to share our observations with you. We would also welcome you to visit Edinbrook Lane at Highway 100 to hear and see first hand the noise and close range freeway traffic we experience on a daily basis.

Please pass this request for sound wall improvement.

Mary and Bill Hartupee  
5016 Edinbrook Lane

Please confirm this email was received and read.

Sent from my iPad

## Heather Branigin

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**From:** Ian Abel <ianhabel@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 09, 2015 3:04 PM  
**To:** Edina Mail  
**Cc:** theabels2@aol.com; Ian Abel  
**Subject:** Re: Proposed Improvement No. SA-17 TH100 Noise Wall Improvements

### **Proposed Improvement No. SA-17 TH100 Noise Wall Improvements**

Attention: City Council and Engineering,

We will be out-of-town on the evening of the meeting; otherwise we would have been attending, as we attended the previous meeting on the subject.

As residents of Millpond Place for more than 20 years now, we are excited that this project is finally going to be undertaken. We feel it will greatly improve the neighborhood by reducing the Hwy. 100 noise level as well as providing a visual barrier to the traffic, and for those whose property backs onto the highway, additional privacy.

We have been in favor of this project since it was first discussed several years ago, and expect it will provide an additional positive effect on property values as a result.

Please include our names as IN FAVOR, in any poll/vote on the proposal.

Yours respectfully,

Ian & Julie Abel

5104 Millpond Place,

Edina, MN 55436

## Heather Branigin

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**From:** Betsy Cussler <betsycussler@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 09, 2015 4:17 PM  
**To:** Edina Mail; Mary Brindle; Kevin Staunton; Robert Stewart; swensonann1@gmail.com  
**Subject:** 66 WEST

Jim, Mary, Kevin, Bob and Ann,

THANK YOU! What a great step forward for Edina! I am very grateful for the City Council's support of 66 WEST and look forward to working with you going forward. I am so proud of Edina!

Betsy Cussler

## Heather Branigin

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**From:** Sandy Simmons <ssimmons47@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 09, 2015 6:43 PM  
**To:** Mary Brindle; James Hovland; Kevin Staunton; Robert Stewart; swensonann1@gmail.com  
**Cc:** jemitchell922@gmail.com; caryschilling@gmail.com; jdarice@msn.com; carol.cushmore; asc1881@aol.com; angiellarson@comcast.net; jeff.hovanec@cambriaUSA.com  
**Subject:** Bruce Avenue Parking

Jim Hovland, Kevin Staunton, Bob Stewart, Ann Swenson, and Mary Brindle,

We live at 5038 Bruce Place and are extremely disappointed the city council is refusing to listen to the concerns of our entire block of residents regarding the decision to allow parking on only one side of our street. There has been no logical reason given to support this decision other than it has already been decided so you can't change it. Yes you can. If it isn't broken, why are you trying to 'fix' it? With all the residents on the street opposed to what you are going to do, why isn't the council listening? What is your reasoning? On an issue directly impacting only our street, shouldn't the council be representing our concerns? Who are you representing with this decision?

We don't want unnecessary signs in our yards and we NEED the parking spaces. We will be severely inconvenienced to not have any parking in front of our house and along our side of the street. Residents in the cul-de-sac will have NO on street parking available to them. That makes no sense. If the concern is slowing the traffic through the street, parking on both sides is a traffic calming measure. There is extreme frustration when the 'powers that be' make an arbitrary unnecessary decision effecting our daily lives in the face of 100% opposition.

We urge you to restore our faith in the Edina city government by listening and making the choice to eliminate these unnecessary and unwanted no parking signs and the inconvenience they will bring to all of us. It is very difficult to understand why you are deciding against every single resident of the area effected. There is NO opposition to parking on both sides of the street except by the city council and you have given no valid reason for not supporting us. It is clearly not too late to make the decision to maintain the existing parking on both sides of Bruce Avenue and Bruce Place and SIMPLY DECIDE TO NOT PUT UP THE SIGNS. If, at any time in the future, there are concerns or complaints the signs can be added. Common sense is to not put up the signs unless they are deemed necessary in the future. Please use common sense and support the residents that your decision is directly effecting.

Cal and Sandy Simmons

## Heather Branigin

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**From:** robert mallon <n0fhv@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 09, 2015 8:00 PM  
**To:** James Hovland  
**Subject:** becon

I appalled that you would give these beacon clowns a half of million dollars of my hard earn tax money to bring into my neighborhood their felons, pedophiles, and drug addicts. I realize that liberals like yourself are mentally deprive and have no real world experience so you think they are homeless because they haven't had a break in life and your going to save them by destroying this neighborhood. Why don't you resign so we can get a mayor who cares about us.

Bob Mallon  
6328 barrie rd  
apt 1d  
Edina, Mn  
55435  
(612) 280 5847

## Heather Branigin

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**From:** The Kaminsens <kaminsen@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 09, 2015 9:43 PM  
**To:** Edina Mail  
**Subject:** Thank you for supporting 66 West!

## Heather Branigin

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**From:** David Frenkel <frenkel@att.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 10, 2015 9:42 PM  
**To:** Mary Brindle; James Hovland; Kevin Staunton; Robert Stewart; swensonann1@gmail.com  
**Cc:** Scott H. Neal  
**Subject:** Car Stolen in Country Club posted on Nextdoor.com and subsequent lack of police response on early Sunday morning (May 10)

### Car Stolen in Country Club - White Range Rover<sup>17h ago</sup>

Scott Busyn from Country Club

Our vehicle was stolen out of our garage while we were in the house tonight. I noticed it gone when I went to bed about 12:30. I called 911 twice but Edina police did not respond right away and said they needed to send St. Louis Park police (hugh???) At that point I figured I was on my own so I went out on my bike to see if I could find our car and saw an African American male walk out between two houses on Wooddale Avenue. About 5'9 black sweatshirt, black sweat pants, had some kind of yellow or gold logo on left breast. I confronted him and he was extremely jumpy. I called the Edina police again as I felt I had the guy cornered but they again didn't respond. I asked the man again what he was doing and he reached in his back pocket for something. At that point I backed off as I feared he may have a weapon. I let him go but followed him on my bike down Wooddale, then down Bridge Lane, then Edina Blvd. All the while I was frantically calling the police trying to get them to come and check the guy out. I lost track of him on Edina Blvd but then heard him jump in a car and it squealed off. Called Edina police 5 more times (for a total of 9 times). They finally showed up over an hour after I first called. Very frustrating, especially since Edina police station is 1/4 mile away. I always felt Edina police responded quickly but I guess I learned we can't always count on them to protect us. 911 dispatcher and St. Louis Park police were also incredibly unhelpful. It took over 1.5 hours to get an alert out that there was a stolen car and that was after me asking over and over again if they could please send out an alert.

Please let me know if anyone sees a 2014 White Range Rover, I really appreciate any information anyone can provide. It also has my daughter's dance costumes for tomorrow's dance competition (UGH!!!!). Thank you neighbors!!!!

Shared with Country Club + 18 neighborhoods in Crime & Safety

David Frenkel  
612-237-1966

## Heather Branigin

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**From:** Daniel A. Tysver <dtysver@bitlaw.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 11, 2015 9:54 AM  
**To:** Edina Mail  
**Subject:** Support for 66 West

Mayor Hovland,

I very much appreciate the support that you have given to 66 West, and in particular I wanted to thank you for your work in obtaining funding for 66 West through the city of Edina. 66 West is great example of the local community, churches, and the city working together to help meet a pressing need in our community. Because of your leadership, and the fabulous community of Edina, we are that much closer to providing a home for 39 homeless youth in the western suburbs.

Thanks!

- Dan

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Daniel A. Tysver  
Beck Tysver Evans  
2900 Thomas Ave. South, #100  
Minneapolis, MN 55416  
Ph: 612-915-9634  
Fax: 612-915-9637

## Heather Branigin

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**From:** Dee Dee Edlund <dseidlund@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 11, 2015 12:31 PM  
**To:** Edina Mail  
**Subject:** Thank you for supporting 66th West

Mayor Hovland,  
Thank you for your support of capital funding investment for 66 West and the homeless youth who need this housing.  
66<sup>th</sup> West will make our community a better place for all.

Thanks again for your leadership.

DeeDee Edlund

## Heather Branigin

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**From:** Phil Mero <phil.mero@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 11, 2015 1:25 PM  
**To:** Mary Brindle (Comcast)  
**Cc:** Cindy Larson; Cary Teague; Scott H. Neal; Monica Mero; Michael Platteter; Laura Plaetzer; James Hovland  
**Subject:** Re: Fw: 4419 Grimes Avenue

Hello-

I am following up regarding 4419 Grimes, the tearing down of over 40 legacy trees and the lack of plan to plant new trees to provide privacy to existing neighbors while replenishing the urban canopy that has taken over a century to develop.

As we all know, the complete razing of this property was done within a month of the tree ordinance being passed. The fact that this project was live when the ordinance was passed would lead me to believe that there should be a retroactive application of the ordinance to builder and owners. The builder and new owners need to be held accountable for this blatant disregard for the existing neighborhood.

Please let me know what can be done to ensure that ample trees and landscaping will be applied to this lot to adhere to the ordinance.

Best-

Phil and Monica Mero  
4501 Grimes Avenue

On Wed, Sep 17, 2014 at 1:47 PM, Mary Brindle <[mbrindle@comcast.net](mailto:mbrindle@comcast.net)> wrote:

Hello Cindy and Cary,

What is happening at 4419 Grimes? Can we prevent removal of legacy trees such as those described the sender in this message?

Mary Brindle.

**From:** [Edina Mail](#)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 09, 2014 12:09 PM  
**Subject:** FW: 4419 Grimes Avenue

**Lynette Biunno, Receptionist**



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

[lbiunno@EdinaMN.gov](mailto:lbiunno@EdinaMN.gov) | [www.EdinaMN.gov](http://www.EdinaMN.gov)

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

**From:** Phil Mero [mailto:[phil.mero@gmail.com](mailto:phil.mero@gmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 08, 2014 11:55 PM  
**To:** [jonibennett12@comcast.net](mailto:jonibennett12@comcast.net)  
**Cc:** Edina Mail; Monica Mero  
**Subject:** 4419 Grimes Avenue

Hello Joni-

Phil Mero here, I live at 4501 Grimes Avenue. REFINED recently purchased the house (lot) 1 house to the north. They took the house down today, and are preparing to raze essentially the entire yard. Trust me, the house had to go, BUT the yard does should not be completely cleared. I am reaching out because in 2010 our want for a variance was almost denied due to the former owner and her concern for 1 of the pine trees. The council at the time was very concerned about preserving our URBAN Canopy, so much so that it came down to a 3-2 vote thankfully in our favor. Since that time, we have come very attached to the amazing trees that are on that lot. This is one of the most mature lots in the area, home to 3 80+ year old, and 50+ foot tall pine trees. One white pine in particular is one of the most amazing trees you will ever see. (photo attached) This tree belongs along the shores of Lake Vermillion, and now it is going to find it's fate at the hands of a builder so that the new home owners can put in a pool.

The fact that a historic neighborhood like Morningside can fall victim to a plethora of 'carpetbagger' builders (I know Porter is from Edina, West Edina) and quickly become 'Edina Praire' is a travesty. The house next to 4419 is the 'Turret House', built just prior to our addition in 2010. The family who built the house lived in it for less than 2 years. Since moving in 2011, the house has been a habitual rental, having been on and off the market for over 2 years. This house WILL NOT SELL.

Overnight, almost 100 years of rich, mature community is being blitzkrieged at such an enormous cost to the rich landscape. Unfortunately it is happening on your watch. Not a legacy I would want to uphold.

As longtime Edina residents, how can YOU help US preserve what makes this part of Edina sooo special.

I do appreciate your quick response to this sincere plea for assistance.

Phil and Monica Mero

4501 Grimes Avenue

8 year residents (Monica grew up in Country Club)

Phil Mero  
[612.963.0852](tel:612.963.0852)

City of Edina  
4801 W 50<sup>th</sup> St.  
Edina, MN 55424

May 10, 2015

Reference to hole in fence around holding pond

Mayor James Hovland

In late October, 2014, I had a accident with my car. I was pulling out of my garage which faces the alley and holding pond. I live at 6400 Xerxes Ave. So. My brakes were bad and I lost control of my car, went through the chain link fence surrounding the pond and struck a tree in the holding pond area. No one was hurt, the car was totaled. I called my insurance company plus the Edina Police to make a report of the accident.

The problem is this: Edina is not taking claim to the fence nor the holding pond. The pond is on the SW corner of 64<sup>th</sup> & York Ave. Edina maintenance people mow the lawn around the pond as well as run the equipment to lower the water level in the pond

I have made at least 4 phone calls to various offices at city hall; my husband has gone to city Hall twice. We are always told that someone will be right on it, but nothing happens. This happened 5 months ago, and we are still waiting. This may not be all that important to you in the big city thinking, but what if someone get hurt and sues the city. Then what?

I went so far as to call Mid-West Fencing to fix the fence, They will not touch it as we don't own the property that the fence is on and Edina won't admit to owning it.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the problem lies in the fact that there is a gaping hole in the fence. Young children get on & off the school bus at the alley and walk pass this gaping hole. It has quite a draw, when playing ball in the alley; they could lose their balance, fall down the hill into the pond, get hurt or even drown.

We have put up a vinyl type fence to keep the dogs, cats and kids out of this dangerous area. Please help us solve this problem.

My insurance Company is waiting to settle this issue. The insurance will [ay for the replacement of the fence.

Insurance Co. Farmers Ins. 1-800-327-6869

Agent Duey Hoefer 763-488-1700

Insurance Claim # 3001894300

Edina Police Case # 2014096872 Officer Tom Olson Badge #164

Waiting to hear from you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathryn Elliott". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed contact information.

Kathryn Elliott 952-920-1905

6400 Xerxes Ave. So.

Edina, MN 55423

## Heather Branigin

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**From:** Paul Brown <paulbrown@eworksinc.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 11, 2015 2:13 PM  
**To:** James Hovland  
**Subject:** Bruce Avenue resident

Hello Mayor Hovland-

I live at 5001 Bruce Avenue and wanted to express my concern about the proposed single side parking change on Bruce. Bruce Avenue south of 50th is a very quiet street, but we already get a lot of cars parking on it from St. Stephen's Episcopal Church at 50th and Wooddale (primarily on Wednesday's and Sunday's). I know the goal in doing this is slowing traffic down on streets, but again, this is a very quiet street with minimal traffic. I've been to almost all of the city meetings regarding the street project, but only heard about the recent one after it happened.

Thanks in advance for your time.

Sincerely,

Paul Brown

5001 Bruce Avenue

Edina, MN 55424

952.922.9995

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Paul Brown  
Vice President/Operations Director  
entertainment works inc  
eworksinc.com  
612.919.5166 office

## Heather Branigin

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**From:** Ted Cushmore <tcushmore135@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 11, 2015 3:42 PM  
**To:** James Hovland  
**Cc:** Robert Stewart; swensonann1@gmail.com; jemitchell922@gmail.com; caryschilling@gmail.com; carol cushmore; patlawrence50@gmail.com; jdarice@msn.com; asc1881@aol.com; Kevin Staunton; sandysimmons@comcast.net  
**Subject:** Bruce Ave parking plan

Dear Jim:

Carol and I want to add our voice to the thoughtful emails our neighbors on Bruce Ave and Bruce Place have sent you and other members of the City Council regarding the plan to restrict parking to one side of the street as part of the Edina Living Streets Plan.

We all appreciate all the work that has gone into the overall plan and we support it, **except for the parking proposal for Bruce Ave and Bruce Place**. Several of the responses back by council members have a dismissive tone to them, saying in effect that Bruce Ave residents had their chance to comment on the parking plan and failed to do so in a timely manner, so it is too late to change it. At best this opportunity for input was ambiguous as the parking aspect of it wasn't clear to all of us. Now that the residents clearly understand what the parking plan looks like, we are **all** against it. Our voices should be heard and the plan should be changed.

The plan should be changed for two main reasons: First, we see a bigger safety issue associated with one side parking than with two side parking because two side parking promotes slower, more careful driving. Second, the no parking signs will change the character and look of the street and make a charming street much less charming.

If we were requesting something that required construction, engineering, or timetable changes we could understand the reluctance to do so. But all we are requesting is to allow two side parking and not to put up no parking signs on one side of the street. This is an easy, painless change to make and is what all of us on Bruce Ave and Bruce Place want.

Let's make the change.

Ted and Carol Cushmore

## Heather Branigin

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**From:** Jessica Cook <cooksfour@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 11, 2015 8:42 PM  
**To:** Edina Mail; Mary Brindle; Kevin Staunton; Robert Stewart; swensonann1@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Thank you for Supporting Beacon interfaith Housing!

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

Thank you for voting to provide funding to Beacon Interfaith Housing's youth supportive housing development in Edina. I think it will be a tremendous asset to our community, and invaluable in the lives of the youth who will get to live there. I have toured Beacon's Nicollet Square development and am confident they will provide a great facility here in Edina. Thank you for your previous planning approvals and your recent financial support of this project.

Jessica Cook  
5408 Glengarry Parkway  
Edina, MN 55436

## Heather Branigin

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**From:** Phil Mero <phil.mero@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 11, 2015 10:44 PM  
**To:** Cindy Larson; Charlie Gerk; Monica Mero  
**Cc:** Mary Brindle (Comcast); James Hovland  
**Subject:** Major driveway concerns at 4419 Grimes  
**Attachments:** driveway.jpg; driveway hill.jpg

Hello-

As you know, we have major concerns with the driveway next door. We believe that there are serious issues that present a danger to our family and our property. In the photos you will notice how tight the driveway is going to have to be to our property. This driveway is encroaching on our property line with a very tight approach to the garage. They have also built up the driveway an additional 12-18 inches. The fear of a car slipping on ice, or accidental revving of gas pedal could lead to a car ending up in our backyard, or worse our home. With this comes the fear of injuring or even killing a child, pet, neighbor. Everyone that has seen this driveway situation is amazed that it was cleared to be built.

We need to be assured that our home and family are safe. The assurance that there will be a proper retaining wall or solid structure in place would help to help mitigate these fears. We need to be at the table with the city and builder to work toward a solution that will work for all parties.

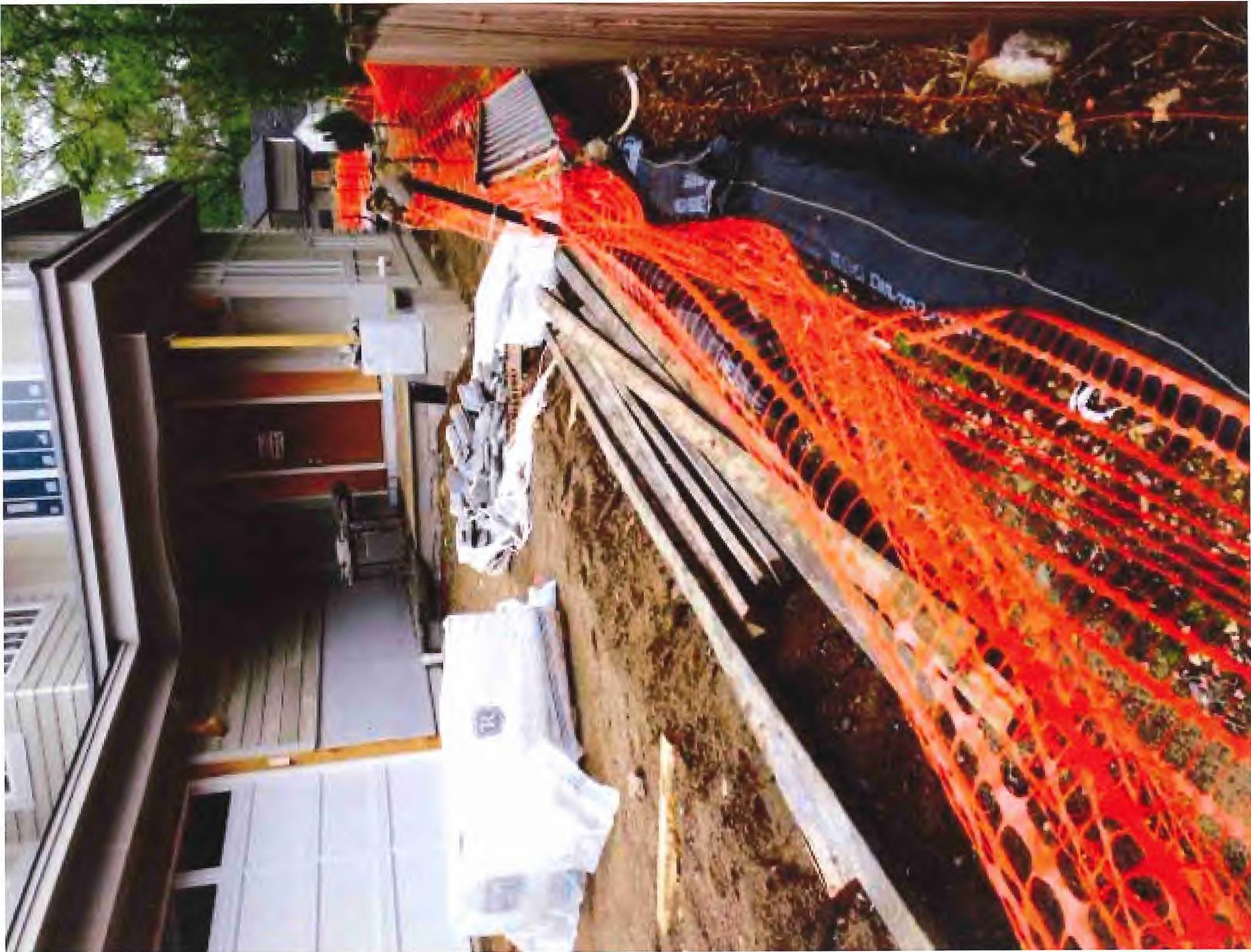
The primary issues we have are in association with:

- safety
- water drainage
- erosion of hill
- snow removal

Please let us know what next steps are concerning this driveway.

Sincerely-

Phil Mero  
612.963.0852





## Heather Branigin

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**From:** Phil Mero <phil.mero@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2015 10:59 PM  
**To:** Cindy Larson; Charlie Gerck; Monica Mero; Scott H. Neal  
**Cc:** Mary Brindle (Comcast); James Hovland  
**Subject:** Re: Major driveway concerns at 4419 Grimes

Highly concerned residents reach out with a warranted grievance and we can not get a response within 24 hours.

We need correspondence regarding our concerns tomorrow. We know how builders work, and how they steamroll over the existing residents. We need to have visibility to the driveway plans ASAP. We have asked on several occasions (both city and Refined) to see the plans with claims of not being finished or submitted yet. The new owners are scheduled to move in June 24th, the plans are finished.

We have been in this neighborhood and home for 9 years...paying taxes, investing \$250K+ in an addition that added value to Edina's bottom line while being truly engaged neighbors. I am one of the founders of the Morningside Athletic Club, I coach Edina youth soccer/hockey, my wife is in the Morningside Woman's Club, she is an avid volunteer at Concord Elementary, hell she WENT to Concord Elementary. We are here for the long haul and deserve to feel like our city has our back.

We need to walk the property with a city official to talk through this issue by end of the week with or without plans.

Phil and Monica Mero

On Mon, May 11, 2015 at 10:44 PM, Phil Mero <[phil.mero@gmail.com](mailto:phil.mero@gmail.com)> wrote:  
Hello-

As you know, we have major concerns with the driveway next door. We believe that there are serious issues that present a danger to our family and our property. In the photos you will notice how tight the driveway is going to have to be to our property. This driveway is encroaching on our property line with a very tight approach to the garage. They have also built up the driveway an additional 12-18 inches. The fear of a car slipping on ice, or accidental revving of gas pedal could lead to a car ending up in our backyard, or worse our home. With this comes the fear of injuring or even killing a child, pet, neighbor. Everyone that has seen this driveway situation is amazed that it was cleared to be built.

We need to be assured that our home and family are safe. The assurance that there will be a proper retaining wall or solid structure in place would help to help mitigate these fears. We need to be at the table with the city and builder to work toward a solution that will work for all parties.

The primary issues we have are in association with:

- safety
- water drainage
- erosion of hill
- snow removal

Please let us know what next steps are concerning this driveway.

Sincerely-

Phil Mero  
612.963.0852

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Sincerely-

Phil Mero  
612.963.0852

## Heather Branigin

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**From:** Rebecca Brown <[rbih@yahoo.com](mailto:rbih@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 13, 2015 11:13 AM  
**To:** James Hovland  
**Cc:** Rebecca Brown  
**Subject:** Fwd: Bruce Avenue Parking Situation

>  
>>  
>> Good morning Mayor Hovland:  
>>  
>> I live at 5001 Bruce Avenue and have been a resident for nearly 5 years. I am disappointed to hear of the decision to impose 1-sided parking and invest in "parking on one side only" signs when I believe, based on my conversations with quite a few households over these past months/weeks, that a strong majority of us on the street do not feel there is a present issue to be "fixed." Unfortunately, I travel extensively for work and was not aware of the petition going around as I most certainly would have signed it stating my opposition to this particular portion of the plan.  
>>  
>> Further, I have lived here long enough to know there is a real need for two-sided street parking at a minimum of several times a week due to services and activities at St. Stephens Episcopal church which does not have its own dedicated parking lot—our section of Bruce becomes a frequent choice for parking for church goers, leaving little room for resident/resident guest cars. I have been told by others on Bruce. that the response thus far has been "try it [one-sided parking] for year and then maybe it can be revisited." This seems to me like a backwards approach, i.e. to expend resources on unsightly "no parking signs" now with the possibility they would be removed later. Surely, there are better things these resources could be allocated toward. A simpler, common sense solution would be to continue to allow 2-sided parking for at least another year and then revisit whether there is a need for limitations in the future. I am hoping we can count on your support to request the City Council revisit the parking and related sign issues.  
>>  
>> Bruce is a very quiet, unique street without much traffic. I would hate to see unnecessary changes imposed, particularly when the vast majority of residents on our short street have voiced they do not want to see this change made.  
>>  
>> Thank you,  
>> Becky Brown  
>> 5001 Bruce  
>> [rbih@yahoo.com](mailto:rbih@yahoo.com)  
>

## Heather Branigin

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**From:** Coleton Whitaker <coleton@americansforresponsiblesolutions.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 13, 2015 2:16 PM  
**To:** Lynette Biunno  
**Subject:** Follow up re domestic violence work

Hi Lynette,

I just wanted to follow up from a previous request to Mayor Hovland.

My name is Coleton Whitaker and I work at Americans for Responsible Solutions, the gun violence prevention organization founded by former Congresswoman Gabby Giffords. One of the priority areas we are working on at the federal level is legislation that addresses the connection between domestic abuse and firearms and we are currently working to reach out to Congressman Erik Paulsen on a specific bill.

I wanted to see if the mayor, yourself, or the appropriate individual of your office might be free for a phone call in the near future to learn more about our group and the legislation. While we are working very closely with domestic violence groups at the national level, we are also hoping to engage local in-district individuals in this effort.

Thank you so much for your consideration.

Best wishes,  
Coleton

--

Coleton Whitaker  
Advocacy Associate  
Americans for Responsible Solutions  
(903) 241-2181  
[coleton@responsiblesolutions.org](mailto:coleton@responsiblesolutions.org)



James Hovland  
4801 W 50th St  
Edina MN 55424-1330

May 2015

Dear James,

Each day, I am reminded of the impact of our work when I hear from past students who reach out to share their personal stories of success with me. A few months ago, I had the pleasure of reconnecting with my former student, David Rollen. He shared this with me:

“ Growing up with a challenging home life on the North side of Minneapolis, it was easy to allow the difficulties in my life to get the best of me.

In 7th grade at Anwatin Middle School, I was getting into trouble and was separated from the regular student population. I was struggling in school. I was trying to figure out who I was, trying to find my identity.

Then I got the lead in the Project SUCCESS musical and everything began to change. Adrienne and all the people at Project SUCCESS took me out of my comfort zone, and I discovered talents I never knew I had. They supported me no matter what. **They believed in me.** They provided me with care and compassion and allowed me to gain the confidence to believe in myself.

My grades got better. I was on the honor roll. **Most importantly, I began to find hope in my future and my true identity. If I hadn't gotten involved in Project SUCCESS, I would not have made the right decisions I made later in life.**

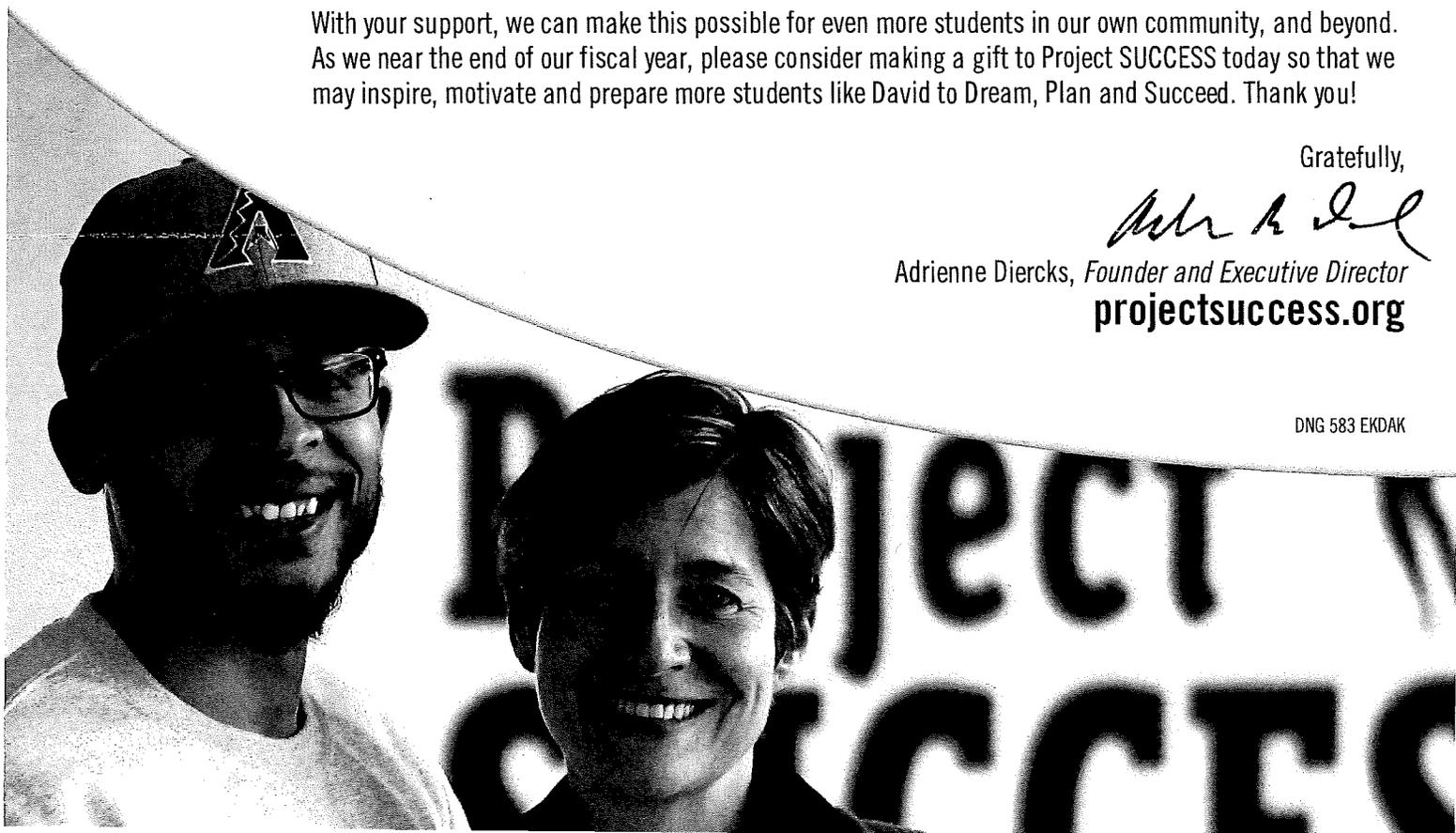
I graduated from college and am now working with troubled youth in a treatment center in Arizona. My dream is to complete my Master's degree in professional counseling and start my own therapeutic group home. Project SUCCESS has proved to be HUGE for me in my life and it radiates throughout the entire community. ”

With your support, we can make this possible for even more students in our own community, and beyond. As we near the end of our fiscal year, please consider making a gift to Project SUCCESS today so that we may inspire, motivate and prepare more students like David to Dream, Plan and Succeed. Thank you!

Gratefully,

Adrienne Diercks, *Founder and Executive Director*  
**projectsuccess.org**

DNG 583 EKDAK

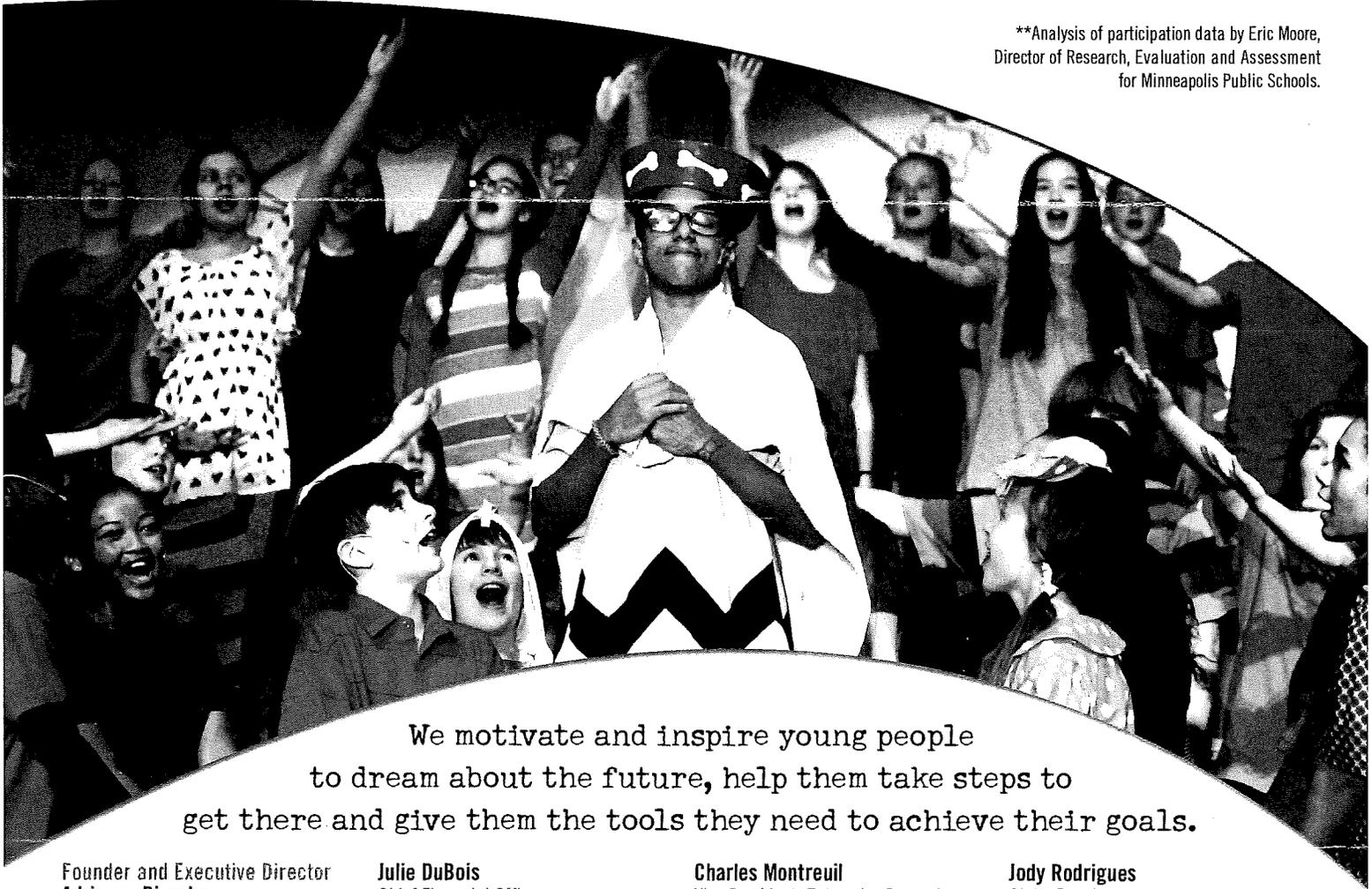


**90%** of students report that Project SUCCESS helps them to **create goals and a plan for after graduation.\***

\* Evaluation by the University of Minnesota Center for Applied Research and Educational Improvement

African American and Latino students who participate in both Project SUCCESS musicals and college visits have up to a **26%** increase in grade point average over four years.\*\*

\*\*Analysis of participation data by Eric Moore, Director of Research, Evaluation and Assessment for Minneapolis Public Schools.



We motivate and inspire young people to dream about the future, help them take steps to get there and give them the tools they need to achieve their goals.

**Founder and Executive Director**  
**Adrienne Diercks**

**Board of Directors**  
**Darryle Owens, Chair**  
Community Leader

**Ann Ruschy, Vice Chair**  
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Salo

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**Elise Linehan**  
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and Retail Consultant

**Todd Macgregor**  
Community Leader

**Charles Montreuil**  
Vice President, Enterprise Rewards  
& Corporate Human Resources  
Best Buy

**Shana Moses**  
Coordinator, Elementary &  
Secondary Education Act,  
Minneapolis Public Schools

**JoAnn Neau**  
Head, Marketing & Content Strategy  
Abbot Downing

**John Pershing**  
Executive Vice President –  
Human Resources  
Ascena Retail Group, Inc.

**Jody Rodrigues**  
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Travelers

**Kimberlee Sinclair**  
Director, Global Communications,  
H.B. Fuller

**Linda Soranno**  
Vice President & Deputy General Counsel  
General Mills

**Julie Zelle**  
Community Leader

**Directors Emeriti**  
**Ted Koenecke**  
**Sheila Livingston**

## Heather Branigin

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**From:** David Nelson  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 14, 2015 2:51 PM  
**To:** 'Scott'; Ruehl,Jeff,MINNETONKA,HCN Business Operations  
**Cc:** Cathy Ruehl (Cathy.Ruehl@genmills.com); jeff.ruehl@gmail.com; rob.webb1998@gmail.com; James Hovland; Robert Stewart  
**Subject:** RE: Robbery on Wooddale Ave Saturday Night

Good afternoon Jeff and Cathy,

I'm going to try to address both your e-mail and Mr. Busyn's e-mail in one since this is going out to the group.

First, let me start by saying that it does not happen very often where all of our squads are tied up on priority calls. We train with our neighboring agencies and have protocols so when it does happen, we are prepared. Saturday night was one of the rarities. On Saturday night during that time frame, we also has an in progress suspicious vehicle call come in on the west side of the city where Eden Prairie officers responded and handled the call very smoothly.

In addressing in progress calls versus "just filing a report." When Mr. Busyn first called, he spoke to the dispatcher very calmly and provided the initial information regarding his vehicle being stolen. At that time, he did not give any information regarding someone in the area, a guy with a possible weapon, or anything about assaultive behavior. This is why it was considered a report call.

When Mr. Busyn called back to see if anyone was responding yet, he was advised of the accident and that a squad would respond as soon as one became available. At that time, Mr. Busyn advised the dispatcher that he was out of his house and came across a suspicious person. He told dispatch that he saw this person walked out of a house and walked down the street. The dispatcher repeated the information asking Mr. Busyn if he saw someone walk out of a house and Mr. Busyn yes, reaffirming that the person walked out of a house. He didn't say anything about someone in your backyard. He did not tell the dispatcher what the address was or the name of the people who lived at the house. Mr. Busyn only provided cross street locations of where the person was.

With the information of the suspicious person in the area, that raised the call level to a priority response. Since we did not have an Edina officer available yet, we needed to transfer Mr. Busyn to St. Louis Park PD to have an officer respond. In reviewing the St. Louis Park records, the call was dispatched at 2:14 AM and two officers arrived in the area at 2:20 AM. As the officers were checking the area, Edina officers became available and responded, thus St. Louis Park officers did not stop and make contact with Mr. Busyn. Our officers arrived and made contact with Mr. Busyn at 2:29 hours.

As far as discussion in our department with the increased presence, we have increased the frequency of patrol officers driving through your neighbor area. Whenever we see an increase in criminal activity in an area within the City, we do focus our patrol efforts in that area in attempt to reduce unwanted activity.

Scott,

Thank you for your e-mail and I will attempt to respond to your concerns and questions.

Again, we you first called the police, you did not express any concern about the perpetrator still being in the area or any concern about you wife and children who were asleep in the house. From our experience, when a person is walking through neighborhood checking cars to see if they are unlocked, it is more of a crime of opportunity. If the vehicle is unlocked, they rummage through it and will take anything of value that is easy to take. Usually it is coins out of ashtrays, purses or wallets left in the car, or small electronics left on the seat. If by chance they find the means of being able to easily start the car and drive away in it, they will. When they do, the leave the area with the "huge score" and have no interest in hanging around the area looking for more unlocked vehicle to rummage through. From past experience, normally these types of people are not violent criminals with weapons, they are the type that do not want to draw attention to themselves and only go into vehicles that are unlocked. Seeing as we did not take any other reports of vehicles being tampered with that evening, your house may have been the first place where they discovered unlocked vehicles. We don't know that for sure, but we did not receive additional calls from anyone in the area reporting this type of incident from that night.

As far as your concern about your situation could have been a matter of life or death. Whenever someone calls the police who is witnessing possible criminal activity going on, we never want people to put themselves in harm's way. We prefer people look out for their own safety first versus becoming a possible victim. For example, if a person witnesses someone breaking into a house and calls the police, we want the person to stay in a safe area and continue to watch for any activity regarding the person who broke into the house so responding officers can have the information. We would never want the caller to go and try and confront the perpetrator.

It seems that since the incident on Saturday night, the suspicious person who saw has become a violent armed person when there is no evidence to support this. I disagree that your neighborhood was "under siege by multiple assailants that were working together." The video you attached is helpful of the one person captured on the footage. I will pass this on to our investigators and to our patrol officers. Obviously we can't prove this was the person who took your vehicle, but it is helpful information. At this time, we'll take anything we can get. Could you tell me the address of the house where this camera is installed so we can pinpoint the location?

To address your questions: (Responses in red font)

- 1) Why would my 911 calls from my cell phone go to St. Louis Park dispatch? Maybe this is a technology issue, but I really want Edina PD to show up when I call 911. I can't imagine their police dept is closer to me than the Edina PD HQ mere blocks away.

This is a technology issue. Years ago, all cellular phones were routed the MN State Patrol. With technology improvements, things have improved where normally 911 calls placed in Edina will come straight to our dispatch center. When a person is close to another city boarder, it depends on who your cellular carrier is and where the closest tower is and that will determine what dispatch center it goes to. Nothing we can do about that except transfer the calls to the appropriate agency when it happens. That's where we need the caller's patience and understanding while we reroute the call to the proper dispatch center.

I'm sure our police department is closer to you residence than St. Louis Park, although we do not station our officers at the police department waiting to get dispatched to calls. They are out in the city on patrol.

Another bit of information to consider. If you call 911 from your house on a landline, your address immediately pops up on our screen and we know exactly where you are calling from. With cell phones, this does not hold

true. When you call 911, we don't know the exact location you are calling from. Currently, the initial information we receive is a geographical area based off of the location of the nearest cellular antenna tower that received the signal from your cell phone. We can get additional information to narrow the location, but it does take some time. Technology has not been able to provide that feature for dispatch centers yet, although it is a work in progress.

- 2) St. Louis Park PD never showed up to investigate the suspicious person I was following. I was outside in front of my home the whole time and did not see any officers until Edina PD showed up over an hour after I made my first of many 911 calls.

I think this has been address above and in the other e-mail. St. Louis Park did check the area, but did not make contact with you as our officers were clearing the accident scene and responding.

- 3) I was told by the responding officers that Edina was at minimum police staffing Saturday night. Shouldn't there be a more reliable contingency plan in place to handle overload situations like what happened Saturday night? Like I said, SLP never showed up.

When we are operating at minimum staffing levels, that is the level of staffing we need to provide ample coverage on the street. When an major incident occurs, we follow our protocols regarding the mutual aid agreements we have in place, which is what we did on Saturday night.

- 4) You stated I should have continued speaking with the St. Louis Park dispatcher rather than the Edina dispatcher when I was following the suspect. I had no idea that I was supposed to do this as I was just dialing 911. I guess I assumed 911 coordinates a case between municipalities. Why would a resident have to know the intricacies of 911 dispatch when they are just calling for help?

911 dispatch centers and not all tied together with a constant flow of information between cities. St. Louis Park as their own dispatch center and the Edina dispatch center dispatches for not only for Edina, but also for Richfield. Residents do not need to know the intricacies of how dispatch centers and 911 systems work. That's our dispatcher's job to know this and how to transfer calls to the right location for a proper response. We just ask for your patience during the transfer process. Saturday night, after the second call, you sounded frustrated, which I can understand, but I don't think you were hearing what the dispatcher was trying to explain to you as you continued to interrupt and talk over the dispatcher.

- 5) I appreciate your safety tips of locking cars, closing garage doors etc. That being said, we have to live our lives. The reality is I had not even gone to bed and all my house lights were still on when this happened. I had been in progress of loading the vehicle for the next round of dance competition on Sunday. A police presence in our neighborhoods would deter the criminals from even showing up. The brazenness of this crime astounds me. I also just heard a new suburban had all 4 wheels removed in the owners driveway on Indianola two days yesterday. Is the criminal element becoming more brazen as they feel we are more vulnerable? Even the crime lab officer told me while she covers Hennepin County, she spent most of her time in Edina on Saturday night.

I'm confident that if the person(s) who took your vehicle would have seen any activity of you going back and forth from the house, they would have continued on down the road. From past experience, I believe this was more of a crime of opportunity.

We do conduct a lot of residential patrol, but with the number of neighborhoods throughout the city, it is not possible to be able to have an officer stationed in every neighborhood. When we identify a neighborhood that is experiencing an increase in crime, we focus on stepping up patrols in that neighborhood to address issues.

I am aware of the incident of the incident that occurred on Juanita Ave. the following evening. I don't think the criminal are becoming more brazen. We have had similar incidents occur throughout the city over the years.

As far as the crime lab deputy, yes we did keep her busy that particular night. Trying to collect evidence over that large of an area is time consuming.

I hope this correspondence helps with understanding how things transpired that evening. As the Chief of our police department, I am very sincere about providing good service to our residents and keeping Edina as a safe place to live. Your concerns will be shared and discussed with our supervisory staff and we will evaluate the series of events from that evening to see if there needs to be changes in our protocols.

Thank you

Dave



**Dave Nelson, Chief of Police**

952-826-0487 | Fax 952-826-1607  
DNelson@EdinaMN.gov | www.EdinaMN.gov/Police

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**From:** Scott [mailto:scott.busyn@comcast.net]

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 13, 2015 10:21 PM

**To:** Ruehl,Jeff,MINNETONKA,HCN Business Operations

**Cc:** David Nelson; Cathy Ruehl (Cathy.Ruehl@genmills.com); jeff.ruehl@gmail.com; rob.webb1998@gmail.com; James Hovland; Robert Stewart

**Subject:** Re: Robbery on Wooddale Ave Saturday Night

Chief Nelson,

I am going to chime in here as I was included on this email chain. Before I begin, I want to say I have the upmost respect for all the men and women members of our law enforcement community. To this day I remember the heroics of Officer Mike Blood as a reason I feel secure living in Edina.

I must say, however, that my experience with the Edina PD last Saturday night was very surprising and disturbing. I have lived in Edina for 23 years and have never had a reason to call 911 until last Saturday night. Before I called on my stolen car, I checked with my daughter who was at prom, as well as my "adventurous" 15 year old daughter to see if either of them had taken the car. Once I realized my car was truly stolen I called 911. Since my garage motion light was on I was very concerned that the perpetrator was still in the area. My wife and three daughters were asleep in the house. I was fearful of what was going on and did expect an officer to show up in a matter of minutes. When I called again several minutes later I was made aware of the terrible traffic accident on York. I do agree responding to a potentially fatal traffic accident is a higher priority than a stolen car call. However, my situation could have also been a matter of life and death and I do expect the Edina PD to respond.

After repeated calls and no officer I responding, I did feel somewhat vulnerable to whomever was operating on the street. I felt compelled to venture out on my block on my bike to at least create a physical presence under the streetlights on Wooddale. I almost immediately encountered an individual at Ruehls property. He was a young black male wearing black sweats and sweatshirt. I'm only describing him as black because he was. I by no means intend to assume he committed a crime just because he was black. If he were white male or a blonde girl I would have still asked them what they were doing. While he very well could have been a friend of a

neighbor, the timing and his suspiciousness being on Ruehls driveway gave me pause. I was really hoping at that point that one of your officers would roll up. I got nervous when he reached in his back pocket (could have been a phone, but I was pretty scared) so I told him to keep walking. At that point I called 911 again to try and get officers to arrive, explaining that there may be a suspect. I followed him for several blocks hoping that officers would arrive. Eventually, he hopped in a car (I didn't see it, but heard the car speed off) on Edina Boulevard and was gone. I attached video of someone walking back and forth on my block of Wooddale between 12:15 and 12:30. I don't know if this is the same person I saw, but his appearance and clothing look like who I encountered. I was very disappointed that we missed the chance to catch this person if by chance they were connected to my stolen vehicle. As you stated in your email, there should have been a response to the "in progress" crime as I was following a suspect. My point is, I feel my block was somewhat under siege by multiple assailants that were working together. Once again, I feel this situation should have had a fast response from an officer. It wasn't just an administrative report of a stolen car.

In reading your response to Mr. Ruehl, I have the following questions

- 1) Why would my 911 calls from my cell phone go to St. Louis Park dispatch? Maybe this is a technology issue, but I really want Edina PD to show up when I call 911. I can't imagine their police dept is closer to me than the Edina PD HQ mere blocks away.
- 2) St. Louis Park PD never showed up to investigate the suspicious person I was following. I was outside in front of my home the whole time and did not see any officers until Edina PD showed up over an hour after I made my first of many 911 calls.
- 3) I was told by the responding officers that Edina was at minimum police staffing Saturday night. Shouldn't there be a more reliable contingency plan in place to handle overload situations like what happened Saturday night? Like I said, SLP never showed up.
- 4) You stated I should have continued speaking with the St. Louis Park dispatcher rather than the Edina dispatcher when I was following the suspect. I had no idea that I was supposed to do this as I was just dialing 911. I guess I assumed 911 coordinates a case between municipalities. Why would a resident have to know the intricacies of 911 dispatch when they are just calling for help?
- 5) I appreciate your safety tips of locking cars, closing garage doors etc. That being said, we have to live our lives. The reality is I had not even gone to bed and all my house lights were still on when this happened. I had been in progress of loading the vehicle for the next round of dance competition on Sunday. A police presence in our neighborhoods would deter the criminals from even showing up. The brazenness of this crime astounds me. I also just heard a new suburban had all 4 wheels removed in the owners driveway on Indianola two days yesterday. Is the criminal element becoming more brazen as they feel we are more vulnerable? Even the crime lab officer told me while she covers Hennepin County, she spent most of her time in Edina on Saturday night.

I really don't care about the car. Yes, it is only 5 months old and it was my wife's first nice vehicle after 12 years of minivans :)! I am more concerned about how I feel less safe and vulnerable after this incident.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email. I have no desire to bash the Edina PD as I respect the work you do. The indignity of this incident and my desire to feel secure again living in Edina compelled me to reach out to you with this email.

Thank you,

Scott Busyn  
4615 Wooddale

952-807-8765

On May 13, 2015, at 6:03 PM, "Ruehl,Jeff,MINNETONKA,HCN Business Operations"  
<[Jeff.Ruehl@us.nestle.com](mailto:Jeff.Ruehl@us.nestle.com)> wrote:

David,

Thank you for your response and I agree that residents need to do more to reduce the crimes in the neighborhood. This has been a chronic issue but it also seems that the thieves have become much more brazen as with the theft of Mr. Busyn's car and I just heard about an recent incident where 4 wheels were taken off a car.

I still have concerns about how you determine what is in the interest of public safety vs. just filling a report. The theft of Mr. Busyn's car does not make it to the top of the list on public safety concerns but I do believe that someone prowling in my back yard at 12:30 at night should be taken seriously. I think it naïve to think that incidents like this will continue to only result in thefts vs. someone being assaulted. I have two young girls and their safety is an extremely high priority for me. I am copying Rob Web who manages our neighborhood communication and ask that he send out a reminder to the residents to increase their attentiveness. I would also ask that given the recent surge in these type of incidents some discussion happen in your department about an increased presence or visibility.

Thank You

Jeff & Cathy Ruehl  
4623 Wooddale Ave

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**From:** David Nelson [mailto:[DNelson@EdinaMN.gov](mailto:DNelson@EdinaMN.gov)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 13, 2015 1:54 PM  
**To:** Ruehl,Jeff,MINNETONKA,HCN Business Operations; Cathy Ruehl ([Cathy.Ruehl@genmills.com](mailto:Cathy.Ruehl@genmills.com))  
**Cc:** James Hovland; Robert Stewart  
**Subject:** RE: Robbery on Wooddale Ave Saturday Night

Jeff and Cathy,

Thank you for your e-mail and I will do my best to respond to your concerns as I have reviewed our reports, phones calls, and dispatch records to obtain as much information as I could.

When Mr. Busyn called, he told the dispatcher that someone had stolen his vehicle out of his garage sometime within the last two hours. Mr. Busyn told the dispatcher he did not see or hear the vehicle drive away. With the information given to dispatch at the time of his first call, this would be considered a report call, (something was stolen, nothing was witnessed, and the caller has no idea who committed the crime) and the caller would advised that we would dispatch a squad to take the report.

Normally, our staffing levels allow us to dispatch an officer right away, but on that night right after the dispatcher hung up with Mr. Busyn, one of our officers came across a horrific accident on York Ave. The debris trail of scattered car parts spanned about 140 yards and at the end of that trail was an overturned vehicle with severely injured occupants still inside. With debris trail being that long, it was very apparent that the vehicle had been traveling at an extremely high rate of speed prior to losing control. All officers on the street responded to the scene along with Richfield officers to assist in redirecting traffic around the accident scene and assisting with emergency first aid.

When Mr. Busyn called a second time, he supplied more information regarding two of his other vehicles on the property were rummaged through, but nothing appeared missing. He was advised that all of our squads were presently tied up on an injury crash and an officer would respond when they were clear from the crash.

Twelve minutes later is when some confusion occurred. It sounds like when Mr. Busyn was out looking around and saw the suspicious male, he called in on his cell phone and due to closeness of the city boarder, the call went directly to St. Louis Park dispatch instead of Edina dispatch. Once St. Louis Park dispatch realized the Mr. Busyn was calling about an Edina incident, they transferred the call to our dispatch center. When Mr. Busyn started providing the information regarding the suspicious person in the area, we had to transfer the call back to St. Louis Park and requesting their assistance in responding to the suspicious person call as our officers were still providing services to the injured persons involved in the accident. St. Louis Park did dispatch two officers who responded and checked the area for the suspicious person. As the officers were checking the area, an Edina squad was able to clear from the accident scene and respond to Mr. Busyn's call. The Edina officer met up with the St. Louis Park officers to be briefed on their findings and then responded to make contact with Mr. Busyn and take the report.

The Edina Police Department does have a mutual aid agreement with all of our surrounding agencies as well as the rest of the cities throughout Hennepin County. It is common for other agencies to come into our city and assist with calls and well as our officers leaving the city to assist neighboring agencies when a major incident occurs.

Let's look at it from another angle. If we were to have an active shooter incident at Southdale or in one of our schools. All on duty officers would be responding to that incident in the interest of public safety. During this incident, if a person were to call in to file a report for something that happened in the past. The person would be told that we don't have anyone to respond as there is a high priority incident occurring in the city and that we would send someone out to take the report when we are available. Now, if someone were to call in with some type of emergency, we would call on the closest boarding agency to have an officer(s) respond. We have trained with our neighboring agencies so we are better prepared for these types of incidents. We have a defined protocol of how officers would respond to the emergency incident and how some officers would remain available for other emergency calls.

I hope this helps address your concerns. The Edina Police Department does take pride in providing excellent service to our residents. If a person calls in with some type of emergency or in progress crime occurring, an officer will be on the way, in certain circumstances, it may be an officer from a neighboring agency, but we are all licensed through the State of Minnesota. I can understand where Mr. Busyn did not think St. Louis Park Police were not assisting as he was very upset and short with their dispatcher as he thought he was getting the runaround. In reality, with Mr. Busyn following the person, it is more valuable for him to be providing the St. Louis Park dispatcher the information as they had officers responding versus continuing to talk to the Edina dispatcher.

We always stress to our residents the importance of closing garage doors, making sure your vehicle is locked, don't leave valuables in your vehicle, and above all, do not leave your keys or ignition FOB in your vehicle. If these safety tips were followed that evening, this incident may not have occurred.

Please feel free to contact me with any additional questions or concerns.

**Dave Nelson, Chief of Police**

<image002.gif> 952-826-0487 | Fax 952-826-1607  
DNelson@EdinaMN.gov | www.EdinaMN.gov/Police

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**From:** Ruehl, Jeff, MINNETONKA, HCN Business Operations [<mailto:Jeff.Ruehl@us.nestle.com>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 13, 2015 9:40 AM

**To:** David Nelson; Cathy Ruehl ([Cathy.Ruehl@genmills.com](mailto:Cathy.Ruehl@genmills.com))

**Cc:** James Hovland; Robert Stewart

**Subject:** Robbery on Wooddale Ave Saturday Night

Dave,

I am writing you concerning a robbery that occurred on the 4600 block of Wooddale Ave late Saturday night. My neighbor, Scott Busyn, at 4615 Wooddale Ave had his car stolen while he was sitting in his house. He noticed it was gone just minutes after it was taken, called the police and went to go look down the street. He saw someone suspicious coming out of my back yard at 4623 Wooddale Ave. He again called the police and described the person as a young black man, the dispatcher scolded him that he should not racially profile people. Scott knows my family and knows that this person simply did not belong in my back yard at 12:30 at night. After nine calls and being bounced between the Edina and St. Louis Park police departments someone from the Edina police finally showed up over an hour after the first call.

This is very concerning to me. At the last minute I changed plans that originally would have left my 17 year old daughter Lindsey alone at that time. Bob you know Lindsey from Twin Cities Youth Rowing. You can imagine my concern that someone was in my back yard late Saturday night and is noticed and reported to the police and it takes over an hour for someone to show up. If someone had come in my house how long would it have taken the police to show up then?

I would be interested in your take on the events and what contingency plans are in place if your staff is unable to show up promptly in these types of situations.

Jeff and Cathy Ruehl  
4623 Wooddale Ave  
952-240-9494

## Heather Branigin

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**From:** Kristine Donatelle <donatellek@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 14, 2015 4:52 PM  
**To:** Edina Mail  
**Cc:** Robert Stewart; swensonann1@gmail.com; Kevin Staunton; Mary Brindle  
**Subject:** ECLC proposal concerns and CUP requests

**Importance:** High

Dear Edina City Council members,

Please consider my concerns below regarding the proposed Edina Community Lutheran Church expansion. I understand you will be reviewing the preliminary plans next week at your meeting. The new plans were recently shared with neighbors and we had several questions and concerns. I already shared this with Cary Teague and the Planning Commission.

Sincerely,

Kristine Donatelle

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Kristine Donatelle <donatellek@icloud.com>  
**Subject:** ECLC proposal concerns and CUP requests  
**Date:** May 12, 2015 2:35:59 PM CDT  
**To:** [cteague@edinamn.gov](mailto:cteague@edinamn.gov)

Dear Cary,

Thank you for meeting with me today to discuss the new Edina Community Lutheran Church expansion proposal. I live on Woodcrest Drive, directly south of the proposed addition across Minnehaha Creek. My home is situated directly across the creek from the church. Within my view is the existing parking lot and floodlights, surrounding chain link fence, church structure, and refuse bins.

I have the following concerns about the proposed addition that I would like addressed by the Conditional Use Permit and site plans:

- Please add screening for the existing parking lot on the west side of the proposed addition. As it stands, the south side neighbors have to look at an unsightly and unconcealed paved parking lot, exposed refuse bins, and a chain link fence in disrepair. Existing tree leaf cover DOES NOT conceal the parking lot 6 months out of the year. This must be addressed for me to consider supporting the proposed addition. I would like to see the proposed new parking lot screening of 4-foot arborvitae trees continue along the entire parking lot. The unsightly existing chain link fence should also be removed. I would also like the refuse bins to be moved and concealed behind landscape or structural screening.

\_\_ Please modify parking lot lighting for the existing parking lot as well as the newly proposed lot. The existing three parking lot floodlights are very obtrusive, glaring and noticeable from across the creek. I would

like to see softer, modified parking lot lighting that is less obtrusive to neighbors and the environment. I am sure the neighbors next to the new parking lot would appreciate that as well. I understand code standards have changed since this harsh lighting was first installed.

- Stormwater runoff and watershed impact. With such a massive new 8,000-square-foot structure and roof proposed to be constructed on the edge of a steeply eroding hill, I am greatly concerned about foundational support and footings for this new structure and any deck that it includes. Several mature trees stand next to the proposed expansion area and parsonage lot and we prefer that these NOT be removed to make way for this addition.

This wooded area provides habitat and shelter for wildlife like deer, Great Blue Heron, water fowl, mallard ducks, turtles and many other species. We would like to see in detail how the wooded area below the church will be impacted by any necessary retaining wall structures, catch basins, drainage pipes or clearing of trees. We would prefer that no mature trees be removed to make way for this addition as it would be harmful to the peace and enjoyment of neighbors, the community and the wildlife habitat. The trees also help with noise control.

The Watershed District should make every attempt to protect the 50-foot wetlands buffer along the creek below.

- I am wondering if any consideration may be given to reducing the height, size and scope of the addition as it seems out of proportion to the existing building.

- I am also concerned about the traffic the new parking lot might introduce to the intersection of Halifax and 54th Street and would like to see the results of the prerequisite traffic impact study.

Thank you for considering my concerns and those of other south side neighbors.

Sincerely,

Kristine Donatelle

## Heather Branigin

---

**From:** Sandy Simmons <ssimmons47@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 14, 2015 10:32 PM  
**To:** Robert Stewart; Kevin Staunton; Mary Brindle; James Hovland; Ann Swenson  
**Cc:** jemitchell922@gmail.com; caryschilling@gmail.com; jdarice@msn.com; carol.cushmore; asc1881@aol.com; angiellarson@comcast.net; jeff.hovanec@cambriaUSA.com; Pat Lawrence  
**Subject:** Re: Bruce Avenue Parking

Bob,

I appreciate your taking the time to respond. I have also seen Kevin Staunton's response to Pat Lawrence which is very similar. I appreciate the fact that neither of you were on the council at the time of the Dec. 9 council meeting you both refer to. After listening to the link of that council meeting, there is only more frustration with the inability of the Edina City Council to listen to its citizens. EVERY resident who presented at that meeting affirmed the desire of our Arden Park streets to maintain their 30 foot width, that anything less than 30 feet was going to be a hardship to residents that had lived on these blocks for years. There wasn't one presentation to the contrary. The argument by the council now that we all TOO LATE - we did not participate or listen at the appropriate time - that somehow it is our fault - holds any credence. There were citizens trying very respectfully to be heard at a point in time that was NOT TOO LATE. The council simply didn't listen - they had a plan and we didn't fall into line with what they wanted to do.

The narrowing of our streets and the reduction of our parking by 50% are decisions that will impact every one of us in Arden Park for decades. "We have already decided" is a very poor excuse for a decision that was made by a select few who will never have to live with it.

Sandy

On May 14, 2015, at 6:52 PM, Robert Stewart <RStewart@EdinaMN.gov> wrote:

> Sandy

>

> Thanks for your message.

>

> I was traveling last weekend, and have been working hard to catch up this week. Sorry for the delayed reply.

>

> All of the City Council members have spent a significant amount of time on this topic in the past eight days. The topic that was on the agenda last week had nothing to do with parking on Bruce and in order to have a public hearing on a new issue, such as this, we are required by law to give notice of the hearing well in advance of the meeting.

>

> I think that Kevin Staunton and I, as the newest members of the Council, have had to invest even more time on this subject. Part of this response will borrow language from some other communications as a means of saving time and still being thorough.

>

> Thank you for summarizing your thoughts in the e-mail. That is very helpful. In addition to the testimony at last Wednesday's City Council meeting,, I have messages from a number of your neighbors uniformly advocating for parking on both sides of Bruce Avenue south of 50th. I appreciate that this is a personal issue for you and your neighbors; you

all clearly care a lot about this and are — with the best of motivations — trying very hard to create the best possible outcome for the place you live.

>

> Back in December, before I was added to the Council, I attended the the public hearing on the plan for the Bruce Avenue redevelopment. (You can see the meeting at <http://bit.ly/2014Dec9StreetMtg> / December 9, 2014.) The issue of parking was discussed at great length at that meeting. Cary Teague advocated for parking on both sides of the street during his comments. Karen McElrath discussed pedestrian safety concerns associated with narrowing Bruce Avenue during her remarks. The Council — in over an hour of discussion on just this project — had extensive and spirited debate on this topic of parking. All five members of the Council participated in a discussion that focused on this precise issue — parking on both sides of Bruce Avenue and the other 27-foot wide streets. At one point it looked like two-sided parking was going to prevail but, by the end of that discussion, the Council voted to limit parking to one side on Bruce and the other 27-foot wide streets on the condition that the limited parking be reviewed in one year. The Council listened carefully to the residents of the neighborhood, decided to remove the planned sidewalks as the residents requested, but on the issue of parking decided to restrict it to one side, in part out of safety concerns because of the decision to remove the sidewalks from the plan. In my judgment, the issue was fully vetted.

>

> I don't know how I would have voted on the issue had I been on the Council then. What I can tell you is that there are good arguments on each side of the issue and those arguments were raised on December 9. I cannot in good conscience at this time insist that we re-visit this issue now. It would be unfair to the Council members and other residents who wrestled with this in December. This is especially true when the December decision included a condition requiring that the issue be reconsidered in a year.

>

> As far as I can tell, the price of waiting to reconsider this issue for a year (as the Council's decision required) is the potential to have to remove four parking signs at the end of that year. When I balance that consequence against the damage I think is done by insisting that my colleagues who deliberated and decided a difficult issue be required to do it over again just a few months later, I come out on the side of waiting to reconsider this at the time they suggested.

>

> I know the issue of sustaining a fair and credible "process" may not be a hot issue for you and your neighbors, but I believe it is important to the effective long-term governance of the City. The Council must do its best to make the right decisions and then move on. We cannot re-open issues quickly or repeatedly when the outcome is disappointing to some.

>

> Thank you for considering these facts. I will probably share this communication with City Manager Scott Neal and he may share it with others.

>

> If you would like to talk further, I will make time for that.

>

> Thank you.

>

> - Bob Stewart  
> rstewart@edinamn.gov  
> 952-833-9559

>

>

>

>

> \_\_\_\_\_  
> From: Sandy Simmons [ssimmons47@gmail.com]

> Sent: Saturday, May 09, 2015 6:43 PM

> To: Mary Brindle; James Hovland; Kevin Staunton; Robert Stewart; swensonann1@gmail.com

> Cc: jemitchell922@gmail.com; caryschilling@gmail.com; jdarice@msn.com; carol.cushmore; asc1881@aol.com; angiellarson@comcast.net; jeff.hovanec@cambriaUSA.com

> Subject: Bruce Avenue Parking

>

> Jim Hovland, Kevin Staunton, Bob Stewart, Ann Swenson, and Mary Brindle,

>

> We live at 5038 Bruce Place and are extremely disappointed the city council is refusing to listen to the concerns of our entire block of residents regarding the decision to allow parking on only one side of our street. There has been no logical reason given to support this decision other than it has already been decided so you can't change it. Yes you can. If it isn't broken, why are you trying to 'fix' it? With all the residents on the street opposed to what you are going to do, why isn't the council listening? What is your reasoning? On an issue directly impacting only our street, shouldn't the council be representing our concerns? Who are you representing with this decision?

>

> We don't want unnecessary signs in our yards and we NEED the parking spaces. We will be severely inconvenienced to not have any parking in front of our house and along our side of the street. Residents in the cul-de-sac will have NO on street parking available to them. That makes no sense. If the concern is slowing the traffic through the street, parking on both sides is a traffic calming measure. There is extreme frustration when the 'powers that be' make an arbitrary unnecessary decision effecting our daily lives in the face of 100% opposition.

>

> We urge you to restore our faith in the Edina city government by listening and making the choice to eliminate these unnecessary and unwanted no parking signs and the inconvenience they will bring to all of us. It is very difficult to understand why you are deciding against every single resident of the area effected. There is NO opposition to parking on both sides of the street except by the city council and you have given no valid reason for not supporting us. It is clearly not too late to make the decision to maintain the existing parking on both sides of Bruce Avenue and Bruce Place and SIMPLY DECIDE TO NOT PUT UP THE SIGNS. If, at any time in the future, there are concerns or complaints the signs can be added. Common sense is to not put up the signs unless they are deemed necessary in the future. Please use common sense and support the residents that your decision is directly effecting.

>

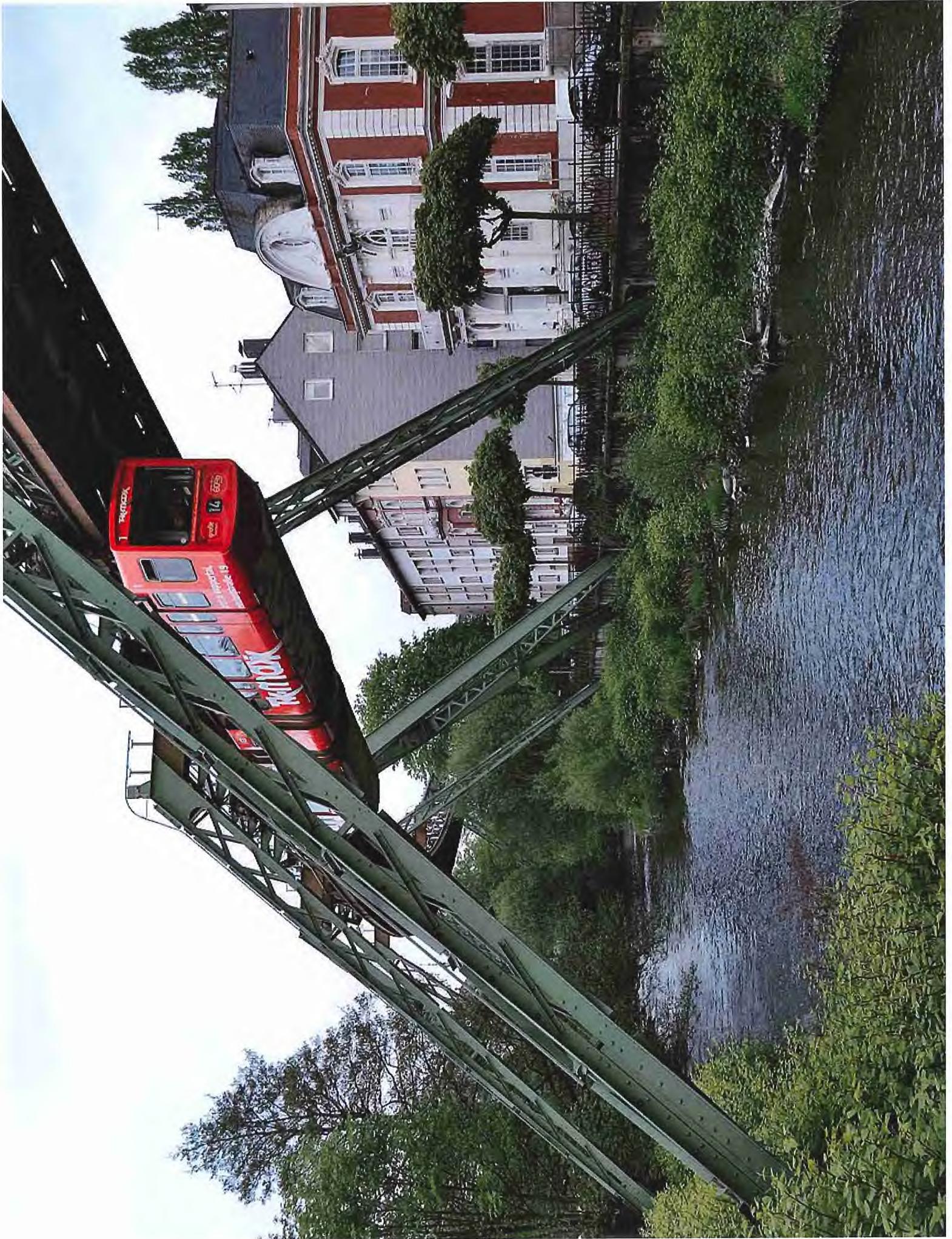
> Cal and Sandy Simmons

## Heather Branigin

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**From:** Ray Becker <raymanbecker@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 14, 2015 11:52 PM  
**To:** James Hovland  
**Subject:** LTR Corridor  
**Attachments:** Over Water.jpg; Skybus\_at\_Station.jpg; Memphis\_front\_view.jpg

Did you know that a suspended monorail only cost 1/4 as much to build in 1/2 the time, has less maintenance than a Light Rail and has never had an accident with a car in over 100 years of use. Did you know that a suspended monorail only cost 1/4 as much to build in 1/2 the time, has less maintenance than a Light Rail and has never had an accident with a car in over 100 years of use. Now I don't mean a "Monorail" or a "Gondola" but a light rail with the wheels above the cars instead of under it. Just think positive for a moment. No exposed overhead wires, no miles of utilities to relocate, soil conditions wouldn't make a much bigger impact than crossing a river, snow and ice would not slow it down and the only (that's ONE) fatality was an Elephant about 100 years ago that got spooked and literally rocked the boat. We haven't even made one year with that kind of safety. What about elevated Stations? We already do that and for that matter, "What business wouldn't mind making the allowances we made for the Skyways (Tax subsidized of course) and have customers dropped right in the middle of third floor instead of just outside the "Front Door"? So there you have it, been in OTHER COUNTRIES for over 100 years, as quiet as light rail, cheaper to maintain, after the supports are in the spans can be trucked and hoisted into place from a central build site, and "Stop Lights?! We don need no stinking Stop Lights! You cannot hit a car from 20 feet up!





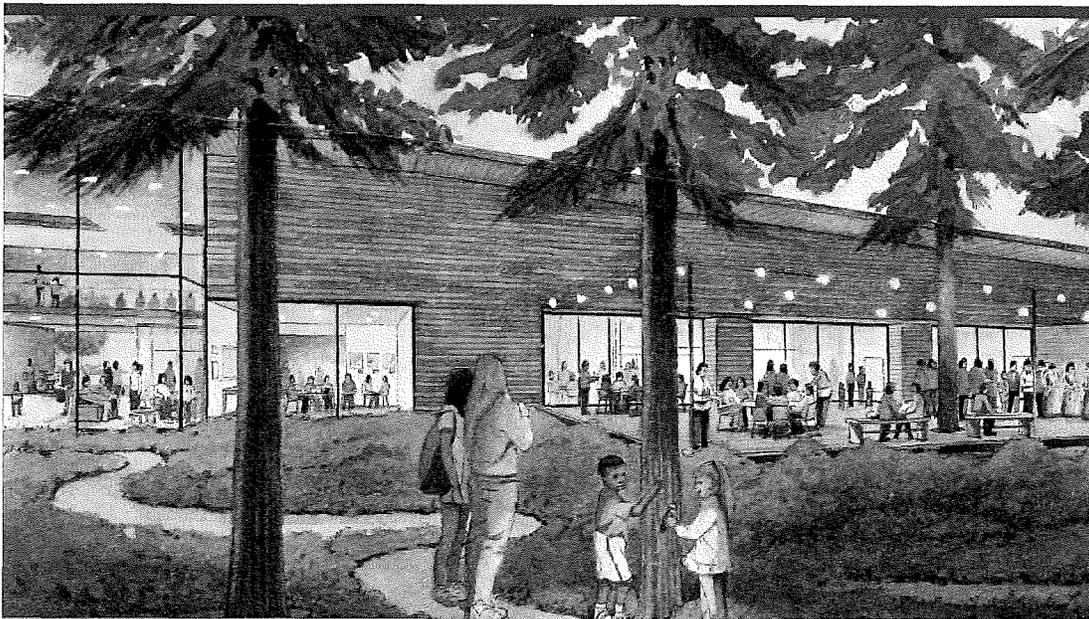


# Edina Community Center

A place to gather as a community  
and increase individual wellness

A whole community, whole person center for Edina.

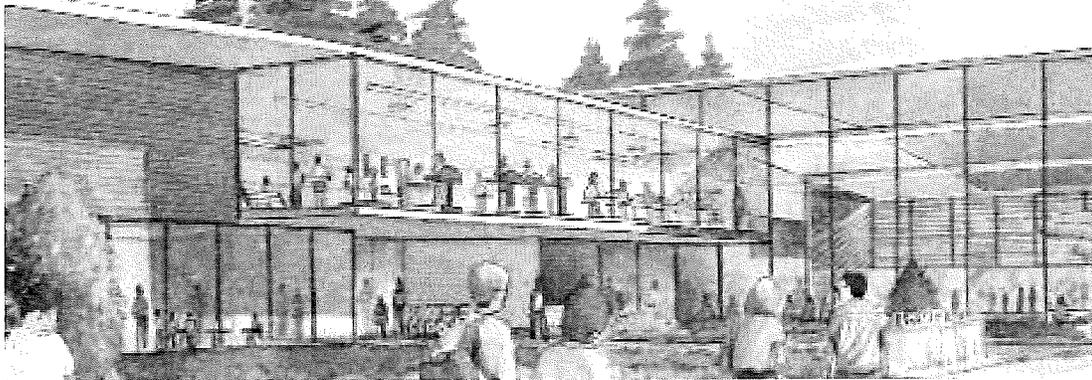
100% PUBLIC



Prepared by  
PUBLIC GRANDVIEW  
Stephanie Mullaney, Chair  
[stephaniemullaney@comcast.net](mailto:stephaniemullaney@comcast.net)  
[www.PublicGrandview.net](http://www.PublicGrandview.net)

## A MULTI-PURPOSE COMMUNITY CENTER

Serve the entire community through wellness, arts and a community gathering area.



### Framework's Vision

“ Establish a community commons as a multi-purpose facility for a wide audience (e.g., whole body, whole life, health and wellness) and as a focal point and central gathering space...

Framework, page 14

### A Single Destination

“ As a single destination, the Community Center will become the community “Living room” that promotes civic pride and enhances the quality of life for all residents...

Hillsboro Oregon  
Community Center  
summary document

### THE COMMUNITY'S LIVING ROOM

“ A community center is the heart of the community. It is a public place, one we all built, where we directly feel the city's commitment to our well-being. It is the place you go for personal enrichment, and discover you are part of an active and welcoming community...

Valerie Otani, Hillsboro, Oregon resident about their new community center

“ The Community Center will become the gathering place for citizens of all ages and abilities: a place to learn, play, create, grow, laugh, experience and just hang out with friends.

Hillsboro document

# COMMUNITY CENTER CONCEPT

A facility that can be used by all residents.

## Community Spaces



Community spaces are the heart of the community center including multi-purpose room(s), informal gathering spaces, study spaces, classes, special events/parties.

## Arts and Culture



Arts and culture space includes the visual arts as well as the performing arts. The community performance space could also be used for other community events.

## Activity Spaces



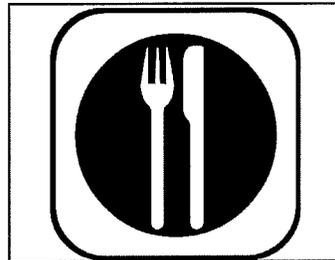
Activity spaces would promote health and wellness. Included in activity spaces would be group fitness studio, a walking/jogging track, weight room, lap pool and recreational pool and a gymnasium. Childcare space is included for young families.

## Supporting Spaces



These spaces are required to support the community center - the reception area, storage spaces, mechanical rooms and other operational spaces.

## Restaurant



The community center would host a restaurant, similar to Tin Fish at Braemar. It would be preferable to use a restaurant that will attract teens and young residents, but is still healthy and appealing to other generations.

## Outdoor Spaces



Create a prominent green space that acts as a community commons and could include uses such as: sculpture garden, outdoor amphitheatre and/or ice rink in winter.

in addition, use / reserve outdoor space for transit and parking.

## MULTI-GENERATIONAL GATHERING SPACES

Places to gather, to learn, to work and to hold special events

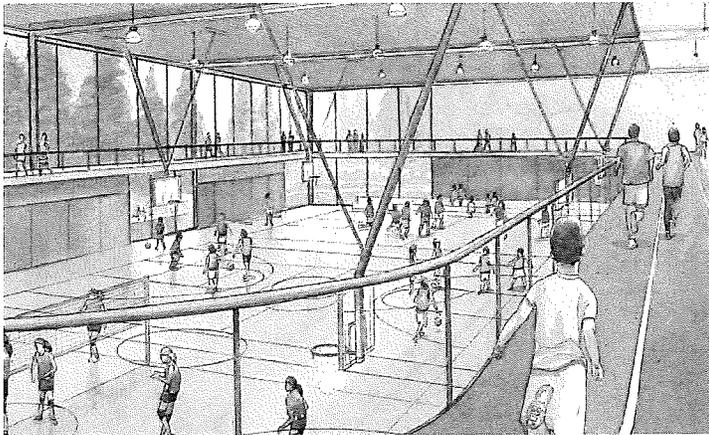


A place for everyone. For seniors, teens, families and singles. A community center would provide a place to meet, to work together and to play together.

Space	Square footage	Cost per SF	Cost
Casual activities lounge area	1,200 SF	205.00	\$ 246,000
Teen area and multi-generational @ 1000 SF	2,000 SF	205.00	\$ 410,000
Game room	1,000 SF	215.00	\$ 215,000
Community Room - flexible space	3,000 SF	230.00	\$ 690,000
Multi-purpose classroom - flexible space	1,000 SF	230.00	\$ 230,000
Community / caterer kitchen	800 SF	355.00	\$ 284,000
Special events / party room	700 SF	255.00	\$ 178,500
Meeting room / conference room	600 SF	205.00	\$ 123,000
Two unisex restrooms	600 SF	305.00	\$ 183,000
Classroom and events room storage	180 SF	165.00	\$ 30,000
Workroom and general storage	350 SF	204.00	\$ 71,400
<b>TOTAL GATHERING SQUARE FOOTAGE:</b>	<b>11,430 SF</b>		<b>\$ 2,660,600</b>

## WELLNESS / ACTIVITY CENTER

Create an activity center that benefits all residents of Edina

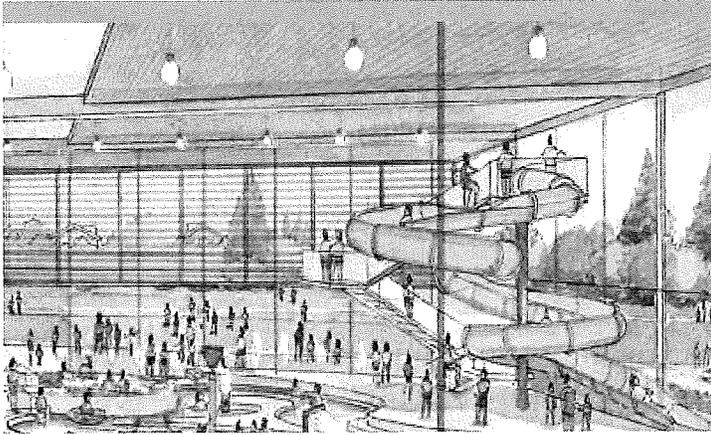


Provide a wellness and activity center that attracts all ages.

Space	Square footage	Cost per SF	Cost
Gymnasium	6,000	\$195.00	\$1,170,000
Walking / jogging track	8,000	\$225.00	\$1,800,000
2 multipurpose group exercise	4,400	\$210.00	\$924,000
Cardio / weight room	6,000	\$225.00	\$1,350,000
Fitness studio	1,000	\$215.00	\$215,000
Wellness center / fitness assessment	1,000	\$225.00	\$225,000
Climbing structure	1,600	\$210.00	\$336,000
Childcare	1,000	\$200.00	\$200,000
Gym storage	300	\$154.00	\$46,200
Multi-purpose, cardio/weight and childcare storage	600	\$165.00	\$99,000
<b>TOTAL ACTIVITIES SQUARE FEET</b>	<b>29,900</b>		<b>\$6,365,200</b>

## AQUATIC CENTER

A family-friendly pool and lap pool



Aquatic center that is open year around.

Space	Square footage	Cost per SF	Cost
Recreational pool	6,000	\$345.00	\$2,070,000
Lap pool	7,500	\$345.00	\$2,587,500
Pool mechanicals and aquatics storage	1,600	\$189.00	\$302,400
Thermo / hydrotherapy	250	\$500.00	\$125,000
Pool sanitation storage	140	\$145.00	\$20,300
First aid office	80	\$ 214.00	\$17,120
Pool construction			\$1,260,000
Recreational pool equipment			\$ 885,000
<b>TOTAL AQUATICS SQUARE FOOTAGE:</b>	<b>15,570</b>		<b>\$7,267,320</b>

## PERFORMING ARTS

Create a performing arts space



A performance space that can be utilized in multiple ways.

Space	Square footage	Cost per SF	Cost
Community performance room (flexible / movable seating)	3,500	\$300.00	\$875,000
Two dressing rooms @300 SF	600	\$200.00	\$120,000
Rehearsal rooms (2@ 1200 SF)	2,400	\$210.00	\$504,000
Storage	800	\$165.00	\$132,000
<b>TOTAL PERFORMING SQUARE FOOTAGE:</b>	<b>7,500</b>		<b>\$1,631,000</b>

The performing arts and visual arts can share spaces such as restrooms, front of house (lobby).

# EDINA ARTS CENTER

Create a new home for the Edina Art Center



## VISUAL ARTS

Based on Scenario A in the Schuler Shook document.

Used NET square footage.

Space	Square footage	Cost per SF	Cost
Gallery	1700	\$ 200	\$340,000
Large Studios	700	\$ 200	\$140,000
Small Studios	1300	\$ 200	\$260,000
Specialized Labs	800	\$ 200	\$160,000
Administration Offices	400	\$ 200	\$80,000
Gift Shop	300	\$ 200	\$60,000
Pottery / Ceramics Studio	3500	\$ 200	\$700,000
Metal Arts	2200	\$ 200	\$440,000
Glass	1000	\$ 200	\$200,000
Photography / Jewelry	1000	\$ 200	\$200,000
Conference Room	400	\$ 200	\$80,000
Rental Studio Space	1000	\$ 200	\$200,000
Storage	1000	\$ 200	\$ 200,000
Receiving	250	\$ 200	\$ 50,000
<b>TOTAL ART CENTER SQUARE FOOTAGE:</b>	<b>15,550</b>		<b>\$3,110,000</b>

## GENERAL SPACES

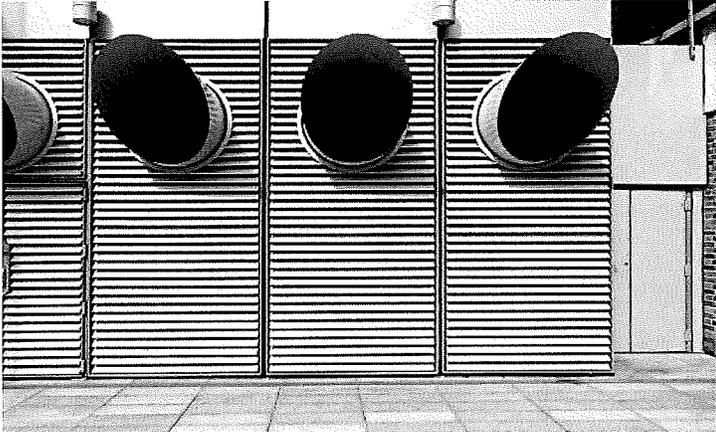
Miscellaneous spaces required to run a community center



Space	Square footage	Cost per SF	Cost
Lobby	1200	\$230.00	\$276,000
Reception bay/access	300	\$205.00	\$61,500
Vending area	150	\$255.00	\$38,250
Locker room - women	1,700	\$255.00	\$433,500
Locker room - men	1,500	\$255.00	\$382,500
Locker room - family	300	\$230.00	\$69,000
4 offices - manager and coordinators	480	\$189.00	\$90,720
3 staff offices	240	\$194.00	\$46,560
Maintenance / receiving offices	500	\$168.00	\$84,000
Supporting spaces / storage	480	\$180.00	\$86,400
<b>TOTAL GENERAL SQUARE FOOTAGE:</b>	<b>6,850</b>		<b>\$1,568,430</b>

# OPERATIONAL SPACES

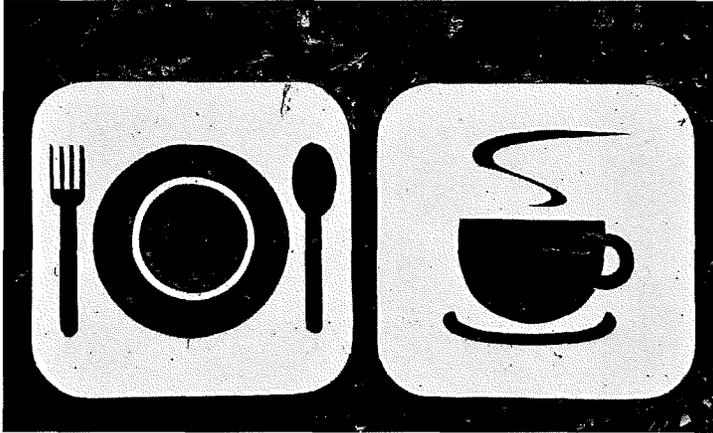
Mechanical, circulation, etc.



Space	Square footage	Cost per SF	Cost
Pool circulation	4201	\$205.00	\$ 861,246
Building circulation	20,391	\$185.00	\$ 3,772,335
<b>TOTAL OPERATIONAL SQUARE FOOTAGE:</b>	<b>20,508</b>		<b>\$ 3,855,320</b>

## RESTAURANT

A private food provider that is healthy and appealing to all ages.



Space	Square footage	Cost per SF	Cost
Restaurant space	1,500	\$355.00	\$ 532,500
<b>TOTAL RESTAURANT SQUARE FOOTAGE:</b>	<b>1,500</b>		<b>\$ 532,500</b>

NOTE: ESTIMATED SIZE AND COST PER SQUARE FOOT. COST PER SQUARE FOOT WAS ARRIVED AT USING COST PER SQUARE FOOT OF KITCHEN AREA.

# COMMUNITY CENTER TOTALS

ESTIMATED square footage and costs. Subject to change upon further study.

## INDOOR SPACE

Space	Square footage	Cost
Gathering spaces	11,430	\$ 2,660,600
Activity spaces	29,900	\$ 6,365,200
Aquatics space	15,570	\$ 7,267,320
Performing space	7,500	\$ 1,631,000
Art center	15,500	\$ 3,110,000
General space	6,850	\$ 1,568,430
Operations	20,508	\$ 3,855,320
Restaurant	1500	\$ 532,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>108,758</b>	<b>\$26,990,370</b>

## OUTDOOR SPACE

Space		Cost
Green space	estimate	\$ 4,000,000
Parking - 340 spaces	\$20,000 per space	\$ 6,800,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$10,800,000</b>

**TOTAL ESTIMATED COST \$ 37,790,370**

Thanks to Opsis Architecture for use of their photographs, graphics and estimated square footage costs.



**FEMA**

IN REPLY REFER TO: COMMENT RES

May 8, 2015

The Honorable James Hovland  
Mayor, City of Edina  
City Hall  
4801 West 50<sup>th</sup> Street  
Edina, Minnesota 55424

Community: City of Edina,  
Hennepin County, Minnesota  
Community No.: 270160

Dear Mayor Hovland:

This is in response to an email dated January 28, 2015, from Laura Alder, Water Resources Coordinator for the City of Edina, regarding the stillwater elevation for Lake Edina as presented on the revised Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) for the City of Edina, Hennepin County, Minnesota, dated August 17, 2012. Please note that only those submittals that relate to the addition or modification of the proposed flood hazard information (i.e., Base Flood Elevations, base flood depths, Special Flood Hazard Area boundaries, zone designations, or regulatory floodways) shown on the FIRM and in the Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report that satisfy the data requirements defined in Title 44, Chapter I, Part 67 of the Code of Federal Regulations are considered appeals. Because your submittal did not meet these criteria, FEMA has processed it as a 'comment.'

We have determined that changes to the revised preliminary FIRM dated August 17, 2012 are warranted based on the submitted data and will incorporate the necessary changes into the final version of the FIRM. Once we have incorporated these changes, we will proceed with finalizing the FIRM and FIS report.

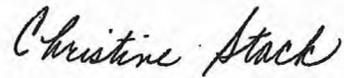
Please submit any comments regarding this resolution within 30 days of the date of this letter to the following address:

FEMA Region V  
Mitigation Division  
536 South Clark Street, Sixth Floor  
Chicago, Illinois 60605  
Attention: Bill Heyse, Regional Engineer

At the end of the 30-day period, FEMA will address any additional comments that are submitted. FEMA will then finalize the FIRM and FIS report by issuing a Letter of Final Determination (LFD). The LFD will explain the adoption/compliance process and will state when the FIRM and FIS report will become effective.

We appreciate your community's comments and commitment to having the most accurate flood hazard information available reflected on the FIRM and in the FIS report. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Bill Heyse of my office either by telephone at (312) 408-5323 or by e-mail at [WilliamHeyse@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:WilliamHeyse@fema.dhs.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christine Stack".

Christine Stack  
Director, Mitigation Division  
FEMA Region V

cc: Scott Neal, City Manager, City of Edina  
Laura Alder, Water Resources Coordinator, City of Edina  
Suzanne Jiwani, Engineer, MDNR  
Ceil Strauss, Minnesota State National Flood Insurance Program Coordinator

May 14, 2015

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

Dear Mayor Hovland:

The Metropolitan Council has prepared preliminary population and household estimates for your community as of April 1, 2014. This is an annual process governed by *Minnesota Statutes 473.24*. Please note that these estimates are different from the Council's draft local forecasts that your community recently had the opportunity to review. Forecasts look ahead to the coming decades; the annual estimates look backwards in time to the previous year.

#### **2014 Annual Population Estimate**

**The Metropolitan Council estimates that the City of Edina had 50,261 people and 21,645 households as of April 1, 2014. Household size averaged 2.31 persons per household.**

#### **How was this estimate calculated?**

We estimate households and population with a housing-stock-based method, which involves three questions:

1. *How many housing units does the community have?* We estimate housing units with data from our annual surveys of residential construction and manufactured housing parks.
2. *How many of these housing units are occupied?* We estimate the number of households by examining occupancy rates in the community for different housing types. Data come from the U.S. Census Bureau.
3. *How many people lived in these occupied housing units?* We estimate the population in households by examining the average household sizes in the community for different housing types. These data also come from the U.S. Census Bureau. We add the group quarters population from our annual survey.

This letter includes a report with the data inputs and calculations used to develop the preliminary estimates. For more information, visit <http://stats.metc.state.mn.us/stats/aboutestimates.aspx> , or contact me at 651-602-1513.

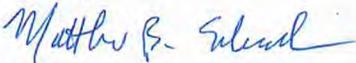
#### **How can my community provide feedback on this estimate?**

We welcome discussion of the 2014 preliminary estimates and invite you to review and comment on them. Please send any written comments or questions to Matt Schroeder, Metropolitan Council Research, 390 Robert Street North, Saint Paul, MN 55101; or by e-mail to [Matt.Schroeder@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:Matt.Schroeder@metc.state.mn.us). *Under Minnesota Statutes 473.24, we must receive your comments, questions or specific objections, in writing, by Wednesday, June 24.*

#### **What happens after my community provides feedback?**

The Council will certify final estimates by July 15, 2015 for state government use in allocating local government aid and street aid.

Sincerely,



Matt Schroeder  
Senior Researcher

## 2014 Annual Population Estimates

### **Edina city, Hennepin County, Minnesota**

Households:	21,645	Population in Households:	50,042	Average Household Size:	2.312
Housing Total:	23,204	Population in Group Quarters:	219		
Occupancy Rate:	93.28%	Total Population:	50,261		

The Metropolitan Council's Annual Estimates account for housing stock changes since April 1, 2010. These include housing units permitted and other changes. Other changes are due to demolitions, building conversions (units added or lost), city boundary changes (units annexed in or out), and other changes reported by city and township staff. The Council assumes that 85% of multifamily and 95% of single-family units permitted in 2013 were completed and occupiable by April 1, 2014; the remainder are occupiable in the future.

Manufactured homes are counted each year from Metropolitan Council surveys of manufactured home park operators and local governments. Other housing (boats, RVs, etc. used as housing) is an estimate from the most recent Census ACS estimates.

	<u>Housing Stock</u> <u>April 1, 2010</u>	<u>Permitted and</u> <u>built since 2010</u>	<u>Other changes</u> <u>since 2010</u>	<u>Housing Stock</u> <u>April 1, 2014</u>
Single-family-detached:	12,861	322	-94	13,089
Townhomes:	1,326	0	0	1,326
Duplex, 3-, 4-plex units:	514	4	0	518
Multifamily units:	7,859	412	0	8,271
Manufactured homes:	0			0
Other (boats, RVs, etc. as shelter):	0			0
Housing Total:	22,560			23,204

Each housing type will have a specifically estimated occupancy rate and average household size. Starting with the 2011-12 cycle, the primary data are the most recent American Community Survey estimates, calculated and adjusted as described in the Council's methodology, available online at <http://stats.metc.state.mn.us/stats/aboutestimates.aspx>

Definitions: A household is a group of people (or one person alone) occupying a housing unit.

The number of occupied housing units and the number of households are equivalent.

Population in Group Quarters (or institutional housing) is counted separately through an annual Metropolitan Council survey.

	<u>Housing Stock</u> <u>April 1, 2014</u>	<u>Occupancy</u> <u>Rate 2014</u>	<u>Occupied with</u> <u>Households</u>	<u>Persons Per</u> <u>Household</u>	<u>Population in</u> <u>2014</u>
Single-family-detached:	13,089	94.16%	12,325	2.770	34,134
Townhomes:	1,326	94.16%	1,249	2.770	3,459
Duplex, 3-, 4-plex units:	518	88.08%	456	1.464	668
Multifamily units:	8,271	92.07%	7,615	1.547	11,781
Manufactured homes:	0	0.00%	0	2.640	0
Other:	0	Counted only if occupied	0	2.270	0
Housing Total:	23,204		Households: 21,645	In Households: 50,042	
				In Group Qtrs: 219	
				Total Population: 50,261	



Dear Employer,

We are excited to announce the 2015 spring **Commuter Challenge** and **Bike to Work Week!** These fun *Try It* campaigns have proven successful in incentivizing drive alone commuters to switch to using sustainable ways of getting to work.

Commuter Services would appreciate if you would hang the enclosed posters in your employee break room to help us reach your commuters with the opportunity to win prizes and also so they may contact us for assistance. We offer free resources and services to encourage individuals to carpool, take transit, bike to work and vanpool.

We are also happy to create an email or article for any electronic communications you distribute to employees. And we would be delighted to come on site to host a commuter fair at your convenience. Our resources align well with Green or Sustainability-themed events, as well as Benefits and Health fairs.

We work with over 850 companies and everyone's participation adds up to meaningful results.

**Last year alone we:**

- Held 137 commuter fairs onsite with employers and multi-tenant office buildings
- Converted **871 new carpoolers** • **561 new transit riders** • **558 new bicycle commuters**
- Leading to 2,338 Drive alone commuters reporting that they switched to using a sustainable commute mode (three or more days/week) after receiving customized assistance from Commuter Services, resulting in an estimated **35.25 million vehicle miles avoided** as a direct result of staff outreach

And here is one of Grand Prize Winners from the 2014 Commuter Challenge...



**Greg Peterson, Carlson**

**\$500 Visa Gift Card**

"I put my bike on the bus bike rack and bus to work in the morning, and then I bike home. Biking is a relaxing way to end the workday and I get my exercise in."

Thank you for assisting us in promoting the Commuter Challenge and Bike to Work Week.

Please contact us if we can provide additional materials, meet with you to discuss programs such as discounted transit passes or to schedule an event.

Sincerely,

*Melissa Madison*

Melissa Madison  
Executive Director  
(612) 749-4494  
melissa@494corridor.org

*Kate Meredith*

Kate Meredith  
Director of Outreach  
(612) 750-4494  
kate@494corridor.org

## Heather Branigin

---

**From:** J. Gerry Briggs <gbriggs63@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 16, 2015 6:57 AM  
**To:** Edina Mail  
**Subject:** Grandview

City Council

This is to express support for plans that include private as well as public use of the Grandview property. It would be a great place to live-near restaurants, groceries, hardware, drug store and library. A small public park would also be a good addition to the area.

Judging from the weekly Sun Current there is a vocal minority that wants only public use,including a community center. They seem to have organized a weekly writing program which would make it seem to be a big push. This is a note from "the silent majority " to say we don't need nor want to pay for such exclusive public uses. Hang in there!

Sincerely-Gerry Briggs  
7208 Fleetwood Drive

Sent from my iPad

## Heather Branigin

---

**From:** aeckstein11 <aeckstein11@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 17, 2015 2:38 PM  
**To:** Edina Mail  
**Subject:** Attention: City Council and Engineering

Hello,

To whom ever is reading this message, I hope you're having a good day.

My name is Abby Eckstein and I am writing to this team in regards to the proposed improvement of building a noise wall for TH100 from Minnehaha Creek to Vernon Avenue.

I wanted to express my comment that I am NOT in favor of this project. I have been an Edina resident for over two years, and in that time frame the noise from the freeway has not be an issue for me. My home is situated far enough from the highway that I do not feel that a wall is necessary, nor does it provide any value for me. On the topic of value, home values in this neighborhood are sitting at great levels, so I dont feel that adding a wall would increase them in a drastic way. In fact, a home across the street from mine was listed and sold within 45 hours! That's telling a story on the health and demand of this location.

Also, I am away from home 12+ hours Monday through Friday, as I work full-time and participate in social activities. When I am home, I don't hear anything! I know many of my neighbors work full-time and I am certain they would echo this same opinion.

I appreciate the team taking my thoughts and comments into consideration. I look forward to the Edina City Council unanimously voting NO on constructing a noise wall on Tuesday, May 19th.

Thank you for reading and I wish you the best.

Abby Eckstein  
5033 Edinbrook Lane  
952.210.9116

Sent on the new Sprint Network from my Samsung Galaxy S4.

## Heather Branigin

---

**From:** Stephanie K. Mullaney <stephaniemullaney@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 18, 2015 10:22 AM  
**To:** Edina Mail  
**Subject:** checking to see if email was received

Hi,

I sent an email with 4 attachments last Friday.

I want to ensure that it got included in the Correspondence Packet for the Council.

I am concerned because I sent the email to two other people who didn't get all the attachments, or didn't get the email at all.

Thank you for your assistance.

Stephanie Mullaney  
Chair, Public Grandview

## Heather Branigin

---

**From:** Arnold Bigbee <arnieb1@me.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 18, 2015 11:49 AM  
**To:** Public Grandview  
**Cc:** Edina Mail  
**Subject:** My thoughts

Stephanie,

Thanks for sharing the thoughts of your group.

I hope those who attend the work session are intent upon listening to the Council while they do their work. My concern stems from the letter to the editor in last week's Edina Sun Current. That person has very specific thoughts about the current process - and was disrespectful to our public servants - elected, volunteers and staff - in expressing those thoughts. The Grandview item has been a long standing process with lots of public input encouraged. The Council deserves to conduct their public work in a setting that reflects respect for the public process - for everyone.

I live in Edinborough and very near Centennial Lakes.

The great community spaces in both of these developments would't thrive without the public/private partnership. It is what makes them sustainable.

I lived in Rochester for 32 years and saw how successful the public/private partnerships were there. They are well managed and, because both businesses and the public (City/County/State) are also invested, they continue to thrive.

I prefer the public/private partnership direction the Council is pursuing.

Arnie

Arnie Bigbee  
[arnieb1@me.com](mailto:arnieb1@me.com)  
612 804 4660

On May 18, 2015, at 10:18 AM, Public Grandview <[contact@publicgrandview.com](mailto:contact@publicgrandview.com)> wrote:

A Pivotal Point in the Selection Process for Grandview

[View this email in your browser](#)



# PUBLIC GRANDVIEW

PLEASE ATTEND THESE  
MEETINGS

SUPPORT THE CAUSE

[Endorse the campaign >>](#)

## City Council Working Session

Tuesday, May 19  
Community Room - City Hall  
5:00 PM

 FOLLOW on FACEBOOK

## City Council Meeting

June 2, 2015  
City Hall  
7:00 PM

## CONSIDERATION OF 100% PUBLIC

Tomorrow evening, May 19, the Council will be holding a working session on the former public works site (Grandview). Public Grandview urges you to attend the 5:00 PM session in the community room upstairs at City Hall. Seating is tight, but a presence of residents will reflect our concern about the current process and support of a 100% public option.

I have been told that the City will consider a 100% public option at this point. If you view the City/developer's presentation that will be discussed with the Council, you will see that they added a fourth scenario for consideration, with only a civic building and a medical building.

Public Grandview has submitted three documents to the Council proposing and supporting a true multi-purpose community center for the former public works site.

- [Community Center Proposal »](#)
- [Why a Community Center Makes Sense »](#)
- [Time to Reflect on the Grandview Process »](#)

This is a pivotal time for this effort!

I urge you to visit [Speak Up, Edina!](#) and continue to tell the City that we want a 100% public option with a true community center.

#### ACTION ITEMS:

1. Post on Speak Up, Edina! ASAP – before tomorrow noon to express your preferences – I suggest you post to the "[OTHER](#)" [category](#). If we have many comments on that post, we can show ongoing support. Spread the word!
2. Attend the Council working session tomorrow evening at 5:00 PM
3. Plan to attend the June 2 Council meeting.

[Email me](#) if you have any questions.

## SAVE THE DATE

Please put June 2, 2015 on your calendar. It is the date that the city council is due to vote on the Grandview development scenarios. This may be subject to change; we will let you know any updates.

Thank you.

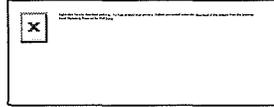
Stephanie Mullaney, Chair  
Public Grandview  
[PublicGrandview.com](#)  
[Email](#)

*Copyright © 2015 A Public Grandview, All rights reserved.*  
You are on this list because you expressed interest in the Grandview redevelopment process

**Our mailing address is:**  
A Public Grandview  
4429 Brookside Terrace  
Edina, MN 55436

[Add us to your address book](#)

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)



May 15, 2015

To: Edina City Council Members  
Scott Neal, Edina City Manager

From: Public Grandview

RE: Former Public Works Site

Dear City Council Members and Scott Neal,

I respectfully submit the following documents concerning the development of the former public works site. Please use these documents for discussion in your May 19 Grandview working session **to consider a 100% public option on the Grandview site.**

- **It's Time to Reflect on the Grandview Development Process**
- **Edina Community Center Proposal**  
*A place to gather as a community and increase individual wellness*
- **A True Community Center for Edina**  
*Why a community center makes sense on the former public works site*

As a resident relatively new to the Grandview issue, the public engagement process has been a frustrating experience. The chagrin I felt as a result of the December 4 meeting was the catalyst for creating Public Grandview.

Since December, through detailed research and data compilation, I have uncovered inconsistencies in the Grandview development process. I have also felt that the community is not being heard, a feeling that is shared by many residents.

The first document ***It's Time to Reflect*** came from a discussion with Mayor Hovland about the project's non-conformance to the Framework. There are critical remarks about the Grandview process in that document. The criticisms are not intended to find fault, rather, to look at the Grandview process accurately, and to motivate process change.

*Criticism may not be agreeable, but it is necessary. It fulfills the same function as pain in the human body; it calls attention to the development of an unhealthy state of things.*

*Winston Churchill*

*He has a right to criticize, who has a heart to help.*

*Abraham Lincoln*

I truly appreciate the City's time and attention spent on Grandview and hope we can produce an outcome that benefits all residents of Edina.

Thank you.

Stephanie Mullaney  
Chair, Public Grandview  
[www.PublicGrandview.com](http://www.PublicGrandview.com)  
[stephaniemullaney@comcast.net](mailto:stephaniemullaney@comcast.net)

# PUBLIC GRANDVIEW

## IT'S TIME TO REFLECT on the GRANDVIEW DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Prepared by  
**PUBLIC GRANDVIEW**  
Stephanie Mullaney, Chair  
stephaniemullaney@comcast.net  
May 6, 2015



## LET'S STEP BACK AND THINK



### Request to Council

Pause the Grandview development process in order to perform a true feasibility study of a community center that is data-driven, based on public input and uses a sound decision making process.

### Why Pause Now?

The current development plans for the former public works site do not reflect the Framework or the majority of resident feedback. There was never a feasibility / programming study performed regarding a community center or 100% public use of the land.

Using data gathered from the recent public engagement process, previous public input and comparable community center data, we can determine the wisest use of this rare parcel.

### Results

Repair the development process to consider public input and create a facility that benefits the majority of residents and as a result, begin mending public trust.

## THE APPROACH



**Examine the Framework**  
Do development scenarios comply?

The Council positions consistently call out the Framework and the 52 residents that were involved in the development of the Framework.

Is the City being true to the framework? Have key implementations been performed? Should the work of the 52 residents trump data from almost 2000 residents?



**Use the Data**  
Surveys, Meeting Data, Social Media

The majority of residents were not aware of the Grandview process until the widely publicized meeting on December 4.

Since that time, there is no evidence that the data used in the public meetings and Speak Up! Edina have been used to form the development scenarios produced by the developer.



**Create a Plan**  
Involve City commission(s)

Using the data in this document, involve the Edina Park Board in this process. They are currently developing a strategic plan and a community building should be part of their domain.

Examine the 2014 community center proposal submitted by Citizens for a Better Grandview and glean data and suggestions from that plan.  
<http://bit.ly/1Qkg9ts>

### HOW THE GRANDVIEW PROCESS AFFECTS PUBLIC OPINION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

After receiving over \$100,000 of taxpayer money to create a Small Area Plan, the Grandview development process did not produce such a plan.

In a process spanning over five years, there has been no community programming study.

Asking for the public's input and ignoring it fuels public cynicism and anger.

Public meetings did not invite attendee questions, the data has not been used and has been misrepresented by city staff.

By stepping back and considering the public feedback data, the Council has an opportunity to redeem the Grandview process and rebuild credibility amongst Edina residents/voters.

## THE FRAMEWORK - SUMMARY

Not a true small area plan



The Grandview small area planning process resulted in the Framework document because it did not qualify as a true small area plan.

Since its approval in 2012, key implementations of the Framework have not been initiated or completed.

### Summary

---

Key elements of a true small area plan have yet to be completed. This has resulted in a haphazard development process based on preferences of the development team leaders, Council members and City staff as opposed to public data gathered by the City.

### No Small Area Plan Created

---

In 2010, the City received a Livable Communities Demonstration Grant (LDCA) for \$100,000 to create a Small Area Plan. The resulting document, the Framework, was not compliant with the LCDA requirements because it did not contain the elements listed to the right.

---

Market Analysis

---

Community Needs Analysis

---

Transportation Analysis and Plan

---

Redevelopment Phasing Plan

---

Public Participation Plan

---

Financial Analysis of Redevelopment Plan

---

## FRAMEWORK - ANALYSIS: IMPLEMENTATION

There is a consistent lack of completion of implementation steps in the Framework

### Implementation

*"The process to be pursued should, as in past efforts leading to the framework, be defined by the citizen volunteers."*

In 2014, despite a 6-2 recommendation by the CAT III to hire an independent consultant, the Council elected to move forward with a private developer.

This decision by the Council diminished the value of public involvement. It signaled that, although public input was requested, the development process is not a democratic process and public input is not valued because it does not align with council preferences.

A feasibility study that examines the costs and resources available to bear those costs...

page 4

An examination of the height and density necessary to make the vision financially feasible while ensuring that it results in the ... neighborhood character that is essential to the Framework

page 4

A community building/public green programming work should work to determine appropriate program and uses

page 14

Create a more bike and pedestrian-friendly environment by applying Complete Streets and Living Streets principles to Vernon, Eden and the local street network....

In the short term, there is an opportunity to begin implementing streetscape, bike and pedestrian improvements

pages 34 & 35

The top level (deck) of this structure is intended to serve as the GrandView Green, the major public realm amenity in the district.

page 38

Establish an Implementation Steering Committee using citizen volunteers to guide the effort, including providing direction for key remaining areas of the framework....

page 49

An overriding objective of the GrandView District planning process is to utilize local citizens as experts in defining directions for an area ....

page 49

...it is logical that the process of planning using local citizens to guide the process should continue. The process to be pursued should, as in past efforts leading to the framework, be defined by the citizen volunteers.

page 49

Implementation - Major Recommendations

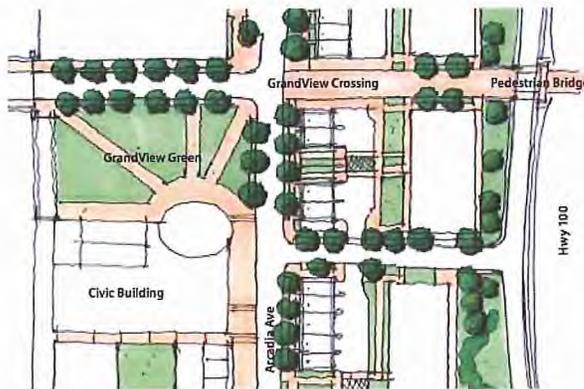
None of the implementations for <1 year or 1-5 years have been performed, with the exception of approving the Framework.

page 51

# THE FRAMEWORK - ANALYSIS: DESIGN

The current development process does not comply with the Framework

## Public Realm



GrandView Commons: GrandView Commons includes GrandView Crossing, GrandView Green, and a new community/civic building.

*...the public works site provides a unique and singular opportunity to create a major new public realm amenity that will add interest to the area for all stakeholders, value to real estate and provide a signature gathering place in the heart of the district..*

Framework - page 28

## Design

*"The district serves primarily as a neighborhood (rather than a regional) center."*

*"Neighborhood feel," "pedestrian friendly," and "safe and connected" describe the desired character for the district.*

Framework - page 13

### Comparison of Interior Square Footage (approx)

Framework, pg 19	173,000
CBG Proposal *	113,000
Scenario 1	279,000
Scenario 2	400,000
Scenario 3	310,000

A central commons on the Public Works site with indoor and outdoor public space

page 3

Civic building and green space is listed as one of three key civic centers.

page 14

New central green space - Grandview Green

page 14

Community / Civic Space 50,000 square feet

Public Green space 28,000 square feet

page 19

The result should be a greater sense of green throughout the district.

page 26

Create a prominent public realm of connected parks, green space, paths, plazas, and private open space – a legible green framework...

page 26

Density of scenarios from April 22 open house reflect a much denser development than is called for in the Framework (left)

Jennifer Janovy letter submitted to the Council

# FRAMEWORK - ANALYSIS: FUNCTION

A lack of follow through on the Framework studies has created a “ready, shoot, aim” process.

## Function

*Establish a community commons in a multi-purpose facility for a wide audience (e.g. whole body, whole life, health and wellness) and as a focal point and central gathering place.....*

Framework - page 14

Address needs of underserved populations (teens, singles, seniors, etc.)

page 14

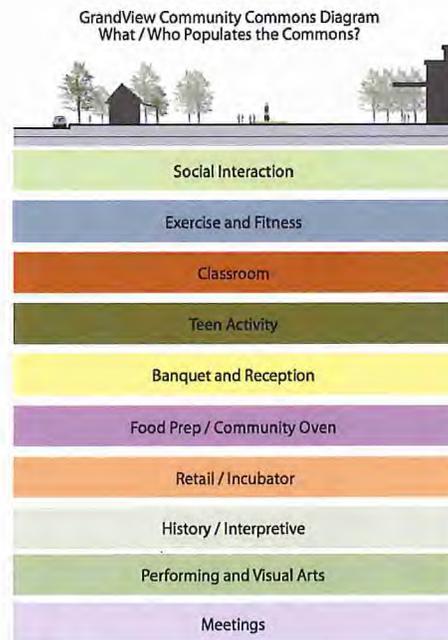
Acknowledge “no net loss,” yet aggressively seek new public space

page 26

*Folks hearing about this for the first time should know that there has been extensive public engagement regarding the future of the Grandview District in general and the old public works site in particular. I encourage anyone engaging in the process to spend some time reviewing the work that has been accomplished to date.*

*As a city council member, I'll be looking to ensure that whatever plan we ultimately pursue is true to the concepts embodied in the Framework that so many Edina residents worked so hard to create.*

Kevin Staunton in Next Door post



## GRANDVIEW COMMONS

In the current development process, where is the vision of a new public realm amenity that will provide a signature gathering place in the heart of the district?

In addition to social interaction, none of the public functions listed to the left have been studied or vetted.

The current direction of an arts center appears to be based on Council preferences, and not driven by public opinion.

Chart from Framework - page 28

# PUBLIC FEEDBACK DATA

The public engagement data has not been used in decision making and has been misrepresented.

## City Surveys

Grandview Resident Survey	February 2014
Community Needs Assessment	November 2014

Highlights of these surveys can be found on Public Grandview’s Consolidation of Findings: <http://www.publicgrandview.com/resources/summary-public-input>

## Prior Public Input

This document will focus on providing public input data from the date of the first public meeting, December 4, 2014 to the present.

Previous public input data can be found on the Public Grandview website on the Consolidation of Findings page: <http://www.publicgrandview.com/resources/summary-public-input>

## Current Public Engagement Process

The City’s current public engagement process began in December 2014 and includes the following elements:

Meeting / Media	Data Report
December 4 Community Meeting	Meeting Summary and Image Survey
January 15 High School Meeting	Meeting Summary and Image Survey
Speak Up, Edina! Phase I	None, except by Public Grandview
March 11 Community Meeting	Slideshow on the website showing the three scenarios. Public comment sheets were posted, with no summary.
Speak Up, Edina! Phase II	None, except by Public Grandview
April 22 Meeting	Data not available in time for this document
Speak Up, Edina! Phase III	Ongoing



December 4, 2014

December 4 meeting summary page 10 states:

*"A preference for mid-low density, mixed use development on the site."*

There is no data in the report to support that statement. Note the size of multi-mixed use on the word cloud, above.

General Assessment from the Summary Report:

*"Like the previous exercises, it was highly expressed the desire for the site to incorporate community space, with community/rec-center (27.5% of participants support). This was the most frequent response, followed by an art/cultural-center or theater space (20%). Participants also expressed that the site has potential to become an indoor-meeting or gathering space (10.8%)...."*

Source: <http://bit.ly/1zy9VMD>

**EXPLORATION SESSION - PUBLIC MEETING**

The City held its first widely-publicized community meeting to gather resident input as to "what could be built here?" The meeting was very tightly controlled, with little opportunity for residents to ask questions. The lack of dialogue led to frustration by many members of the audience.

The primary response for the question regarding opportunities for the site was a Community / Recreation Center, followed by Public Space, Gathering Space and Plaza/Square. Third response was Art/Cultural -Center/Theater.

Total number of responses:	422	
Number of responses that were congruent with public use	249	59%
Number of responses that named items such as community center, a public gathering space, park or that are congruent with a multi-purpose community center	195	46%
Number of responses that included private use or misc. (non likely uses such as zoo, gun range, lake, factory)	36	1%
Number of responses asking for retail or restaurant	22	5%
Number of responses that included housing (includes affordable housing, senior housing)	7	2%

Areas of interest – these were included in the above numbers but stand out with respect to the audience's concern / preferences:

Transportation/Parking: 21 Outdoor element: 13  
Green / Architectural concerns: 16

Source: Consolidation of Findings, Public Grandview <http://bit.ly/1DH-QDWZ>





# Speak Up, Edina!

▶ **SHARE** your feedback! ▶ **POST** your ideas! ▶ **JOIN** the discussion!

January / February 2015

## IDEAS FOR REUSE & PUBLIC ELEMENTS

### QUOTES FROM RESIDENTS

*First, Edina needs a state of the art community center - including the performing arts and fitness/wellness components.*

*The fitness / wellness components should include a walking track, basketball & racquetball courts, fitness equipment and possibly a pool. It could even include some commercial space for a coffee shop & restaurant.*

*...public property is for public use and enjoyment.*

*I think the combined Community Center -- fitness, Art Center, etc. -- is something that Edina is missing that neighboring communities have.*

Source: <http://bit.ly/1JBtuMS>

### IDEAS FOR REUSE

Total number of responses:	25
Number endorsing community center:	9 36%
Number endorsing retaining public land:	11 44%
Number concerned about traffic / transportation	6 24%
Number for mixed use:	2 8%
Number against community center:	2 8%

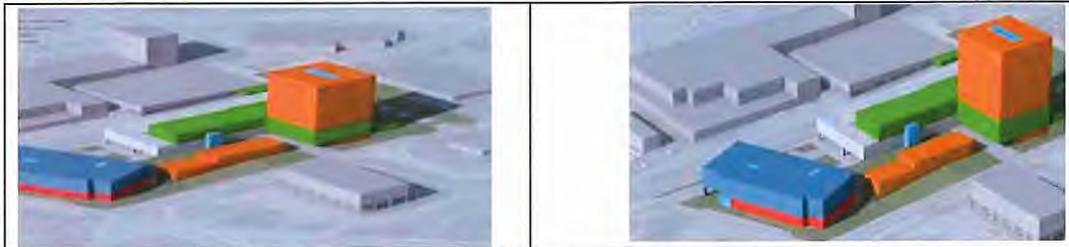
### PUBLIC ELEMENTS

Total number of responses	19
Number endorsing community center:	14 74%
Number endorsing retaining public land:	4 21%
Number concerned about traffic / transportation	3 16%
Number for mixed use:	1 5%

Data study done through February 13, 2015

\* Source: Consolidation of Findings, Public Grandview <http://bit.ly/1DHQDWZ>

PUBLIC FEEDBACK -4-



Shown originally on the website

True aspect ratio

## MISLEADING COMMUNICATION FROM THE CITY

March 11, 2015

No summary report was completed by the City on the March 11 meeting. Like the December 4 meeting, this was tightly controlled and did not welcome questions. Many attendees were visibly frustrated.

City misrepresentations and errors after the March 11 meeting increased public frustration by misrepresenting public feedback, errors in site representation and sending the public to a web page that had not been updated.

*The "Discovery Session" was formatted to provide ample opportunity for public input... Many audience questions were answered during the presentation.*

Scott Neal  
Friday Report - March 20, 2015

The postcard from the City was delivered to residents before the website was updated.

Once the website was updated, it had a broken link for the Speak Up, Edina! page.

### DISCOVERY SESSION - PUBLIC MEETING

Three scenarios were presented to the public. Attendees were given three dots to vote with. At the end of the presentation, attendees were told how to vote on the scenario boards, and if they didn't like ANY of the scenarios, to put the dots in their pockets and "walk home."

Some attendees began to leave immediately. In order to provide a voice for "none of the above" vote to count, Public Grandview and Citizens for a Better Grandview collected dots from residents who did not like any three of the scenarios.

At the end of the night, the green dot data showed:

Central Civic Cascade	13
South Civic Center	14
North Tower	26
None of the above	130

Total votes for one of the three scenarios:	53
Total votes for 'none of the above'	130

**'NONE OF THE ABOVE' RECEIVED ALMOST 2.5 TIMES THE AMOUNT THAN ALL SCENARIOS COMBINED.**

Some dots were left on community center boards, a small sample, *but shows preference for fitness/wellness*

Multigenerational Community Center	3
Arts and Culture	4
Fitness/Wellness	6

## FEEDBACK FROM MARCH 11 ATTENDEES

### City Did Not Provide Data Analysis

No data analysis was done with the feedback forms. They were available on the website, but no summary was presented to the public or to the Council.

Source: <http://bit.ly/1Ebtbke>

The League of Women Voters were told in their February meeting with Bill Neuendorf that the data the City is gathering is "not quantifiable." *Analyzing the data may not result 100% scientifically-valid outcomes, but trends and general preferences are easy to spot when numbers are weighted in one aspect.*

### MISC COMMENTS

General and misc. comments were analyzed.

Total comments:	33
Bad process or outcome:	18
Public use:	6
Transportation or parking concerns:	7
Mixed use:	2

**55%**

18 / 33 comments reflected that the process was flawed and/or the outcomes were unacceptable and uninspired.

PUBLIC FEEDBACK -6-

### DISCOVERY SESSION - PUBLIC INPUT

Public Grandview analyzed the data from the forms with the following results. Comments are varied, the data is analyzed to show trends.

#### NORTH CIVIC SPACE

Total comments analyzed	53	
Liked this scenario for large civic space	12	23%
Too tall	10	19%
Number of comments about public use	10	19%
Number wanting housing	2	4%
Number wanting commercial	2	4%
Like density	1	2%
Comments about transportation, misc.	3	6%

PUBLIC USE AND CIVIC SPACE PREFERENCES:	22	42%
USES OTHER THAN PUBLIC	5	9%

#### SOUTH CIVIC CORNER

Total comments analyzed	5	
Not enough civic space	2	40%
Misc. comments	3	60%

#### CENTRAL CIVIC CASCADE

Total comments analyzed	5	
Numbers in favor of public space/comm ctr	3	60%
Others mentioned use rooftop and too massive	2	40%

#### OTHER COMMENTS

Total comments analyzed	13	
Community Center / Public Use	7	54%
Who is paying for this / need better process	4	31%
Want commercial	1	8%
Don't have civic compete with private (i.e. fitness)	1	8%

#### USE OF COMMUNITY SPACE

Total comments analyzed	24	
Bad process or outcome	7	30%
Community / public use	6	25%
Want arts/culture	5	21%
Want fitness	3	13%
Misc. comments	3	13%



# Speak Up, Edina!

▶ **SHARE** your feedback! ▶ **POST** your ideas! ▶ **JOIN** the discussion!

March 2015

## QUOTES FROM RESIDENTS

*I agree, I do not think that we need more commercial areas. We need a place to be and grow with our families and our neighbors, especially in winter time.*

*This is a wonderful opportunity for a community center in Edina that would serve all of our residents.*

*All the thoughtful comments from the majority of people who have asked for specific public uses have been ignored.*

*We have spent the money on the golfers for the dome and the hockey folks for the ice center, now let's give something to the entire community.*

*Please listen to your voters and not your paid consultants.*

*The preliminary draft of Edina Parks & Recreation Master Plan shows Edina in the bottom tier for community and recreation centers.*

PUBLIC FEEDBACK -7-

## RESPONSE TO MARCH 11 SCENARIOS

### SOUTH CIVIC CENTER

Total number of responses:	4
What does civic mean? What does public mean?	2
This is a "nothing space" (with respect to civic) Where is affordable housing?	1
No innovation, no walkability, connectivity, buildings built to the street	1

### CENTRAL CIVIC CASCADE

Total number of responses:	2
Not enough civic space for community center, you don't say what civic is	1
City is asking developer to design community space, 5 year process vs a 6 month process in Vancouver, no site analysis. Step back from process	1

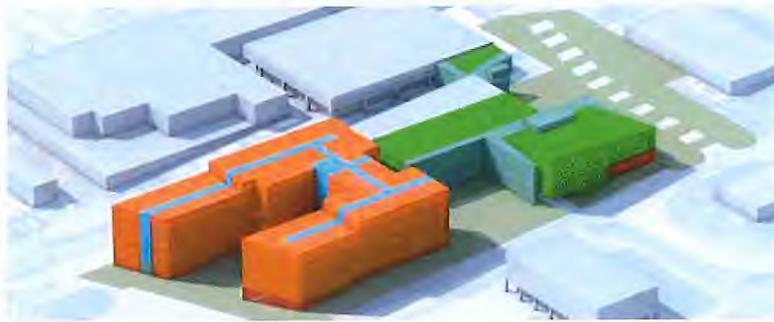
### NORTH CIVIC TOWER

Total number of responses:	3
Tall building, is it within Comp. Plan?	1
All comments ignored. Trying to avoid folks that don't want taxes raised. C+ work at best.	1
Does not fall within Comprehensive Plan. Designer did not know what guidelines were.	1

### PUBLIC USES

Total number of responses:	4
Number for community center	4

Data study done through March 31, 2015



April 22, 2015

## OPEN HOUSE - PUBLIC MEETING

No summary report was completed by the City for the April 22 meeting.

The "open house" format became a presentation meeting. Like previous meetings, it was a one-way presentation with little room for dialogue.

The data on the public feedback sheets was not made available on the website when the April 22 information was posted.

Public Grandview requested the data twice, but did not get it until it was too late to analyze and tabulate for inclusion in this document.

### PRELIMINARY EXCERPTS

*TOO DENSE!! How about some grass and flowers?*

*Sad to lose so much public space. A community center with residential over it would have worked. City council has not listened to the public on this.*

*Too massive. Don't like idea of 10-12 stories.*

*Too congested. We'll look like the Westin on this side of Edina!*

*Would prefer larger public use of site - less private development.*

*All exceed any reasonable densities for this three acre site.*

*Great idea for art and community center.... please no more apartments or office space.*

*No hotel, please.*

*Affordable housing - too many people who work in Edina can't afford to live here.*

*12 stories too high. I would like to see some recreation/health/sports facilities.*

*Green space, please.*

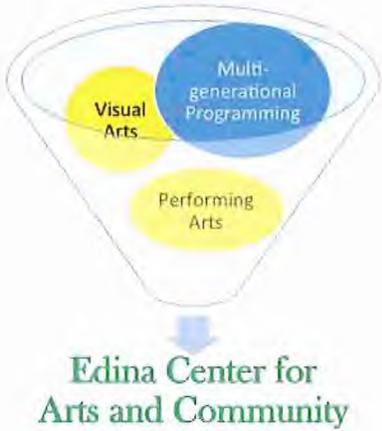
*Art center is not needed as others locally have not been successful.*

*Public land should stay in public hands!*

*Way too commercial and residential, too little civic/community. Too dense. It's massive and ugly.*

PUBLIC FEEDBACK -8-

# HOW DID WE GET HERE?



## Where is the data to support this direction?

Where is the data that supports the arts and culture direction?

City surveys don't reflect this preference.

What percentage of the community will this center serve? We have already invested a large amount of money in the community to serve golfers and hockey players. It's time for the general public to benefit.

## Based on individual Council preferences

The April 7 city council Grandview discussion was disconcerting to hear. Prior to Council comments, no public data was presented to the Council.

Individual Council statements reflected personal preferences. There were no questions to Mr. Neuendorf regarding what public feedback reflected.

## Where is the market analysis?

There has been no vetting of the arts and culture concept, nor market analysis.

Art centers tend to lose money. Many communities combine arts facilities with recreation facilities to offset the art centers' losses.

Council believes that a recreation center is not needed because there is "no market failure." Comparable cities have the same density of private clubs and still glean a profit from their recreation centers.

## Multi-generational gathering space?

The proposed civic center does nothing to unite the generations. Teens and seniors have been selected as the target markets. How about families with young children and everyone else?

This concept segments and segregates the population, and most importantly, is not supported by facts or the process.

# PUBLIC OPINION

Frustration and skepticism fueled by Grandview process

## Where does the public feedback data go?

The community engagement process is seen as disingenuous. Data is collected, but not presented to the Council. The Council has not asked for the data. See <http://bit.ly/1zLf6ih>

## No public/city dialogue

In each public meeting, there is very limited time provided for actual dialogue between the City and residents.

## Framework is cited, but not followed

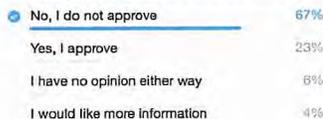
The Framework is consistently referenced to support the current development process. The development scenarios bear no resemblance to the Framework.

## Misrepresentations of meetings, etc.

Data from surveys, meetings and resident input is not provided to the Council; sweeping statements by City staff do not reflect the actual data.

## Informal survey on Next Door forum

Do you think the City of Edina is handling the redevelopment of the Grandview site correctly?



VOTED 82

Shared with Golf Terrace Heights + 22 neighborhoods in General

67% of respondents do not approve of the City's handling of the Grandview process.

## Pentagon Park TIF fuels distrust

The recent attention related to the Pentagon Park TIF has citizens wary of City processes and the TIF concept in general.

Using a TIF for the former public works site will likely add fuel to the perception that the Council favors developers over its residents.

## Five years versus nine months - Grandview versus Wooddale/Valley View (WVV)

The Wooddale Valley View small area plan presentation at the April 7 city council meeting provided an opportunity to compare the two processes. WVV was a nine month process that resulted in a true Small Area Plan. Grandview's five year development process did not result in a Small Area Plan and has not fulfilled many of its visions and goals.

# Edina Community Center

A place to gather as a **community**  
and increase **individual** wellness

A whole community, whole person center for Edina.

100% PUBLIC



Prepared by  
PUBLIC GRANDVIEW  
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# A MULTI-PURPOSE COMMUNITY CENTER

Serve the entire community through wellness, arts and a community gathering area.



## Framework's Vision

“ Establish a community commons as a multi-purpose facility for a wide audience (e.g., whole body, whole life, health and wellness) and as a focal point and central gathering space....”

Framework, page 14

## A Single Destination

“ As a single destination, the Community Center will become the community “Living room” that promotes civic pride and enhances the quality of life for all residents...”

Hillsboro Oregon  
Community Center  
summary document

## THE COMMUNITY'S LIVING ROOM

“ A community center is the heart of the community. It is a public place, one we all built, where we directly feel the city's commitment to our well-being. It is the place you go for personal enrichment, and discover you are part of an active and welcoming community...”

Valerie Otani, Hillsboro, Oregon resident about their new community center

“ The Community Center will become the gathering place for citizens of all ages and abilities: a place to learn, play, create, grow, laugh, experience and just hang out with friends.”

Hillsboro document

# COMMUNITY CENTER CONCEPT

A facility that can be used by all residents.

## Community Spaces



Community spaces are the heart of the community center including multi-purpose room(s), informal gathering spaces, study spaces, classes, special events/parties.

## Arts and Culture



Arts and culture space includes the visual arts as well as the performing arts. The community performance space could also be used for other community events.

## Activity Spaces



Activity spaces would promote health and wellness. Included in activity spaces would be group fitness studio, a walking/jogging track, weight room, lap pool and recreational pool and a gymnasium.

## Supporting Spaces



These spaces are required to support the community center - the reception area, storage spaces, mechanical rooms and other operational spaces.

Although the childcare space is called out in the fitness area - childcare is available for all of the community center uses, enabling young families to participate in all of the center's offerings.

## Restaurant



The community center would host a restaurant, similar to Tin Fish at Braemar.

It would be preferable to use a restaurant that will attract teens and young residents, but is still healthy and appealing to other generations.

## Outdoor Spaces



Create a prominent green space that acts as a community commons and could include uses such as: sculpture garden, outdoor amphitheatre and/or ice rink in winter.

in addition, use / reserve outdoor space for transit and parking.

## MULTI-GENERATIONAL GATHERING SPACES

Places to gather, to learn, to work and to hold special events



A place for everyone. For seniors, teens, families and singles. A community center would provide a place to meet, to work together and to play together.

Space	Square footage	Cost per SF	Cost
Casual activities lounge area	1,200 SF	205.00	\$ 246,000
Teen area and multi-generational @ 1000 SF	2,000 SF	205.00	\$ 410,000
Game room	1,000 SF	215.00	\$ 215,000
Community Room - flexible space	3,000 SF	230.00	\$ 690,000
Multi-purpose classroom - flexible space	1,000 SF	230.00	\$ 230,000
Community / caterer kitchen	800 SF	355.00	\$ 284,000
Special events / party room	700 SF	255.00	\$ 178,500
Meeting room / conference room	600 SF	205.00	\$ 123,000
Two unisex restrooms	600 SF	305.00	\$ 183,000
Classroom and events room storage	180 SF	165.00	\$ 30,000
Workroom and general storage	350 SF	204.00	\$ 71,400
<b>TOTAL GATHERING SQUARE FOOTAGE:</b>	<b>11,430 SF</b>		<b>\$ 2,660,600</b>

# WELLNESS / ACTIVITY CENTER

Create an activity center that benefits all residents of Edina



Provide a wellness and activity center that attracts all ages.

Space	Square footage	Cost per SF	Cost
Gymnasium	6,000	\$195.00	\$1,170,000
Walking / jogging track	8,000	\$225.00	\$1,800,000
2 multipurpose group exercise	4,400	\$210.00	\$924,000
Cardio / weight room	6,000	\$225.00	\$1,350,000
Fitness studio	1,000	\$215.00	\$215,000
Wellness center / fitness assessment	1,000	\$225.00	\$225,000
Climbing structure	1,600	\$210.00	\$336,000
Childcare (shared by all center uses)	1,000	\$200.00	\$200,000
Gym storage	300	\$154.00	\$46,200
Multi-purpose, cardio/weight and childcare storage	600	\$165.00	\$99,000
<b>TOTAL ACTIVITIES SQUARE FEET</b>	<b>29,900</b>		<b>\$6,365,200</b>

# AQUATIC CENTER

A family-friendly pool and lap pool



Aquatic center that is open year around.

Space	Square footage	Cost per SF	Cost
Recreational pool	6,000	\$345.00	\$2,070,000
Lap pool	7,500	\$345.00	\$2,587,500
Pool mechanicals and aquatics storage	1,600	\$189.00	\$302,400
Thermo / hydrotherapy	250	\$500.00	\$125,000
Pool sanitation storage	140	\$145.00	\$20,300
First aid office	80	\$ 214.00	\$17, 120
Pool construction			\$1,260,000
Recreational pool equipment			\$ 885,000
<b>TOTAL AQUATICS SQUARE FOOTAGE:</b>	<b>15,570</b>		<b>\$7,267,320</b>

## PERFORMING ARTS

Create a performing arts space



A performance space that can be utilized in multiple ways.

Space	Square footage	Cost per SF	Cost
Community performance room (flexible / movable seating)	3,500	\$300.00	\$875,000
Two dressing rooms @300 SF	600	\$200.00	\$120,000
Rehearsal rooms (2@ 1200 SF)	2,400	\$210.00	\$504,000
Storage	800	\$165.00	\$132,000
<b>TOTAL PERFORMING SQUARE FOOTAGE:</b>	<b>7,500</b>		<b>\$1,631,000</b>

The performing arts and visual arts can share spaces such as restrooms, front of house (lobby).

# EDINA ARTS CENTER

Create a new home for the Edina Art Center



## VISUAL ARTS

Based on Scenario A in the Schuler Shook document.

Used NET square footage.

Space	Square footage	Cost per SF	Cost
Gallery	1700	\$ 200.00	\$340,000
Large Studios	700	\$ 200.00	\$140,000
Small Studios	1300	\$ 200.00	\$260,000
Specialized Labs	800	\$ 200.00	\$160,000
Administration Offices	400	\$ 200.00	\$80,000
Gift Shop	300	\$ 200.00	\$60,000
Pottery / Ceramics Studio	3500	\$ 200.00	\$700,000
Metal Arts	2200	\$ 200.00	\$440,000
Glass	1000	\$ 200.00	\$200,000
Photography / Jewelry	1000	\$ 200.00	\$200,000
Conference Room	400	\$ 200.00	\$80,000
Rental Studio Space	1000	\$ 200.00	\$200,000
Storage	1000	\$ 200.00	\$ 200,000
Receiving	250	\$ 200.00	\$ 50,000
<b>TOTAL ART CENTER SQUARE FOOTAGE:</b>	<b>15,550</b>		<b>\$3,110,000</b>

## GENERAL SPACES

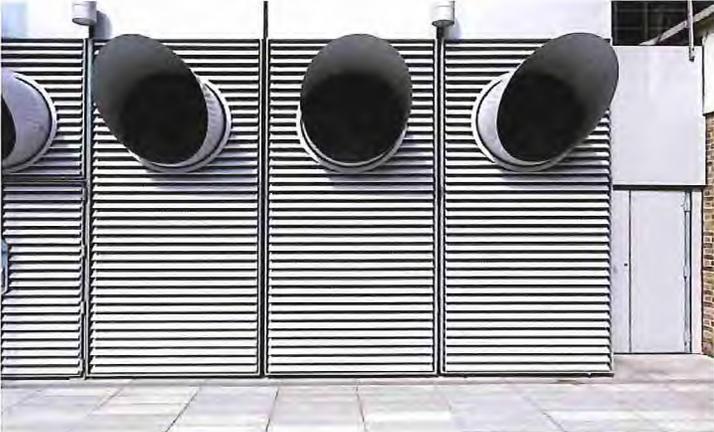
Miscellaneous spaces required to run a community center



Space	Square footage	Cost per SF	Cost
Lobby	1200	\$230.00	\$276,000
Reception bay/access	300	\$205.00	\$61,500
Vending area	150	\$255.00	\$38,250
Locker room - women	1,700	\$255.00	\$433,500
Locker room - men	1,500	\$255.00	\$382,500
Locker room - family	300	\$230.00	\$69,000
4 offices - manager and coordinators	480	\$189.00	\$90,720
3 staff offices	240	\$194.00	\$46,560
Maintenance / receiving offices	500	\$168.00	\$84,000
Supporting spaces / storage	480	\$180.00	\$86,400
<b>TOTAL GENERAL SQUARE FOOTAGE:</b>	<b>6,850</b>		<b>\$1,568,430</b>

# OPERATIONAL SPACES

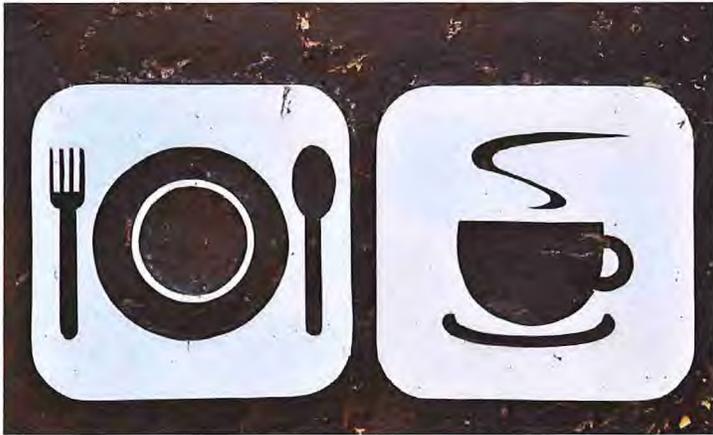
Mechanical, circulation, etc.



Space	Square footage	Cost per SF	Cost
Pool circulation	4201	\$205.00	\$ 861, 246
Building circulation	20,391	\$185.00	\$ 3,772,335
<b>TOTAL OPERATIONAL SQUARE FOOTAGE:</b>	<b>20,508</b>		<b>\$ 3,855,320</b>

## RESTAURANT

A private food provider that is healthy and appealing to all ages.



Space	Square footage	Cost per SF	Cost
Restaurant space	1,500	\$355.00	\$ 532,500
<b>TOTAL RESTAURANT SQUARE FOOTAGE:</b>	<b>1,500</b>		<b>\$ 532,500</b>

NOTE: ESTIMATED SIZE AND COST PER SQUARE FOOT. COST PER SQUARE FOOT WAS ARRIVED AT USING COST PER SQUARE FOOT OF KITCHEN AREA.

## COMMUNITY CENTER TOTALS

ESTIMATED square footage and costs. Subject to change upon further study.

### INDOOR SPACE

Space	Square footage	Cost
Gathering spaces	11,430	\$ 2,660,600
Activity spaces	29,900	\$ 6,365,200
Aquatics space	15,570	\$ 7,267,320
Performing space	7,500	\$ 1,631,000
Art center	15,500	\$ 3,110,000
General space	6,850	\$ 1,568,430
Operations	20,508	\$ 3,855,320
Restaurant	1500	\$ 532,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>108,758</b>	<b>\$26,990,370</b>

### OUTDOOR SPACE

Space		Cost
Green space	estimate	\$ 4,000,000
Parking - 340 spaces	\$20,000 per space	\$ 6,800,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$10,800,000</b>

**TOTAL ESTIMATED COST \$ 37,790,370**

Thanks to Opsis Architecture for use of their photographs, graphics and estimated square footage costs.

# A True Community Center for Edina

WHY a community center makes sense  
on the former public works site

A plan for the community, not for the developers



Prepared by  
PUBLIC GRANDVIEW  
Stephanie Mullaney, Chair  
[stephaniemullaney@comcast.net](mailto:stephaniemullaney@comcast.net)  
[www.PublicGrandview.com](http://www.PublicGrandview.com)

## A MULTI-PURPOSE COMMUNITY CENTER

Serve the entire community through wellness, arts and a community gathering area.



### Framework's Vision

“ Establish a community commons as a multi-purpose facility for a wide audience (e.g., whole body, whole life, health and wellness) and as a focal point and central gathering space....

Framework, page 14

### A Single Destination

“ As a single destination, the Community Center will become the community “living room” that promotes civic pride and enhances the quality of life for all residents...

Hillsboro Oregon  
Community Center  
summary document

### THE COMMUNITY'S LIVING ROOM

“ A community center is the heart of the community. It is a public place, one we all built, where we directly feel the city's commitment to our well-being. It is the place you go for personal enrichment, and discover you are part of an active and welcoming community...

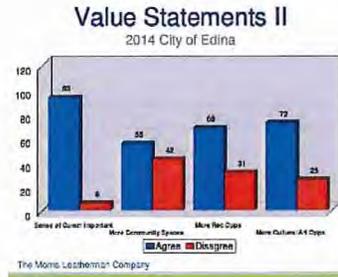
Valerie Otani, Hillsboro, Oregon resident about their new community center

“ The Community Center will become the gathering place for citizens of all ages and abilities: a place to learn, play, create, grow, laugh, experience and just hang out with friends.

Hillsboro document

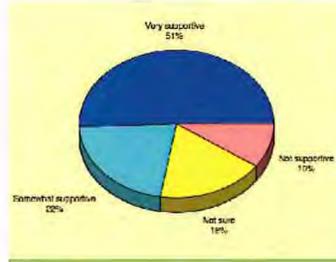
# HONORING PUBLIC FEEDBACK

Give Edina citizens what they have repeatedly requested via public feedback mechanisms



## Grandview Resident Survey

February 2014 - Representative sample of 400 Edina residents



## Community Needs Assessment Survey

November 2014 - Representative sample of 1222 Edina residents



## Public Engagement

December 2014 - Present

**93 %**

sense of community important

**73 %**

supportive of an indoor community space

**86 %**

of public responses at Dec. 4 meeting congruent with this community center proposal

**55 %**

need more community spaces

**58 %**

want walking and jogging track

**80 %**

of EHS responses on 1-15 are congruent with this community center proposal

**68 %**

need more recreational opportunities

**33 -34 %**

FOR EACH: exercise facility for >50 year olds; aerobics, fitness/dance space; weight room

**74 %**

support a community center as a public element on Speak Up, Edina!

## PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SITE

A community building that serves a portion of the public sandwiched between dense private development



### DEVELOPER SCENARIO #2

Community Building

**60,000 SF**

Public development cost up to

**\$ 38 M**

### Programming of community building

- Determined by council member preferences; decisions not based on data
- Community input ignored
- Market analysis / feasibility, if completed, has not been shared with the public
- The process for determining programming of the community center as specified in the Development Framework has not been followed
- Facility designed for use by a narrow segment of residents
- Visual and performing arts facilities consistently operate at a loss

### Density

- Civic space sandwiched between high density private development
- Office / residential buildings up to 12 stories - does not conform to Comprehensive Plan

### Privatization of public land

- Driven by developers - motivated by profit
- How does the "private development help pay for the public?" (see page 6)
- Privatization of public land not supported by Edina residents: 66% say public land should be for public purposes only

## 100% PUBLIC USE OF THE SITE

A true community center used by all residents with green space and preservation of public land



### PUBLIC GRANDVIEW'S VISION

Community Center

**108,000 SF**

Public development cost estimate

**\$ 38 M**

### Programming of community building

- Determined by citizen feedback and surveys, using a consultant experienced in public spaces
- Used by all residents of Edina, not a narrow segment of the population
- Provides gathering spaces for all generations - provides a new, integrated space for seniors and singles, and gives school-aged families and teens a place to gather
- Produces a combination of uses that support and complement each other
- Private fitness clubs do not build community and are run for profit
- Conforms with the Framework -
  - *"a unique and singular opportunity to create a major new public realm amenity... and provide a signature gathering place in the heart of the District."*
  - *conforms with the concept of a neighborhood center - not a dense commercial center*

### Green space: a place to relax and play

- Conforms with the Framework and within Comprehensive Plan parameters
- Answers public feedback for an outdoor gathering space

### Preservation of public land

- Driven by residents, motivated by building community in the present and for the future

# TIF - WHO WINS?

Using TIF for private development - who really benefits?

## **TAX INCREMENT FINANCING**

*Where does the money go??*

Edina residents have recently been hearing about Tax Increment Financing (TIF). The Pentagon Park issue surrounding TIF has become public, and TIF appears to be a vehicle the city wants to use for Grandview.

Who wins with TIF? How do the residents of Edina benefit from using TIF at Grandview?

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### What is TIF?

TIF uses the increased property taxes that a new real estate development generates to finance the costs of development. It is used to incentivize development in blighted areas and to finance public infrastructure related to development. The length of TIF in the Grandview situation would likely be 26 years.

### How does TIF relate to the Grandview district?

The city consistently has said that private development at Grandview will help to pay for public improvements.

*Due to the blighted nature of the site, the creation of a new TIF Redevelopment District is envisioned to help fund public improvements and infrastructure in and around the site, as well as other eligible costs identified in state law.\**

\*April 7 city council meeting: <http://bit.ly/1FaEpJz>

### What can TIF pay for?

- Streets and sidewalks
- Infrastructure (sewer, water, etc.)
- Parking

### What can't TIF pay for?

- Community buildings
- Arts / Culture buildings
- Commons area / parks

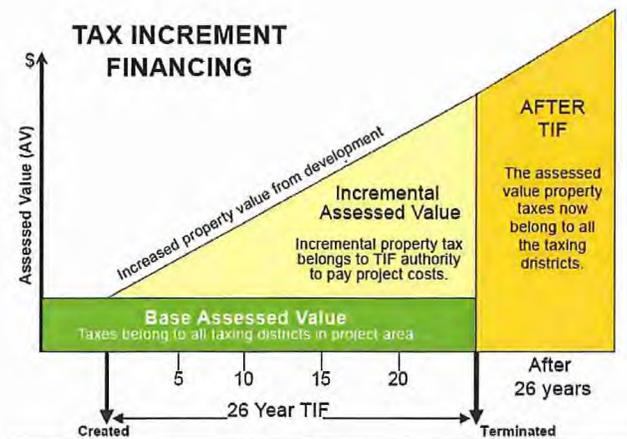
### Who is affected by TIF?

- Taxable entities - these include the city, the county, the public school system and other entities such as the watershed district, etc.
- The developer benefits - the amount of money the developer has to pay to build roads and infrastructure is reduced by the taxpayer dollars that go into the TIF district and used for project costs.
- City taxpayers are affected - taxes that would normally be put in the general fund to finance public safety, street maintenance and other public services are instead collected by the TIF district for up to 26 years.

## So, how does TIF work?

Let's use Grandview as an example:

1. Assess the site's CURRENT value (let's say \$4M)
2. Determine net tax capacity - estimated FUTURE value (let's say \$70M)
3. For the period of TIF there are two tax streams:
  - a. Tax Stream 1- the district taxable entities receive their usual taxes from the property based on the CURRENT assessed value
  - b. Tax Stream 2 - additional tax money generated after the development takes place and the property values are higher. These taxes are collected by the TIF district and are not put in the general fund, which pays for city services. The real value of the taxes is not realized by the City for the length of TIF - i.e. 26 years.



Source: <http://bit.ly/1HjBMsN>

## How will Edina taxpayers benefit from a TIF district for Grandview?

In the private / public scenario on the next page, Edina residents get about 340 parking spaces and infrastructure that would be required to develop the land in any scenario.

## What negative effects would a TIF district have for the Edina community?

Since the public works site is characterized as "blighted," the taxes from Tax Stream 1 would be a very small amount. In the example that follows, Edina Public Schools would lose out on \$ 4.7M in tax revenue from this development over a period of 26 years. The City loses out on \$ 6.4M in tax revenue.

In the case of private / public development scenarios currently being considered, the residents lose and the developers win.

## WHAT DOES A GRANDVIEW TIF LOOK LIKE?

<b>Assumptions</b>	Scenario #2 - calculate with high end costs	
	High density residential (not hotel)	
	Net tax capacity value of \$70M (estimated)	
<b>Parking Requirements</b>	Public Parking 240 civic, 100 park/ride	340
	Private parking (225+48+150)	423
	TOTAL parking spaces needed	763
	Cost of Parking - \$20,000 per spot	\$ 15,260,000
<b>Yearly tax on \$70M</b>	City Tax (.0035)	\$ 245,000
	School Tax - Net Tax Capacity (.0026)	\$ 182,000
	Annual County Tax (.0062)	\$434,000
	Total Annual Tax	\$ 861,000
<b>After 26 Years</b>	Total TIF	\$ 22,386,000
	Pay for Parking	\$ 15,260,000
	Pay for Infrastructure up to \$8M	\$ 8,000,000

### Upon completion of TIF:

The school district loses out on \$4.7M in tax revenue

The city loses out on \$6.4M in tax revenue

Edina residents get 340 parking spaces and infrastructure that would have been built to develop the land in any type of scenario

## CRITICISMS OF 100% PUBLIC OPTION

### *Let's get this piece of property back on the tax rolls*

- With the use of TIF, property taxes from this property will not go into the general fund for up to 26 years.

### *People want public space, but they don't want to pay for it.*

- There is no data to support this statement.
- In the Community Needs Assessment conducted last November, **73% of residents** surveyed either strongly support or somewhat support the construction of a community center on the former public works site - with programming that includes **fitness and wellness**.
- In the same study, **only 10% were not supportive** of a community center.

### *There were promises made that the city would sell the former public works site to help pay for the new public works site*

- There were statements made, but no promises (at least not in public).
- The city council made the decision to purchase the new public works site and bond for the new public works facility but did not couple that decision with a decision or promise to sell the former public works site.
- The Comprehensive Plan and the Framework can also be seen as promises.

### *We need private development to help pay for public improvements*

- TIF cannot be used for an arts or performing arts center that is publicly owned. It can't be used for parks. It can be used for infrastructure (utilities, new street, streetscape, sidewalks, parking) that a developer can be required to pay for anyway.

### *We don't need another fitness facility in Edina*

- There are different customers for different markets. The person who joins a community center fitness facility may not be interested in joining a private for-profit or non-profit fitness center
- Edina's aging demographics will require fitness spaces. It was the second most requested programming in the Community Needs and Assessment study.
- A community center is not only about fitness—it's about community.

### *Community centers lose money. We don't want to subsidize a facility.*

- The City has subsidized the Arts Center and recreational enterprise facilities for years.
- Fitness facilities tend to make money; arts and performing arts facilities tend to lose money. Blending fitness with the arts can help to make a facility financially sustainable.

### *We don't want to compete against private business*

- The city currently competes against private business: golf courses, swimming pool, hockey arena, sports dome, liquor stores.

## A PERSPECTIVE FROM OTHERS

Tom O'Rourke

Executive Director of Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission

*"As an example, in our agency we exist to improve the quality of life in Charleston County. If we wanted to, we could very easily get rid of all the things that do not make money, but that would disenfranchise many of the people in Charleston," O'Rourke says.*

*"Instead, we choose to create enterprise ventures that will make a profit so that we can keep open places that will never make money and were never intended to make money. I would put our efficiency model up against anyone, public or private. For us, it is not about money, it is about being able to provide our services for everyone."*



Dr. Ed Ehlinger, M.D., M.S.P.H.

Minnesota State Health Commissioner

*"Everybody should have the opportunity to be healthy, regardless of your zip code, your ethnicity, your language, your sexual preference."*

### Discussion: Community wellness recreation center - Estes Valley

*A new center provides opportunities for a plethora of positive benefits to community members. Some of these include: keeping kids occupied and off the streets; increased community awareness; a "community hub" and a cohesive sense of community where friends and family can meet; exercise, fitness and conditioning; fun and entertainment; learning and education; relaxation; healthy lifestyles; social benefits; group participation and multi-generational interaction.*

<http://bit.ly/1L4PJg>

## COMPARISON OF FITNESS CENTERS

1. *Do we need a fitness center? We already have private for-profit and private non-profit fitness centers in Edina.*
2. *Let's use a private fitness club in our public community center, then we don't have to worry about losing money.*

Consider these factors when weighing in on the above questions:

### Public Activity / Wellness Centers

Central focus is community; goals are community driven

Well designed and well run centers are profitable, community benefits from profits, or helps offset losses from arts/culture.

City controls programming to align with mission and values

City maintains presence/identity and trust with public front porch/ living room

City can become more attractive to young families, provide healthy opportunities for teens, and fitness for residents over 55.

Gym environment more relaxed and friendly, fosters community connections

Attracts people from diverse age groups and socio-economic ranges - open to all

Offer wide range of child and youth services (childcare, kid's programming)

Offerings for people with disabilities - also employees people with disabilities

Provides a sense of community belonging

### Private For-Profit / Private Non-Profit Fitness Centers

Limited to private members who can afford the membership fees

Driven by and benefits from operating profits

The private club controls the programming, community values not included

City cannot control employment policies

Caters to a limited population - typically with age restrictions

Atmosphere can discourage people with disabilities

More advanced fitness options

Competitive environment

City loses opportunity for presence and identity

No opportunity to implement community wellness goals

City loses opportunity for public gathering space for all ages

## Heather Branigin

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**From:** Peter Kennedy <peterkennedy@live.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 18, 2015 3:16 PM  
**To:** Edina Mail  
**Subject:** City Council and engineering

Hello, I reside at 5009 edin brook lane in edina. I am unable to make the meeting tomorrow night but I want to put forth my full support for the wall being built a long 100. It would be a great addition for myself and my family. Please let me know if there's anything I can do to help get this approved. Thank you for your time.

Peter Kennedy

**Heather Branigin**

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**From:** david.colwell@comcast.net  
**Sent:** Monday, May 18, 2015 3:54 PM  
**To:** Edina Mail  
**Subject:** Noise wall improvements for TH100 from Minnehaha Creek to Vernon

To City Council and Engineering:  
I support the proposal. It has been a long time in coming.

David Colwell  
5012 Edinbrook Lane  
Edina, Mn 55436  
{952} 925-1396

## Heather Branigin

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**From:** Nicole Evenson <nicolebeckius@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 18, 2015 10:22 PM  
**To:** Edina Mail  
**Subject:** Attn:city council and engineering

To whom it may concern,

My husband and I want to take the time to voice (in writing) our extreme support for the highway noise wall along highway 100. We have been in the neighborhood almost 2 years and were contemplating moving or a home remodel. This wall project would keep us in the neighborhood happily! We cannot say enough how much this would improve the area, home values and basic day to day living.

This is a great opportunity for us and we are keeping our fingers crossed that it is approved!

Thank you for the time and consideration,

Nicole, John & Alexa Evenson  
5017 Edinbrook Lane  
651.208.7415

Sent from my iPhone

## Heather Branigin

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**From:** david bruflo dt <dab01b@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 19, 2015 1:55 PM  
**To:** Edina Mail  
**Subject:** TH100 Noise Wall - Attention City Council & Engineering

We oppose the TH100 noise wall for the following reasons:

1. It is not clear to us what the **wall height** will be adjacent to our property.
2. We are worried about how much **morning sun** we will lose due to the wall.
3. We are worried about the **loss of trees and green growth** behind our property.
3. \$3000 is still **a lot of money** for a small amount of noise reduction.

Thank you for your consideration.

David and Patti Bruflo dt  
4837 Westbrook Lane