

REPORT / RECOMMENDATION



To: MAYOR & COUNCIL

Agenda Item #: VIII. A.

From: Debra Mangen
City Clerk

Date: June 17, 2015

Subject: Correspondence

Action
Discussion
Information

Action Requested:

No action is necessary.

Attachment:

Attached is correspondence received since the last Council meeting.

Heather Branigin

From: Sara Barber <sbarber14@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 02, 2015 7:26 PM
To: James Hovland
Subject: Our meeting/discussion at Edina Garden Council luncheon

Mayor Hovland,

I enjoyed meeting you at the Edina Garden Council luncheon on Monday. Per your direction, I am following up with an email to express my support of buckthorn abatement in the city's natural areas and more specifically my interest in the new forestry position within the city of Edina.

My past experience includes time as a city/municipal forester as well as positions in natural area project management and open space preservation within the Chicago region. Following that I oversaw Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper's initiative to plant one million trees.

I would be happy to sit down with the City Manager to discuss Edina's future forestry needs and would certainly like an opportunity to apply for such a position if my experience aligns with those needs.

So enjoyed meeting you, and look forward to future interactions.

Regards,

Sara Jakuc

Heather Branigin

From: carol cushmore <carcush@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 02, 2015 9:20 PM
To: JoanE Mitchell
Cc: Sandy Simmons; James Hovland; Mary Brindle; Ann Swenson; Robert Stewart; Kevin Staunton; Scott H. Neal; Diane Rice; McCary, Mark @ Minneapolis; Diane McCary; David L. Mitchell; Cary Schilling; Pat Lawrence; patolson5@icloud.com; lisastanley5@gmail.com; Karen Mcelrath; Ted & Carol Cushmore
Subject: Re: Bruce Place

We add our support and voice to the excellent letters recently written by our neighbors.

Ted and Carol Cushmore
5012 Bruce Ave

Sent from my iPad

> On Jun 2, 2015, at 9:06 AM, JoanE Mitchell <jemitchell922@gmail.com> wrote:

>

> Sandy,

> My reply to Diane's email to the council apply to your thoughtful, direct statements as well. Thank you for your time & energy in this process.

> Best Regards, JoanE

>

> Sent from my iPad

>

>> On Jun 1, 2015, at 5:29 PM, Sandy Simmons <ssimmons47@gmail.com> wrote:

>>

>> Edina City Council and Edina City Manager,

>>

>> We live daily with the construction on our street but, most importantly, the imminent finality of your decisions for the size and livability of the finished product. By petition and survey of all Bruce Avenue/Bruce Place residents, there is unanimous concern for the safety and functionality of the current plan you have approved.

>>

>> The cul de sac, which originally had issues with being too small for large vehicles to turn around, is slated to become 10 feet smaller. Daily there are a number of large vehicles (deliveries, Fed Ex, waste trucks, lawn service vehicles to name a few) which will have to go in reverse to navigate the new smaller sized circle. Add the snow piles in winter months, it will be even smaller with even less visibility. Small children, pets, the pedestrians who will have to cross Bruce Avenue because of parking only on the east side of the street will be at risk as these vehicles are backing up with limited visibility. There is nothing that is safe or safer about this. Have you actually looked in person at the situation you are approving, one that we experience every day?

>>

>> The one sided parking will actually be creating more foot traffic on the street as people have fewer places to park. The traffic on the street will be moving faster because of the 'thoroughfare' that has been created with one sided parking.

>>

>> As residents we are genuinely concerned with your decisions and very frustrated that we have not been listened to. The Living Streets Plan specifically states that "every street is a unique combination of its neighborhood.....street design, users, and modes" and the city will "seek input from its stakeholders". The city is not following this with Bruce

Avenue/Bruce Place. The unanimously expressed concern by our street should alert you that this needs more careful consideration. Please follow your Living Streets Plan and listen to the input we are giving you.

>>

>> We are all being assessed for this improvement to our street. It would be wonderful to end up with a finished product that we feel was done in our unique and best interest.

>>

>> Kevin and Bob, as the new council members, have chosen to not involve themselves in what they decided was a previous decision. Respectfully, this is happening NOW - we are asking for the CURRENT City Council to review this decision. We need support from our representatives that we elected to represent us now. Bruce Avenue/Bruce Place is urging our City and our City Council to please listen to these concerns.

>>

>> Thank you,

>> Sandy and Cal Simmons

>> 5038 Bruce Place

>>

>>

>>

>>

Heather Branigin

From: Phil Mero <phil.mero@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 02, 2015 9:53 PM
To: James Hovland; Mary Brindle (Comcast); Cindy Larson; Scott H. Neal; Ross Bintner; Chad Millner; bstewart@edinamn.gov
Subject: Fwd: Driveway fiasco
Attachments: photo 1.JPG; photo 2.JPG; photo 3.JPG

After multiple emails with no response I need action. Do you even care about the safety of your residents? I am in attendance, I hope to speak with all of you.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Monica Mero** <monica.mero@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Jun 2, 2015 at 8:55 PM
Subject: Driveway fiasco
To: Phil Mero <phil.mero@gmail.com>

Sent from my iPhone

--

Sincerely-

Phil Mero
[612.963.0852](tel:612.963.0852)

Heather Branigin

From: Scott H. Neal
Sent: Wednesday, June 03, 2015 12:52 PM
To: Phil Mero
Cc: James Hovland; Cindy Larson; Mary Brindle (Comcast); Monica Mero; Ross Bintner; Chad Millner; kevin@stauntonlaw.com; bob.stewart@theplatinumgrp.com; Charlie Gerk
Subject: Re: Driveway fiasco

Phil -

The City has not ignored your concerns. Council Members and City staff members have personally talked to you, replied to your emails and personally inspected the site.

We are not, however, able to grant you the relief you are seeking because the home you are concerned about is being built in compliance with our City Code. City staff will enforce City Code at 4419 Grimes. We will ensure that your safety concerns are addressed as much as our Code allows us to address them.

Scott Neal
City Manager

On Jun 3, 2015, at 12:38 PM, Phil Mero <phil.mero@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello-

Attached are photos from my roof showing how incredibly tight this space is, as well as a photo from the backyard showing the driveway 'cliff' that I have been referencing.

I've also attached a gross rendering of what should be the placement of the garage. It is NOT too late to course correct what was a major mistake this was on the cities part in signing off. Again, it's hard to blame shady builder for pulling wool over their 'clients'. That's the game that they play, and unfortunately the city allows them to play. For the city to then grant permission to execute this design is preposterous.

As I've stated in the past, this could be a real win for the city to assume accountability for signing off on a broken design by standing up to these builders and do what's right for their existing residents. This should be a real PR win for the city.

On the contrary, I am hoping that I do not have to leverage my close, personal relationships at the Star Tribune, City Pages, and Pioneer Press that I have teed up to tell our story.

Scott, per our 'visit' last night I look forward to hearing from you today to discuss. I can be reached at 612.963.0852

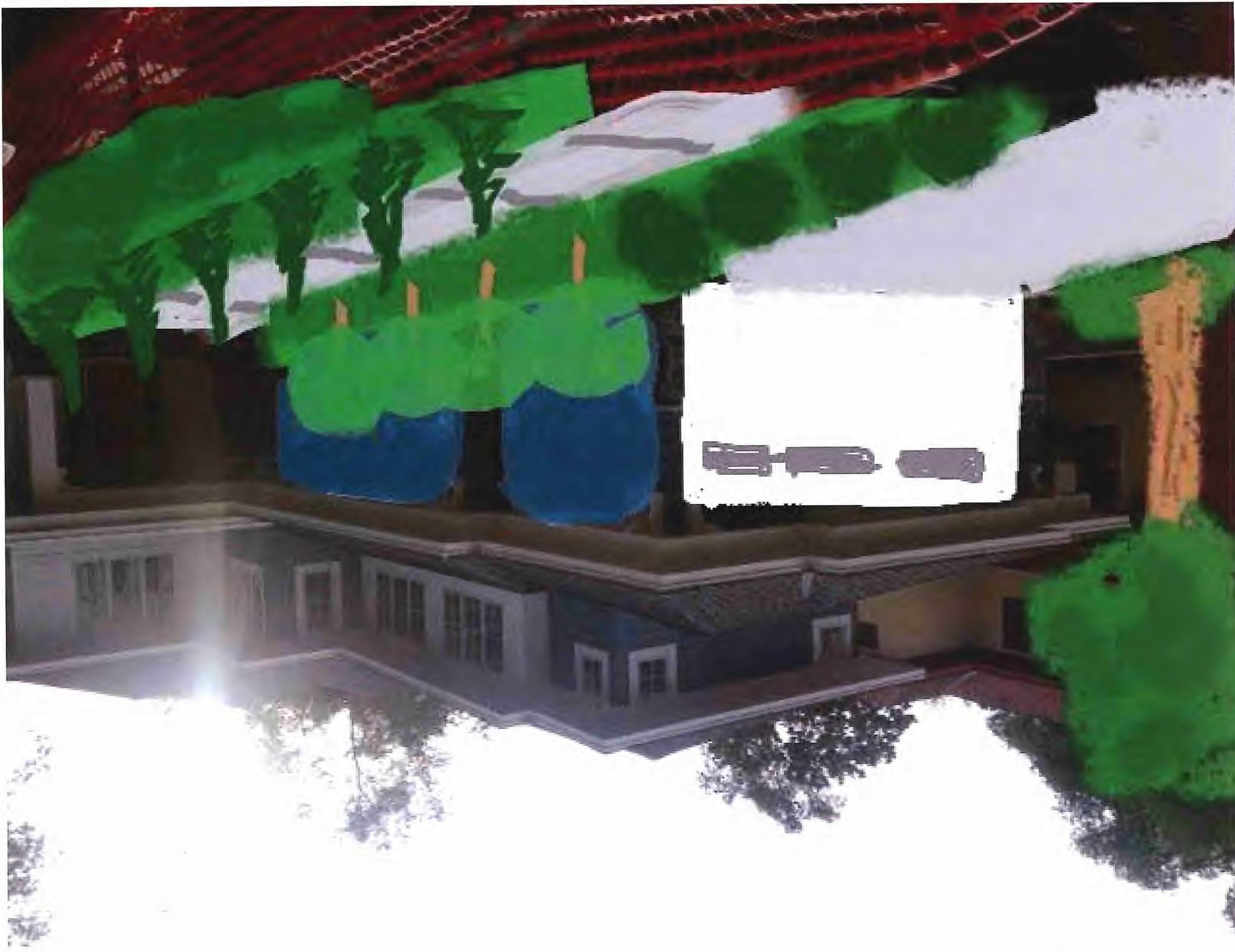
You have time to do the right thing.

Phil Mero











Heather Branigin

From: Monica Mero <monica.mero@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 03, 2015 1:51 PM
To: Phil Mero
Cc: Scott H. Neal; James Hovland; Cindy Larson; Mary Brindle (Comcast); Ross Bintner; Chad Millner; kevin@stauntonlaw.com; bob.stewart@theplatinumgrp.com; Charlie Gerk
Subject: Re: Driveway fiasco

I do need to mention from the very beginning of this experience when we walked through the plan with Charlie Gerk, he said "play nice" with Refined, if you do, they will be fair, if you don't things may not go well. "Play nice". I think about that advice that he gave us and other neighbors and looking back it all makes sense. Refined never once "played nice" with us with simple requests. Refined rarely returns our phone calls or emails. With that, the city needs to start telling the builders to "play nice" to the neighbors and current residents so we are not here at the end of a project feeling totally and completely run over. It baffles me everyday how I see builders run there business. There is no way other businesses get away with even half of the things that builders get away with. I am asking the city to put together a communication plan that the builders need to adhere to. Otherwise, in the end, you all end up with residents down your neck because the builders disregard the residents and future neighbors of there clients. I wish everyone "played nice". Quite unbelievable.

Andy Porter's constant response to our concerns would be, "I'm not tracking". That doesn't even make sense. This is why we are here today with such frustration and distrust with the builders which results on the shoulders of the city.

We need to see something done to insure our property and children our safe.

Monica Mero

On Wed, Jun 3, 2015 at 1:24 PM, Phil Mero <phil.mero@gmail.com> wrote:

Give me a break. Through ALL of our correspondence this is the first that YOU, the City Manager of our fair city has responded. And all we get is a boiler plate response?!?! It took me leaving my kids while putting them to bed and running to city hall to get you to move. This is not good enough. We need to see action. NOW.

It's time to get out of bed with the builders and work on behalf of YOUR constituents. Residents are fed up.

On Wed, Jun 3, 2015 at 1:12 PM, Monica Mero <monica.mero@gmail.com> wrote:

Scott,

It was under pain staking requests to get the city to come out here. We brought this concern up in the early fall when these plans were proposed. The city needs to update there ordinances with these narrow lots. Not all ordinances are going to work for every lot. The city needs to start thinking bigger as they are allowing so many tear downs in our city. These ordinances obviously don't work with all properties.

And please explain to me how you are going to monitor the safety of our children and property 365 days a year

through snow and ice storms. It only takes one quick slip from the driver to make this a horrible situation. We look forward to hearing how you are going to protect our property.

Sincerely,

Monica Mero
Mother of 3 and life long Edina resident

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jun 3, 2015, at 12:52 PM, "Scott H. Neal" <sneal@EdinaMN.gov> wrote:

>

> Phil -

>

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> City Manager

>

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>

> You have time to do the right thing.

>

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>

>

> Phil Mero

June 2, 2015

TO: Mayor James Hovland and Members of the Edina City Council

I am including our reflection on the Draft of the Implementation part of the Parks Strategic Plan. I hope you will read it and understand our positions. We are including copies for each Council Member and we would like them distributed *before* the next City Council Meeting.

We are encouraged that in the 'priorities' part of the Strategic Plan for the Parks that Arneson comes third after Fred Richards and Braemer Park. However, we have been talking with Ann Kattreh for 2 years and John Keprios since 2009. We appreciate that you may be instituting new systems but we sense that we just keep getting put off...indefinitely. We see definite ways that the Park can be improved and could actually bring in more revenue than it already does with rentals. We hope that a Master Plan for Arneson can be a priority and that the City *will not* consider 'plopping' two historic buildings in the 'open space'.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Liz Genovese

Liz Genovese,

President, The Edina Garden Council



Subject: Edina Parks Strategic plan draft--- a reflection from the Edina Garden Council, May 2015

To Edina Representatives and city Administrators

The executive committee of the six Edina Garden Clubs, the Edina Garden Council (EGC), has reviewed the Implementation Plan of the Draft for the Strategic Plan for All Edina Parks. Members have attended focus groups and meetings regarding this Planning process.

We support the City's desire to improve an already outstanding Park system. We are including a document concerning our specific interest in Arneson Acres Park. (cf #11 that a Master Plan be created for each Park")

The EGC is passionate about this Park and is eager to work with the City to develop the Park's potential (as proposed in our Vision Statement).

We would like to comment on some specific line items that mention the Garden Clubs or our programs and goals.

- We support the goal of applying for grants to control invasive species. The EGC (Kelodale Club) has been working for several years to eradicate buckthorn around the Art Center and Lake Cornelia Area. This year, in co-operation with the City forester we are undertaking a demonstration buckthorn removal project at Bredesen Park with subsequent establishment of wildflowers and native plants. We encourage the City to obtain a grant(s) to do a major buckthorn removal at Bredesen Park...the walkers deserve to see a healthy woodland with seasonal wildflowers. We are ready to work with the City on resident education regarding invasives, including buckthorn. (cf. 1.2.5, 1.3.7 under 'Natural Resource Goal).
- (1.1.1) We support the hiring of a fulltime resource manager especially as that person can help the citizens of Edina appreciate and learn about the natural areas in the City.
- (1.2.1) We regard Arneson Acres as a valuable Garden and Open Space which should not be compromised but rather enhanced as an "oasis for City dwellers".
- Regarding Strategy 1.3 (natural Resources Goal 1) We would like to note that through the efforts of EGC and the Late Bloomers Club, we have established a Registered Monarch Waystation which includes many species of native plants (also 2.1.1). Also the Clubs have partnered with the North Star Lily Society to establish a lily bed of MN hybrid lilies which are registered with the *Royal Horticultural Society in Great Britain*. Through Tim Zimmerman,

horticulturist, there are established: a Hosta garden, Peony garden, and Daylily garden all featuring MN hybridized plants. This is a significant garden culture resource.

- Strategy 1.3.4 : The EGC is very supportive of developing a Nature Play Area, professionally designed to encourage parent/child interaction and child interaction with natural elements in a micro environment. This area would also be appealing to all age groups.
- Natural Strategies (Goal 2-2.1.4) We currently volunteer about 950 hours seeding plants and transplanting seedlings for planting in the City Parks. Continuing with our involvement we recommend improvement to/replacement of the older of the two greenhouses. We are able to work with the Horticulturist to provide further plant resources for the City.
- Parks Goal to Promote Connections (1.2.1 and 2.2.2): We would welcome upgrades of the restrooms and addition of a drinking fountain at the gazebo in Arneson. The Garden Clubs are working on a map/brochure for Arneson available summer 2015 so visitors can fully appreciate the assets of the Park. We could work with the City Horticulturist and the new Naturalist in providing educational experiences at the Park.
- Strategy 2.1 for Facilities: EGC OPPOSES, strongly, the relocation of Cahill School and the Grange building to Arneson Acres as not appropriate to the purpose of the Park.

The Garden Clubs, as members of the Federated Garden Clubs of MN, and the National organization respects "the value that the natural resources and the natural world provides to their community..." (pg.193 of the Draft) We look forward to working with the City on implementing a Master Plan at Arneson Acres Park. It is long over-due. We believe that Arneson Park is already meeting some of the stated goals of the Strategic Plan. The Park offers a place of serenity and beauty. The MN hybridized plants are important and recognize the valuable work of Minnesotans (and our own Tim Zimmerman, and the Savory's). The Edina Garden Council is proud of the amenities it has added to the Park: Gazebo and the Fountain(s).

We recognize that the formal area of the Park can and does attract people from Edina and surrounding communities for celebratory events and can be a source of rental income for the City. This too can be improved.

Helen Keller once said: "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

"We pledge to protect and conserve the natural resources
of the planet. We promise to promote education so
we may become caretakers of
our air, water, forest, land and wildlife." Federated Garden Clubs

ARNESON ACRES PARK STATEMENT

In 2009 the Director of Parks and Recreation, Mr. John Keprios, asked the Edina Garden Council to create a master plan for Arneson Acres Park. A committee was convened to draft a statement of vision for the Park, subject to the approval of the Council. Members of that committee were: Deborah Armstrong, Diane Bomsta, Lori Bartz, Laurel Ferris (chair), LaVonne Mountain, Lisa Nelson, Shirley Peterson, Karen Platt, and Kathy Stattine.

Arneson Acres Park is designated by the City of Edina as a 15-acre Special Purpose Park serving a variety of special functions. It is the headquarters of the Edina Garden Council and the Edina Historical Society and houses the Edina Historical Museum. (*and Edina Greenhouses-K.Platt*)

Arneson Acres Park was donated to the City of Edina by Morten and Katherine Arneson in 1969 to help further the development of horticulture in the City park system via the Edina Garden Council membership. In 1986 the Edina Park Board and Edina City Council, in association with the Edina Garden Council and Edina Historical Society, made a recommendation to locate the Edina Historical Museum in the Arneson's former residence using donations from the 1988 Edina Historical lasting memorial fund.

The above named committee is proposing the following statement of vision:

Arneson Acres Park horticultural facilities and grounds are designated as an educational, leisure, and formal garden venue for those who live, work, and play in Edina and the general public. As such, Arneson Acres Park is intended to serve and benefit people of all ages and abilities; it will model conservation and sustainable practices; and the Park and its facilities will continue to serve as the Edina Garden Council's headquarters, making possible the membership's philanthropic outreach.

This statement serves as the first step in creating & implementing a master plan incorporating the Park-specific goals set forth below.

Arneson Acres Park will continue to be an educational, leisure and formal garden those who live, work, and play in Edina and the general public BY:

1. providing a peaceful refuge within the city of Edina;
2. showcasing the beauty & diversity of horticulture by blending aesthetic, educational & functional uses harmoniously;
3. serving as the designated horticultural park venue for the Edina Garden Council and City of Edina to provide relevant horticultural programs & services which respond to community needs;
4. providing the public with rental use of the facilities for special events such as weddings, receptions and various social functions.

Arneson Acres Park will be a venue designed to serve the horticultural needs of all ages and abilities BY:

1. providing wide access to a variety of garden & horticultural park experiences;
2. providing interactive, age-appropriate horticultural exhibits.

Arneson Acres Park's maintenance and future development will model conservation and sustainable practices BY:

1. developing alternative water sources & delivery systems for greenhouse, park irrigation & water feature;
2. focusing on local condition, native plants & appropriate non-native, non-invasive ornamentals;
3. integrating sustainable practice education into the exhibits & programs.

Arneson Acres Park and its facilities will continue to serve as the Edina Garden Council's headquarters, making possible the membership's philanthropic outreach BY:

1. using the greenhouse to beautify the city's public spaces.

Background to the EGC Vision Statement:

The City Park & Rec. Dept. asked for EGC input on a vision for Arneson Acres Park (2009). An EGC committee prepared that and it was approved by the EGC and delivered to Park & Rec. last fall. In connection with ... John Keprios, the head of Park & Rec., asked to see the Vision Statement for the EGC. At the end of last year (2009), a committee was formed to revise the existing EGC "Objectives" which were printed in last year's Yearbook. The committee prepared a Mission Statement (who we are and what we do), a Vision Statement (who we will be in the future) and Objectives (the areas of focus that will move the EGC from here to there). This is what is attached.

1/12/10

VISION STATEMENT

The Edina Garden Council will be the primary organization for the fulfillment of the social, community service and educational interests of gardeners and will continue its commitment to the future of Arneson Acres Park.

OBJECTIVES

Membership: Increase and broaden membership.

Arneson Acres Park: In conjunction with the City of Edina, develop a master plan for Arneson Acres Park.

Public Relations and Promotion: Increase public awareness of the Edina Garden Council and Arneson Acres Park.

Education: Provide educational programs for Edina Garden Council members and the community.

Fund Raising: Review Edina Garden Council fund raising plans.

Administration and Records: Organize and store the Edina Garden Council records and historical documents.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Edina Garden Council promotes all aspects of the fine arts of gardening, horticulture and floral design. We support environmental awareness, undertake philanthropic activities and provide related learning opportunities for our members and community.

Heather Branigin

From: Mayor Ed Lee <mayorleesf@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 03, 2015 3:17 PM
To: Mayor Ed Lee
Cc: stefanie@sgrconsultants.com
Subject: Please Join Me for US Conference of Mayors' Climate Action Reception | Thursday, June 18
Attachments: USMayors_Climate_Reception.pdf



You're Invited!

Please join San Francisco Mayor Edwin M. Lee for

Mayors' Climate Action Reception

A San Francisco Host Committee Welcoming Reception for the
83rd Annual United States Conference of Mayors

Thursday, June 18th 2015

6:00pm-7:30pm

Kilroy Realty Building Rooftop Terrace • 360 Third Street

RSVP your participation with Stefanie Roumeliotis at (415) 402-0303

or stefanie@sgrconsultants.com

By Invitation Only

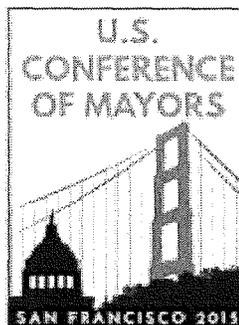
For more information on logistics and agenda, please visit

SFEnvironment.org/mayorsclimateaction



SAN FRANCISCO CLIMATE ACTION

050 100



Heather Branigin

From: Jack Rice <ricecompany@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 03, 2015 5:27 PM
To: James Hovland; Mary Brindle; Kevin Staunton; Robert Stewart; Swenson Ann; Scott H. Neal
Subject: Air rights

The subject of air rights came up last night during brainstorming re the Hootens and Edina Realty sites. Upon reflection I believe the sites could be sold with the city retaining future air rights but not for the same price. The price for property without air rights would be less.

Re the sites, I think the Edina Realty site should be cleaned up and paved for temporary parking. If that is considered uneconomic throw some dirt there and grow and maintain grass. Place a tasteful sign saying, "Available", contact Bill Neuendorf, City of Edina, 952-826-0407. The marketplace will soon contact Bill and present a range of uses and prices for the property.

Hootens is a tougher call but it seemed that the cost to make the property fit for occupancy was going to be uneconomic given the uncertain timing and future of the land. Unoccupied, old, dark, buildings are not beneficial to commercial or residential neighborhoods. Demolition and paving is probably the best option. That would probably benefit the Post Office during their service hours and the Damico's and Rice Paper restaurants during the evening.

The above is predicated on the present state of the economy and real estate and financial markets which are highly favorable. Most economists and real estate experts predict at least another two years of similar conditions. That remains to be seen.

Thank you,
Jack

Jack Rice | 612-341-2464
4001 West 49th St.
Edina, MN 55424
ricecompany@aol.com

Heather Branigin

From: James Hovland <jhovland@hovlandrasmus.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 03, 2015 6:25 PM
To: James Hovland
Cc: Scott H. Neal
Subject: RE: Our meeting/discussion at Edina Garden Council luncheon

Sarah, it was nice to meet you on Monday. I am copying the City Manager on this email so you have his contact information. I trust he will talk to you soon.

H|R

James B. Hovland, Esquire
HOVLAND & RASMUS, PLLC
Southdale Office Centre
6800 France Avenue S., Suite 190
Edina, MN 55435
jhovland@hovlandrasmus.com
Phone: (612) 874-8550
Direct: (612) 874-8551
Fax: (612) 874-9362
Cell: (612) 961-6192

From: Lynette Biunno [<mailto:lbiunno@EdinaMN.gov>] **On Behalf Of** James Hovland
Sent: Wednesday, June 03, 2015 8:27 AM
Subject: [PossibleSpam] FW: Our meeting/discussion at Edina Garden Council luncheon



Lynette Biunno, Receptionist

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

lbiunno@EdinaMN.gov | www.EdinaMN.gov

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

From: Sara Barber [<mailto:sbarber14@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, June 02, 2015 7:26 PM
To: James Hovland
Subject: Our meeting/discussion at Edina Garden Council luncheon

Mayor Hovland,

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My past experience includes time as a city/municipal forester as well as positions in natural area project management and open space preservation within the Chicago region. Following that I oversaw Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper's initiative to plant one million trees.

I would be happy to sit down with the City Manager to discuss Edina's future forestry needs and would certainly like an opportunity to apply for such a position if my experience aligns with those needs.

So enjoyed meeting you, and look forward to future interactions.

Regards,

Sara Jakuc

No virus found in this message.

Checked by AVG - www.avg.com

Version: 2015.0.5941 / Virus Database: 4354/9916 - Release Date: 06/01/15

Heather Branigin

From: Ganske, Kimberly <KGanske@Briggs.com> on behalf of Perry, Jack Y. <JPerry@Briggs.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 04, 2015 9:26 AM
To: James Hovland; Mary Brindle; Kevin Staunton; Robert Stewart; swensonann1@gmail.com
Cc: Frank Berman; Kendra Lindahl, AICP; Reid Schulz
Subject: Berman's seven-lot development
Attachments: PCDOCS-#7120584-v1-
BERMAN_EDINA__MEMO_TO_MAYOR_AND_COUNCILMEMBERS.docx

Jack Y. Perry
Shareholder

BRIGGS AND MORGAN®

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Direct: 612.977.8497
Cell: 612.644.2042
Fax: 612.977.8650
jperry@briggs.com
2200 IDS Center | 80 South 8th Street | Minneapolis, MN 55402 | briggs.com

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2200 IDS Center
80 South 8th Street
Minneapolis MN 55402-2157
tel 612.977.8400
fax 612.977.8650

MEMORANDUM

VIA E-MAIL

TO: Mayor Jim Hovland and Councilmembers Mary Brindle, Kevin Staunton, Bob Stewart and Ann Swenson

CC: F. Berman
K. Lindahl
R. Schulz

FROM: Jack Y. Perry

DATE: June 4, 2015

RE: **Bermans' seven-lot development**

Bermans were obviously appreciative of City Council's unanimous (5-0) approval of the preliminary plat for their seven-lot development. But, win or lose, Bermans were truly impressed by the thoroughness and thoughtfulness exhibited by all of City's representatives participating in the multi-faceted review of this proposal. As Cary Teague noted, it is a testament to everyone involved that such a sizable "in-fill" development project like this was left with but one disputed condition.

In the spirit of this cooperative process, I leave you with three positive updates. First, Mr. Gits immediately congratulated Bermans on their approval and, in response, he was strongly encouraged by Bermans (including me personally) to work closely and promptly with Mr. Teague to ensure that his pre-existing water issues can be addressed (to the extent legally permissible) with the improvements made for this development. Second, Bermans' consultants are already exploring creative ways to satisfy the City's required looped watermain without the threat of tree loss. (Similar to Councilmember Brindle's creative "intermittent" curb and gutter compromise, Bermans' consultants will come up with a solution that ensures no tree loss due to the looped watermain!) And, third, Bermans' consultants will be immediately contacting City staff to get the names of builders with whom City has had particularly positive experiences and would appear to be well suited for this unique development.

ARNESON ACRES PARK STATEMENT

In 2009 the Director of Parks and Recreation, Mr. John Keprios, asked the Edina Garden Council to create a master plan for Arneson Acres Park. A committee was convened to draft a statement of vision for the Park, subject to the approval of the Council. Members of that committee were: Deborah Armstrong, Diane Bomsta, Lori Bartz, Laurel Ferris (chair), LaVonne Mountain, Lisa Nelson, Shirley Peterson, Karen Platt, and Kathy Stattine.

Arneson Acres Park is designated by the City of Edina as a 15-acre Special Purpose Park serving a variety of special functions. It is the headquarters of the Edina Garden Council and the Edina Historical Society and houses the Edina Historical Museum. *(and Edina Greenhouses-K.Platt)*

Arneson Acres Park was donated to the City of Edina by Morten and Katherine Arneson in 1969 to help further the development of horticulture in the City park system via the Edina Garden Council membership. In 1986 the Edina Park Board and Edina City Council, in association with the Edina Garden Council and Edina Historical Society, made a recommendation to locate the Edina Historical Museum in the Arneson's former residence using donations from the 1988 Edina Historical lasting memorial fund.

The above named committee is proposing the following statement of vision:

Arneson Acres Park horticultural facilities and grounds are designated as an educational, leisure, and formal garden venue for those who live, work, and play in Edina and the general public. As such, Arneson Acres Park is intended to serve and benefit people of all ages and abilities; it will model conservation and sustainable practices; and the Park and its facilities will continue to serve as the Edina Garden Council's headquarters, making possible the membership's philanthropic outreach.

This statement serves as the first step in creating & implementing a master plan incorporating the Park-specific goals set forth below.

Arneson Acres Park will continue to be an educational, leisure and formal garden those who live, work, and play in Edina and the general public BY:

1. providing a peaceful refuge within the city of Edina;
2. showcasing the beauty & diversity of horticulture by blending aesthetic, educational & functional uses harmoniously;
3. serving as the designated horticultural park venue for the Edina Garden Council and City of Edina to provide relevant horticultural programs & services which respond to community needs;
4. providing the public with rental use of the facilities for special events such as weddings, receptions and various social functions.

Arneson Acres Park will be a venue designed to serve the horticultural needs of all ages and abilities BY:

1. providing wide access to a variety of garden & horticultural park experiences;
2. providing interactive, age-appropriate horticultural exhibits.

Arneson Acres Park's maintenance and future development will model conservation and sustainable practices BY:

1. developing alternative water sources & delivery systems for greenhouse, park irrigation & water feature;
2. focusing on local condition, native plants & appropriate non-native, non-invasive ornamentals;
3. integrating sustainable practice education into the exhibits & programs.

Arneson Acres Park and its facilities will continue to serve as the Edina Garden Council's headquarters, making possible the membership's philanthropic outreach BY:

1. using the greenhouse to beautify the city's public spaces.



City of Hopkins

1010 First Street South • Hopkins, MN 55343-7573 • Phone: 952-935-8474 • Fax: 952-935-1834
Web address: www.hopkinsmn.com

NOTICE OF INTENT TO LGUs AND WORKPLAN (AMENDMENT)

Date: June 3, 2015

To: Jan Callison, Chairperson, Hennepin County Board
Gene Maxwell, Mayor, City of Hopkins
Terry Schneider, Mayor, City of Minnetonka
Kelli Slavik, Mayor, City of Plymouth
Ken Willcox, Mayor, City of Wayzata
Jeff Jacobs, Mayor, City of St. Louis Park
James Hovland, Mayor, City of Edina
Sherry Davis White, President, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
Kevin Bigalke, Administrator, Nine Mile Creek Watershed District
Lanya Ross, Water Supply Planning, Metropolitan Council Environmental Services
John Freitag, Planner, Minnesota Department of Health

From: Nate Stanley, PE, City of Hopkins

Re: City of Hopkins Wellhead Protection Program

The City of Hopkins is notifying neighboring and overlying units of government of its intent to amend our wellhead protection plan. The goal of the plan is to prevent human-caused contaminants from entering our water supply wells and to protect all who use our water supply from adverse health effects associated with groundwater contamination. This notice is required by the Minnesota Wellhead Protection Rule, part 4720.5300, subpart 3.

The entire project will take 2.5 years to complete. Public informational meetings will be held in January of 2016 for Part 1 and in July of 2017 for Part 2.

In accordance with the wellhead protection rule, the following information must be included in this notice:

1. Wellhead Protection Manager: Nate Stanley
City of Hopkins
1010 1st St S, Hopkins, MN 55343
(952) 548-6356
2. Unique Well Numbers: 204573, 204068, 204570, 112228
3. Date Wellhead Protection Plan Amendment Must Be Completed: September 15, 2017
4. General Project Work Plan: See attachment.
5. Missing Data Elements Needed for Wellhead Protection Plan Amendment: None have been identified at this time, however, if you have any data elements that may be helpful, please submit them to me.

Also, if available, please submit: 1) any existing water and related land resource plans and official controls; and 2) a description of conflicts, problems, or opportunities that you want examined and addressed in our wellhead protection plan amendment. Thank you for your assistance in our wellhead protection efforts.

cc: Doug Anderson, Water and Sewer Superintendent, City of Hopkins (via email only)
Leslee Storlie, WSB & Associates, Inc. (via email only)
Dave Hume, Leggette Brashears & Graham, Inc. (via email only)
Trudi Witkowski, Minnesota Department of Health

Partnering with the Community to Enhance the Quality of Life

◆ Inspire ◆ Educate ◆ Involve ◆ Communicate ◆

City of Hopkins Work Plan

Projected Completion

Step	Date (Month/Year)
Pre-Plan Development	
Letter From MDH Initiating Plan Development	Dec-2013
Public Meeting Held with LUGs (can be combined with Public Information meeting required for the Part 1)	
WHP Manager Appointed	Dec-2014
LUG Team Established (Optional)	TBD
Wellhead Protection Team Appointed	TBD
Part I	
Scoping 1 Meeting Held	Dec-2014
MDH Scoping Decision (Letter)	Jan-2015
Notice of Intent Sent to Local Units of Government (LUGs)	Mar-2015
Prepare Aquifer Test Plan and Submit to MDH	Jun-2015
MDH Approval of Test Plan	Jul-2015
Wellhead Protection Area (WHPA) Delineation	
Drinking Water Supply Management Area (DWSMA) Delineation	
Conduct Vulnerability Assessment	
Vulnerability and DWSMA Submitted to MDH	Sep-2015
MDH Approval of DWSMA, WHPA and Vulnerability Assessments	Nov-2015
Vulnerability, WHPA and DWSMA Submitted to LUGs	Dec-2015
Public Meeting Held	Jan-2016
Part II	
Scoping 2 Meeting Held	Feb-2016
MDH Scoping Decision (Letter)	Mar-2016
Inventory of Potential Source Contamination	
Management Portion of Plan	
Submit Plan to LUGs	Apr-2017
Consider Comments Received by LUGs	Jun-2017
Public Hearing Held	Jul-2017
Submit Plan to MDH	Sep-2017
MDH Review	Dec-2017
MDH Approval	Dec-2017
Provide Notice to LUGs About Plan Approval	Feb-2018
Begin Plan Implementation	Feb-2018

Name of Person Completing This Form	
-------------------------------------	--

Heather Branigin

From: Andie Schieffert <schiefta@msn.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 04, 2015 1:42 PM
To: James Hovland
Subject: Arden project/Art fair

Greetings Mayor,

The city is working on the Arden road project. As you know the art fair begins tomorrow. Residents have found out through contacting the city today that the city refuses to close off access to our roads during the art fair.

Most residents on Bruce, Arden and Juanita will not have access to our driveways, due to concrete curing, until Friday afternoon which leaves us forced to compete for parking with art fair patrons in the streets. With single-side parking, it will be a huge inconvenience for residents. Also, the roads are a disgusting, muddy mess with all the rain. I know the city is trying to grade the roads, but trucks and cars are parked everywhere. To avoid the mud, art fair patrons parking on or near our streets will most likely walk through yards. Since the city has dug large holes into the yards up and down the streets, walkers will have to go fairly high into the yards, close to our homes. That brings a big safety concern for residents. We already see an uptick in crime during the art fair and Juanita Ave has already had crime since the project began. Add to it we have absolutely no street lighting.

Chad Millner is refusing to accommodate residents in the matter and told me to stake out a spot on the street tonight. It's ridiculous. The art fair traffic on our torn up streets will put residents over the edge--especially if we cannot gain access to our driveways. We are asking that the city close our few blocks on Friday, at the very least. There is still plenty of parking available in other areas for vendors and patrons. Please put tax-paying residents interests over those who may benefit from the art fair.

Hoping you can help in this matter.

Andrea Schieffert
5044 Juanita Ave
612.940.4419

Heather Branigin

From: Thomas, Mark <MTHOMAS1@Fairview.org>
Sent: Thursday, June 04, 2015 4:31 PM
To: Thomas, Mark
Subject: Aurora on France Ground Breaking Invitation
Attachments: Ground-Breaking Invitation vf.pdf

Please see the attached invitation for the Ground Breaking of Aurora on France.

Thank you,
Mark Thomas

The information transmitted in this e-mail is intended only for the person or entity to which it is addressed and may contain confidential and/or privileged material, including 'protected health information'. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any review, retransmission, dissemination, distribution, or copying of this message is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please destroy and delete this message from any computer and contact us immediately by return e-mail.

We are excited to invite you!

Dear colleagues, business associates, and friends:

We have broken ground on Aurora on France Senior Living—our new assisted living community connected to Fairview Southdale Hospital in Edina, Minnesota.

We invite you to join us as we celebrate the construction of this premier senior living community offering independent living, assisted living, memory care, care suites and transitional care scheduled to open in Fall of 2016. We hope you can join us.

Ground-Breaking Celebration



AURORA
on France

Vibrant Senior Living and Care

Tuesday, June 30, 2015

9 – 10:30 a.m.

6500 France Avenue South in Edina (look for the event tents)

Brief program followed by photos and refreshments

Parking is available in the Fairview Southdale Hospital ramp.

--RSVP by June 26 by calling (612) 874-3432—Thank you--



Heather Branigin

From: Jeff Brown
Sent: Friday, June 05, 2015 2:26 PM
To: Mary Brindle; Kevin Staunton; Ann Swenson; Robert Stewart; James Hovland
Cc: Scott H. Neal
Subject: FW: Please join us - Minnetonka Pitch the Commissioner Event June 9

Mayor and Council Members,

Please see the invitation below to an event with the Minnesota Commissioner of Health. This invitation was sent to the cities within Hennepin County with their own Health Departments.

Thank you,



Jeff Brown, RS, Community Health Administrator

952-826-0466 | Fax 952-826-0390

jbrown@EdinaMN.gov | www.EdinaMN.gov

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From: Ehlinger, Ed (MDH) [<mailto:Ed.Ehlinger@state.mn.us>]
Sent: Friday, June 05, 2015 12:58 PM
To: Ehlinger, Ed (MDH)
Subject: Please join us - Minnetonka Pitch the Commissioner Event June 9

Please join us next Tuesday morning at 9 a.m. as we kick off our fourth-annual Pitch the Commissioner summer series with an event at Long Lake Park in Minnetonka hosted by the Minnesota Department of Health and the Hennepin County Department of Health.

The goal of the "Pitch the Commissioner" series is to create a conversation with local officials, community members and state government officials about how to advance public health in their communities. While the horseshoe may not seem like the most obvious tool for advancing public health, spending a few minutes "pitching the shoe" can be a great way to meet up with community members to share public health pitches.

The first "Pitch the Commissioner" event of 2015 will start at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, June 9, at the Lone Lake Park horseshoe pits, at 5624 Shady Oak Road, in Minnetonka. Following the games, I will give a 10 a.m. presentation at the park's lakeside picnic shelter on the topic of what Minnesota needs to do to have healthy people and healthy communities.

As Health Commissioner, I want to hear what Minnesotans have to say about what their communities need to be healthy. Pitching horseshoes is a fun and easy way for people to be physically active and engage in conversation at the same time. Participants will be able to share their ideas with me about improving public health in their community and how the state can help them accomplish their goals. Interest in public health is mandatory; experience and skill with horseshoes is strictly optional!

Edward P. Ehlinger, MD, MSPH
Commissioner
Minnesota Department of Health
625 Robert St. N.
P.O. Box 64975
St. Paul, MN 55164-0975
(651) 201-5810
Assistant: Sandy Pizzuti
Sandy.pizzuti@state.mn.us
(651) 201-5804

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Heather Branigin

From: Phil Mero <phil.mero@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2015 10:24 AM
To: James Hovland; Monica Mero
Subject: Re: Visit next week about 4419 Grimes

We will need to meet at our home as my wife stays home with our 3 kids.

We would also like to personally walk you through the issue at hand.

Dates and times please.

PM.

On Sat, Jun 6, 2015 at 1:48 PM, Phil Mero <phil.mero@gmail.com> wrote:
Hello Mayor-

My wife and I would like to arrange for a time to come to City Hall to visit with you about this driveway situation.

Let us know a couple dates/times that will work.

Sincerely-

Phil Mero
[612.963.0852](tel:612.963.0852)

--

Sincerely-

Phil Mero
[612.963.0852](tel:612.963.0852)

To the Edina Fire Department, and Todd, Andrew,
Andrew, and Travis:

Thank you so much for spending 3 days
with us at our Fire Academy! We learned
so much from you. Be safe!

- Edina High School students
- Ms. Kate Russell

Thank You Edina

For hanging out with
us and for teaching
us fun stuff have a
great summer.

Thanks for teaching us!

JACKSON

Thanks for helping
out on your own
time - Adam Vincent

Thank you for
everything! It was
really fun and
interesting! Hope
you have a great
summer.
- Salma Jughader

THANKS FOR OPENING UP ~~AN~~ AN OUTDOOR FOR A JOB
- Genk

♡ Thanks!!!
♡♡

George
goofy

Thanks for your
time! - Pat

Thank you!!
Best fire fighters
ever!!
- Ali Muhammed
(snop)

Thank you
for your time
- Mustaf

Thanks for taking
time out of your
day to teach us
about your awesome
career! ~win

Thank you for taking
time out of your day
to come out to teach us
about fire safety.
You guys Rock, stay safe
Julia Winkelman

Heather Branigin

From: Phil Mero <phil.mero@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2015 11:13 PM
To: James Hovland; Monica Mero
Subject: Re: Visit next week about 4419 Grimes

Mayor-

You will notice at the 2:58:16 mark from Tuesday's meeting that you say the following...*'they can loop me in and I'd be happy to visit with you'*. We deserve the common courtesy of a response.

Wednesday between 11-1:00 works best, or any morning before 8:00.

Let us know what will work for you ASAP.

Phil and Monica Mero

http://edina.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=7&clip_id=2133

On Mon, Jun 8, 2015 at 10:23 AM, Phil Mero <phil.mero@gmail.com> wrote:
We will need to meet at our home as my wife stays home with our 3 kids.

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Let us know a couple dates/times that will work.

Sincerely-

Phil Mero
[612.963.0852](tel:612.963.0852)

Heather Branigin

From: Kathy Kadane <kathy@freedomtomarry.org>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2015 1:00 PM
To: Kathy Kadane
Subject: Preparation for Decision Day - SCOTUS Schedule Information
Attachments: Decision Day TPs.docx

Dear Mayor for the Freedom to Marry -

You will find attached talking points on each of the scenarios we might see from the Supreme Court this month, as well as a memo for the first day of weddings in non-marriage states, assuming a victory. And below is an overview of days to be on the lookout for a ruling, as well as additional resources and support Freedom to Marry is offering.

In June, the Supreme Court releases opinions every **Monday at 10:00am**. However, the Court very often adds additional opinion days; **those could fall on any day of the week**, although in past years they've been often begun with **Thursdays**. We'll know ahead of time when the Court adds a decision day, though we won't know in advance whether the marriage case is being announced on any given day (unless we get down to the last day).

Right now, 20 opinions remain for the rest of the session, including several big cases as well as marriage. The next potential decision day is **Monday, June 15 at 10:00am**.

When a decision does come down, hopefully affirming the freedom to marry nationwide, Freedom to Marry would love to help amplify what's going on in your town/city. In the event of a victory, we'll be using the hashtag **#LoveWins** on Twitter, but for states where implementation takes a little time and thus same-sex couples cannot promptly marry, there will be additional, state-specific hashtags (for example, **#TXMarriage**, **#ALMarriage**). Freedom to Marry will be following these hashtags and retweeting.

In addition, Freedom to Marry is working with our movement legal organizations -- ACLU, GLAD, Lambda Legal, NCLR -- and others to shape materials and a way of making sure people have all the information we can give them on implementation of the Supreme Court's decision and how to deal with problems or questions that may arise.

If you'd like to help your supporters share photos and stories from Day 1 of celebrations in your town/city, we'll be pushing out this story collection form: <http://www.freedomtomarry.org/page/s/we-want-to-see-your-wedding-photos>

If you need background on the Supreme Court cases: <http://www.freedomtomarry.org/SupremeCourtCases>

Live blog on decision day that will be continually updated: <http://www.freedomtomarry.tumblr.com>

Where to be on the lookout for opinions: <http://www.scotusblog.com>

If you have any other questions, please be in touch and we will do our best to get you the support and resources you need.

Jo Deutsch

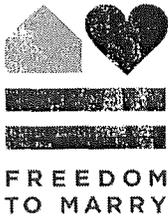


DECISION DAY TALKING POINTS

FULL WIN

The Court rules the Constitution guarantees the freedom to marry to all Americans.

- Today's historic Supreme Court ruling means same-sex couples will soon have the freedom to marry and equal respect for their marriages across America. This ruling will bring joy to families, and final nationwide victory to the decades-long freedom to marry movement.
- This is a momentous win for freedom, equality, inclusion, and above all, love. We can celebrate that ours is a country that keeps its promise of the pursuit of happiness, liberty, and justice for all.
- The justices have affirmed what a bipartisan supermajority—60%—of Americans have come to understand: the freedom to marry is a precious, fundamental right that belongs to all.
- Contrary to our opposition's scary predictions, the 37 states that already have marriage have proven that when gay people share in the freedom to marry, families are helped and no one is hurt. Today's victory will bring joy to hundreds of thousands of same-sex couples and their families who have the same dreams of, and need for, marriage as any others.
- We hope state officials move swiftly to implement the Constitution's command in the remaining 13 states with marriage discrimination. Same-sex couples and their families have waited long enough.
- While the work toward equality for all Americans is far from over, the campaign for the freedom to marry has been transformative in helping Americans understand who gay people are.
- Our movement must harness the momentum from the marriage conversation to the work of securing additional advances towards equality, especially nondiscrimination protections for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Americans. It's unacceptable that hardworking LGBT people can still be fired from their jobs, evicted from their homes, and denied service in restaurants and shops simply for being who they are.



- We must continue the work until the lived experience of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people is fulfilling, good, inclusive, and equal throughout the land.

PARTIAL WIN

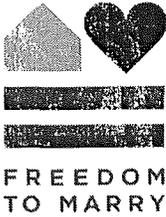
The Court rules our way partially, requiring states to respect marriages performed in other states but not requiring states to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

- Today, the Supreme Court affirmed the common-sense reality that couples who are legally married should be treated as what they are – married – no matter where they are living or traveling.
- But the justices failed to uphold the full freedom to marry, and in doing so let down hundreds of thousands of families, let down the national supermajority of Americans who support marriage, and failed to live up to the promise of the country, that each of us comes before our government as an equal. We are one country with one Constitution. The patchwork of marriage discrimination in America is unsustainable.
- This partial victory means we must continue doing the work until committed couples in all 50 states have the freedom to marry the person they love.
- We will continue working the national strategy that has brought us this far – we will win additional states and grow public support until another set of justices gets it right, ensuring that all Americans have the freedom to marry the person they love.

TOTAL LOSS

The Court rules that the Constitution does not guarantee the freedom to marry for same-sex couples or equal respect for legal marriages performed in other states.

- This is dark and painful day. It's heartbreaking not just for hundreds of thousands of families, but for all of America. The Supreme Court has let our country down.
- The Supreme Court had an opportunity to end marriage discrimination, but failed families, the Constitution, and the country in ruling against the freedom to marry.



- Same-sex couples want and deserve the same protections, responsibilities, and respect afforded other Americans. This ruling means continued harms and indignity for countless gay and lesbian Americans.
- This out-of-touch decision ignores the reality that the country is ready. A supermajority (over 60%) of Americans back marriage for same-sex couples. It flies in the face of more than 65 federal and state rulings over the past year-and-a-half in favor of marriage.
- History will look back on this day in shame. The Constitution guarantees liberty and equality, and laws prohibiting the freedom to marry for same-sex couples are contrary to those principles and should have been struck down. Today the Court failed in its duty.
- But the irrefutable momentum for marriage in the United States can't be dampened. We will build on the states we have won and the solid majority we have persuaded, and grow the number of states and support so that when the next freedom to marry case comes before the next set of justices, they get it right.
- We must continue doing the work until all committed couples in all 50 states have the freedom to marry the person they love.

Q&A - FULL WIN

When will couples be able to marry?

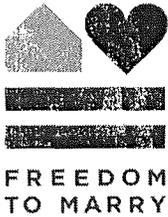
The Supreme Court's ruling means same-sex couples will soon be free to marry in all 50 states. However, because each state processes marriage licenses in its own way, each must also go through its own process of implementation. Although same-sex couples will not be able to marry immediately in some states, we will work with state officials and partners to urge them to put the marriage law into effect as soon as possible.

How can couples marry?

Each state's requirements for obtaining a marriage license differ. For a complete list of necessary documentation, rules about waiting periods, and other information, same-sex couples should check their state's website or contact their local city clerk.

What if couples who attempt to marry encounter problems?

Any couple that is denied the freedom to marry after it has legally gone into effect should contact one of our movement legal groups—the ACLU, Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, Lambda Legal, or the National Center for Lesbian Rights—for guidance.



How many people are affected by this ruling?

Over 90 million people live in the states that will now newly have the freedom to marry as a result of this ruling. Hundreds of thousands of same-sex couples will have the freedom to marry who did not have it before.

Governor / candidate xxx has vowed to appeal/ignore/make sure this ruling does not go into effect. What will you do about that?

We are a nation of laws, the Constitution is the supreme law of the land, and the Supreme Court has made clear what the Constitution commands. Although a handful of anti-gay opponents might threaten defiance or drag their feet and delay, in a short period of time all remaining bans will be declared unenforceable and the law will be faithfully implemented. All Americans will share in the freedom to marry very soon – at most in weeks, not months. And the ocean of joy that Americans will see in every community will continue to move hearts and minds in favor of the freedom to marry and equal dignity for all.

In the 37 states where same-sex couples can marry, we have already seen the impact: communities flourish, economies grow and thrive, and families are helped. The hundreds of thousands of children that same-sex couples are raising are now guaranteed a legal relationship with both of their parents, and taught that their families are equal to anyone else's family. The freedom to marry comes with tangible protections and security, but just as importantly, it leads to joy, celebration, and a feeling of dignity and respect for gay people and their lives.

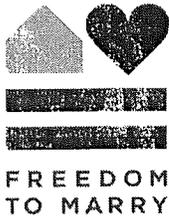
Your opponents say this ruling is like Roe v. Wade and that there will be backlash for years to come. How do you respond to that?

That might be wishful thinking on their part but it's simply not our experience to date and not what we expect based on that experience. We have secured the freedom to marry in some of the most conservative states in the country—states like Utah, Oklahoma, South Carolina, and West Virginia. In those states, implementation has gone smoothly, with little serious resistance. Once we win, Americans can see – and have seen – with their own eyes that families are helped and no one is hurt.

In fact, according to the Williams Institute, in every state that's adopted the freedom to marry, support accelerates. To be sure, not everyone is supportive right now, but our experience is that even with those who aren't presently in support, they witness the joy associated with marriage and it simply doesn't provoke active resistance.

Q&A - PARTIAL WIN/LOSS

What are your next steps now?



Our movement will continue to work the strategy that has brought us so much progress so far -- growing the number of freedom to marry states, growing public support, and enlisting allies until another case comes before another set of justices, probably not too many years from now. This will not have been the first time that the Supreme Court got a decision wrong before it got it right, and the American people are way ahead of where the slim majority of justices who got it wrong are.

Does this mean married couples could have their marriages invalidated?

Married couples will remain married. They were married legally and the state cannot and will not sunder their marriages.

Does this mean marriage may be taken away from states that presently allow gay couples to marry?

In some states, some officials may try to undo the rulings that resulted in the freedom to marry there, while in others responsible officials will understand that it is settled law. And of course, in states where we won under state constitutional holdings, in legislatures, or at the ballot, the question is, indeed, settled. It's likely there will have to be litigation to sort some of it out, against a backdrop of growing majority support for ending marriage discrimination.

Heather Branigin

From: Suzanne Haugland <suzieph@decoridesigns.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2015 1:51 PM
To: swensonann1@gmail.com; Robert Stewart; Kevin Staunton; James Hovland; Mary Brindle
Subject: 5303 Highwood Dr.
Attachments: 5303WestHighwoodDrive.pdf

City Council Members

Attached are photos of the eyesore all of us on Highwood Drive are currently living with. For a year and a half we have lived with a smaller eyesore but for the past 2-3 months this has taken it's place. This is actually a railroad container. This house has not been lived in for the past 29 years that we have lived here. This is the second time the pipes have burst because of freezing. I have talked to the City Planning office and have been told that nothing can be done because it takes six months of someone complaining before anything can be done about it. Even though it is in the street it is not blocking traffic and thus is not a problem for the city. My question to all of you is would you like to be looking at this monstrosity? At what point does the rest of the neighborhood matter? What can we do? Change the ordinance? Modify the ordinance? Just tell us where we start.

Residents of Highwood Drive

suzieph@decoridesigns.com



NYKU 6458807

426

NY
LINE

www.nykline.com

CS

R





Heather Branigin

From: Van Berkel, Jessie <Jessie.VanBerkel@startribune.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2015 4:00 PM
To: James Hovland
Subject: Regional solicitation questions

Hi Mayor Hovland,

I cover Dakota County for the Star Tribune and I'm working on a story about regional solicitation and how the county's transportation projects fared. I was hoping to talk with you a bit about how the process was different under the Thrive 2040 plan. My deadline is noon Wednesday, please give me a call when you get a few minutes.

Thanks much!

Jessie Van Berkel
o 952-746-3280
c 612-516-0121
jessie.vanberkel@startribune.com



Heather Branigin

From: Monica Mero <monica.mero@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2015 10:12 PM
To: Phil Mero
Cc: James Hovland
Subject: Re: Visit next week about 4419 Grimes

Mayor Hovland,

We would appreciate a response. We need to meet with you this week regarding the property next door to us, 4419 Grimes Ave.

We have been patient enough.

Sincerely,

Monica Mero

On Mon, Jun 8, 2015 at 11:12 PM, Phil Mero <phil.mero@gmail.com> wrote:
Mayor-

You will notice at the 2:58:16 mark from Tuesday's meeting that you say the following... *'they can loop me in and I'd be happy to visit with you'*. We deserve the common courtesy of a response.

Wednesday between 11-1:00 works best, or any morning before 8:00.

Let us know what will work for you ASAP.

Phil and Monica Mero

http://edina.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=7&clip_id=2133

On Mon, Jun 8, 2015 at 10:23 AM, Phil Mero <phil.mero@gmail.com> wrote:
We will need to meet at our home as my wife stays home with our 3 kids.

We would also like to personally walk you through the issue at hand.

Dates and times please.

PM.

On Sat, Jun 6, 2015 at 1:48 PM, Phil Mero <phil.mero@gmail.com> wrote:
Hello Mayor-

My wife and I would like to arrange for a time to come to City Hall to visit with you about this driveway situation.

Let us know a couple dates/times that will work.

Sincerely-

Phil Mero
612.963.0852

--

Sincerely-

Phil Mero
612.963.0852

--

Sincerely-

Phil Mero
612.963.0852

--

Monica Mero
H) 952-681-7583
C) 612-865-1583

4501 Grimes Ave.
Edina, MN 55424

Heather Branigin

From: Monica Mero <monica.mero@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2015 10:36 PM
To: Phil Mero
Cc: Scott H. Neal; James Hovland; Cindy Larson; Mary Brindle (Comcast); Ross Bintner; Chad Millner; kevin@stauntonlaw.com; bob.stewart@theplatinumgrp.com; Charlie Gerk
Subject: Re: Driveway fiasco

City Representatives,

Phil and I are left feeling very disappointed on how this property, and situation have been handled. Everyday when I am in my front yard I get passerby's ask, "how are they going to get in and out of there driveway?? They are going to drive into your house!" .These comments are coming from total strangers, let alone our neighbors and friends! When someone asks where we live, "wow, you live next door to that new build. Again, how are they going to get out of there driveway?? What were they thinking??"

I am shocked the city has not pushed harder with Refined to put in some sort of barrier like we discussed when we met on our property a few weeks ago. I am also shocked that not one of you have replied to any of our emails (aside from Neal's canned note). It is extremely rude. A business can not run this way. I thought working for the city meant working for the community, for the people who reside in the community. It feels to me as though the city is working for the builders to make more money. We are extremely disappointed. Our requests were simple. Trees planted, a retaining wall, that's it along the driveway/garage area to provide safety and security for our property and family. The new owners have put probably \$25k in Arbor Vitae in the backyard and about \$150k in boulders plus a huge pool. It's absurd to think that a 3 inch curb and mulch is sufficient to remedy a very real issue.

The driveway will be going in next week. We plead to you as long time residents of Edina to help your current resident in making both of our living situations better for all.

Sincerely,

Monica Mero

On Wed, Jun 3, 2015 at 1:50 PM, Monica Mero <monica.mero@gmail.com> wrote:

I do need to mention from the very beginning of this experience when we walked through the plan with Charlie Gerk, he said "play nice" with Refined, if you do, they will be fair, if you don't things may not go well. "Play nice". I think about that advice that he gave us and other neighbors and looking back it all makes sense. Refined never once "played nice" with us with simple requests. Refined rarely returns our phone calls or emails. With that, the city needs to start telling the builders to "play nice" to the neighbors and current residents so we are not here at the end of a project feeling totally and completely run over. It baffles me everyday how I see builders run there business. There is no way other businesses get away with even half of the things that builders get away with. I am asking the city to put together a communication plan that the builders need to adhere to. Otherwise, in the end, you all end up with residents down your neck because the builders disregard the residents and future neighbors of there clients. I wish everyone "played nice". Quite unbelievable.

Andy Porter's constant response to our concerns would be, "I'm not tracking". That doesn't even make sense. This is why we are here today with such frustration and distrust with the builders which results on the shoulders of the city.

We need to see something done to insure our property and children our safe.

Monica Mero

On Wed, Jun 3, 2015 at 1:24 PM, Phil Mero <phil.mero@gmail.com> wrote:

Give me a break. Through ALL of our correspondence this is the first that YOU, the City Manager of our fair city has responded. And all we get is a boiler plate response?!?! It took me leaving my kids while putting them to bed and running to city hall to get you to move. This is not good enough. We need to see action. NOW.

It's time to get out of bed with the builders and work on behalf of YOUR constituents. Residents are fed up.

On Wed, Jun 3, 2015 at 1:12 PM, Monica Mero <monica.mero@gmail.com> wrote:

Scott,

It was under pain staking requests to get the city to come out here. We brought this concern up in the early fall when these plans were proposed. The city needs to update there ordinances with these narrow lots. Not all ordinances are going to work for every lot. The city needs to start thinking bigger as they are allowing so many tear downs in our city. These ordinances obviously don't work with all properties.

And please explain to me how you are going to monitor the safety of our children and property 365 days a year through snow and ice storms. It only takes one quick slip from the driver to make this a horrible situation. We look forward to hearing how you are going to protect our property.

Sincerely,

Monica Mero

Mother of 3 and life long Edina resident

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jun 3, 2015, at 12:52 PM, "Scott H. Neal" <sneal@EdinaMN.gov> wrote:

>

> Phil -

>

> The City has not ignored your concerns. Council Members and City staff members have personally talked to you, replied to your emails and personally inspected the site.

>

> We are not, however, able to grant you the relief you are seeking because the home you are concerned about is being built in compliance with our City Code. City staff will enforce City Code at 4419 Grimes. We will ensure that your safety concerns are addressed as much as our Code allows us to address them.

>

> Scott Neal

> City Manager

>

> On Jun 3, 2015, at 12:38 PM, Phil Mero <phil.mero@gmail.com<mailto:phil.mero@gmail.com>> wrote:

>

> Hello-

>

> Attached are photos from my roof showing how incredibly tight this space is, as well as a photo from the backyard showing the driveway 'cliff' that I have been referencing.

>

> I've also attached a gross rendering of what should be the placement of the garage. It is NOT too late to course correct what was a major mistake this was on the cities part in signing off. Again, it's hard to blame shady builder for pulling wool over their 'clients'. That's the game that they play, and unfortunately the city allows them to play. For the city to then grant permission to execute this design is preposterous.

>

> As I've stated in the past, this could be a real win for the city to assume accountability for signing off on a broken design by standing up to these builders and do what's right for their existing residents. This should be a real PR win for the city.

>

> On the contrary, I am hoping that I do not have to leverage my close, personal relationships at the Star Tribune, City Pages, and Pioneer Press that I have teed up to tell our story.

>

> Scott, per our 'visit' last night I look forward to hearing from you today to discuss. I can be reached at [612.963.0852](tel:612.963.0852)

>

> You have time to do the right thing.

>

>

>

> Phil Mero

> [612.963.0852](tel:612.963.0852)<tel:[612.963.0852](tel:612.963.0852)>

>

>

> <photo 1.JPG>

> <photo 2.JPG>

> <photo 3.JPG>

> <proposed garage.jpg>

> <4419 driveway.jpg>

--

Sincerely-

Phil Mero

[612.963.0852](tel:612.963.0852)

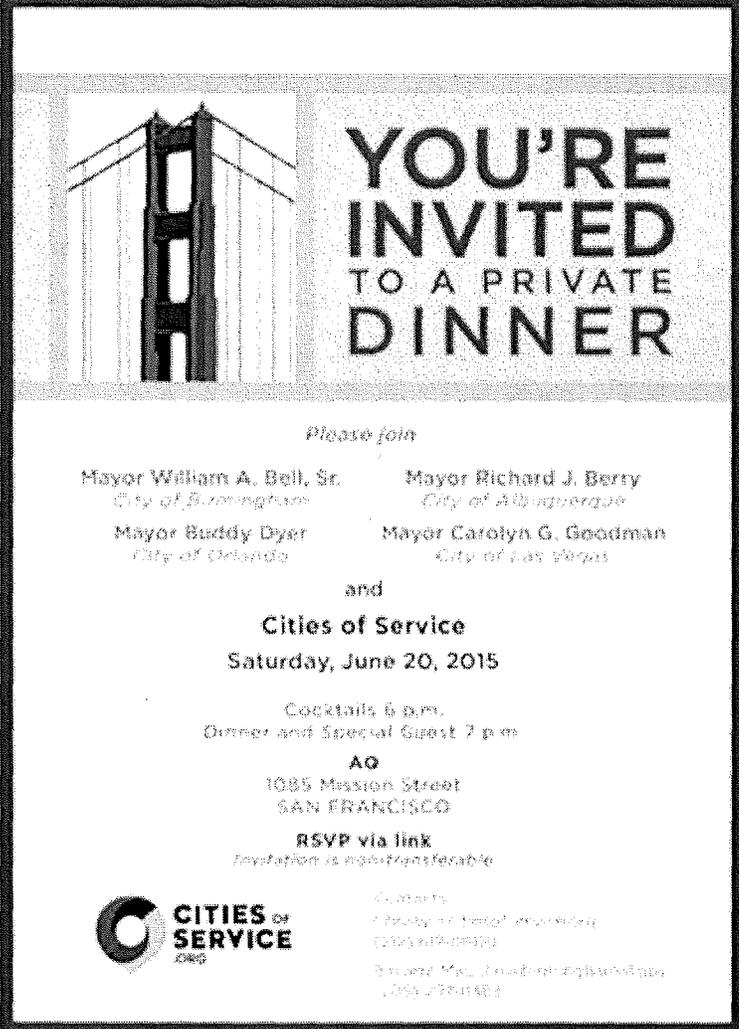
Heather Branigin

From: Lovia Gyarkye <lovial@citiesofservice.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2015 12:00 PM
To: Edina Mail
Subject: Cities of Service Mayor's Dinner - June 20
Attachments: Mayors' Dinner Invitation.pdf

Dear Mayor Hovland,

Sorry that I could not catch you, but I left a voicemail at your law firm. Cities of Service would like to extend an invitation to you for a Mayors' Dinner on June 20th in San Francisco around the US Conference of Mayors, hosted by Mayors Bell (Birmingham), Berry (Albuquerque), Dyer (Orlando), and Goodman (Las Vegas). Below are the details - feel free to reach out with any questions. We look forward to seeing you there - [click here to RSVP](#).

Warm regards,
Lovia Gyarkye



**YOU'RE
INVITED
TO A PRIVATE
DINNER**

Please join

Mayor William A. Bell, Sr.
City of Birmingham

Mayor Richard J. Berry
City of Albuquerque

Mayor Buddy Dyer
City of Orlando

Mayor Carolyn G. Goodman
City of Las Vegas

and

Cities of Service
Saturday, June 20, 2015

Cocktails 6 p.m.
Dinner and Special Guest 7 p.m.

AO
1085 Mission Street
SAN FRANCISCO

RSVP via link
Invitation is non-transferable

 **CITIES of SERVICE**
2015

City of Service
1085 Mission Street, Suite 1000
San Francisco, CA 94103
Phone: 415.774.1111
www.citiesofservice.org

Lovia Gyarkye
Cities of Service

120 Park Avenue, 14th Floor | New York, NY 10017
646.324.9208 (o) 646.812.1595 (m)
lovial@citiesofservice.org

Heather Branigin

From: Pinger <pinger@visi.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2015 12:08 PM
To: Mary Brindle; James Hovland; Kevin Staunton; Robert Stewart; swensonann1@gmail.com
Cc: Chad Millner
Subject: Cornelia Drive sidewalk

Hello City of Edina Council Members,

My wife and I live on Cornelia Drive. We'd like to share our comments and observations about the proposed Cornelia Drive sidewalk. Our comments are based on the objective report findings and recommendation presented by the City Engineering Department and the issue of providing safety to school children.

- School children are currently **safely escorted** across 70th Street on the West side of Cornelia Drive.
- Cornelia Elementary School is on the West side of Cornelia Drive. There is a sidewalk in front of the school.
- There is an existing sidewalk partially completed on the West side of Cornelia Drive between 70th Street and Dunberry Lane. It would be cost effective and consistent with school safety to complete the sidewalk to Dunberry Lane.
- Using similar logic, it seems natural to continue building the sidewalk along the West side of Cornelia Drive up to 68th Street.
- Building a sidewalk on the East side of Cornelia Drive from 70th Street to Dunberry Lane would introduce confusion for children and drivers because children would then have the option to cross over 70th Street on both sides of Cornelia Drive. This intersection is too busy to put children (and drivers) at risk. The current crosswalk system (and how it is monitored) works safely and effectively.
- As Chad Millner's Engineering Study documented, there are more "impacts" on the East side of Cornelia Drive from Dunberry Lane to 68th Street. For example, there are five (5) fire hydrants along the East side of Cornelia Drive from Dunberry Lane to 68th Street. There is another fire hydrant on the East side at 70th Street.
- Chad's recommendation to cross Cornelia Drive from the West side to the East side at 68th Street and build the remaining sidewalk on the East side up to 66th Street is consistent with "safety" for residents because that 3-way stop sign intersection is not nearly as busy as the 4-way stop at Dunberry and Cornelia.
- Finally, it would cost more to build the sidewalk on the East side of Cornelia Drive from Dunberry Lane to 68th Street based on the larger number of "impacts".

The Engineering Department has provided tangible and specific study information to support the sidewalk construction on the West side of Cornelia Drive from Dunberry Lane to 68th Street and then crossing over to the East side to finish the sidewalk from 68th Street to 66th Street. This is the optimal way to ensure safety for the school children and the most cost-effective option too.

Thank you for reviewing our comments.

Respectfully,

Tom & Kathy Pinger

Heather Branigin

From: Eugene Persha <epersha@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2015 3:09 PM
To: Edina Mail
Subject: Fwd: Needed Response

Mayor Hovland:

It has been almost two weeks, and this is now my fourth attempt, to get a response to the question I have for you. I would appreciate a timely response to a simple question for clarification. If I do not get an answer, then I will address this in a public way, and surely at the next Council meeting I am at. Again, I would like your comment on what the question is as you can see from my attached statement. Thank you.

Gene Persha

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

From: Eugene Persha <epersha@aol.com>
To: mail <mail@Edina.Mn.gov>
Sent: Mon, Jun 1, 2015 9:03 am
Subject: Needed Response

Mayor Hovland:

Several times now I have asked for a clarification about your response to a developer proposal concerning a planned project at 7200 France Ave. if you recall, you said after a "non-approval" of a Comprehensive Plan Amendment for this plan to move forward, that the developer has to withdraw the request or he cannot submit another one for a year. Since that has never been commented on since, is that the case today? Is this statement made by you, the correct and actual state of affairs. I have raised this issue several times, and I have not gotten an answer. Staff does not know what the impact of this statement is. I am hoping for a clarification, and I waited a long time already. This is a simple straight forward question pertaining to a developer. I would appreciate it if I would get a prompt answer to this state of affairs. Thank you.

Gene Persha

Heather Branigin

From: Phil Mero <phil.mero@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2015 7:10 PM
To: James Hovland; Scott H. Neal; Andy Porter; Monica Mero; Eric Nelson
Subject: Re: 4419 Driveway

I recall our new neighbor saying that Andy was in France, hence looping in Eric.

On Thu, Jun 11, 2015 at 7:01 PM, Phil Mero <phil.mero@gmail.com> wrote:

Thank you for your time today Mayor and Scott. I do appreciate the opportunity to voice my concerns in person. I am attaching a photo of the current situation, and a photo with my gross rendering of what we are proposing. Again, we understand that the design was built within 'code', we don't need to hear that again from the builder.

What we are asking is for the builder and our new neighbors to consider what would be a very minimal investment to help curb our fears for the safety of our property, our family, and the potential nuisance that this driveway design will bring. Considering the 10's of thousands of dollars that have been put into the backyard with over 50 arbor vitae's purely for aesthetic purposes it seems that asking for 10 more arbor vitae's and 2-3 more feet on the back end of the retaining wall to ensure the neighbors safety isn't a big ask.

We hope that a 'good neighbor code' can be observed here and that the builder and owners will do what's right. This would benefit both the builder and owners reputation in the neighborhood.

Again, we do appreciate the attention to our very genuine concern.

Thanks in advance.

Monica and Phil Mero
4501 Grimes Avenue

Sincerely-

Phil Mero
[612.963.0852](tel:612.963.0852)

--
Sincerely-

Phil Mero
[612.963.0852](tel:612.963.0852)



Heather Branigin

From: Lee, Mayor (MYR) <mayoredwinlee@sfgov.org>
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2015 6:11 PM
Subject: SFUSCM 2015 - Sign up for Tech Tours

Hello Mayor,

We are very excited to see you next week for the San Francisco U.S. Conference of Mayors! I am thrilled to host all of you and showcase the innovative work of our pioneering technology companies here in the Bay Area. I would be honored to have you join me for the SFUSCM Tech Tour Program on Monday, June 22 at 2:30pm.

We strongly urge you to register for the Tech Tours as soon as possible as space is limited. Please see the following for the link to register:

<http://mayors.questmanager.com/tech-tours>

Tour One will feature Autodesk and Kilroy Realty with the closing reception at Twitter. Learn about the future of cities at the [Autodesk Gallery](#). Tour the award-winning design and engineering museum to see advancements in transportation, infrastructure, buildings, and more. Hear from 3D design and engineering software leader [Autodesk's](#) CEO Carl Bass about the technology tools that are helping reinvent the way cities design, build and manage infrastructure, traffic flow and utilities projects. Hear from John Kilroy, CEO of [Kilroy Realty Corporation](#), on a commercial real estate developer's viewpoint on trends that are shaping our cities through urbanization, amenitization, transportation, and innovation. The Tour will then head to the Twitter Headquarters, home of one of the most popular online social networking services in the world. [Twitter](#) offers the power to create, consume and share ideas and information instantly, without barriers, via mobile apps and online. [Tour limited to 150 participants.](#)

Tour Two will feature Uber with the closing reception at Twitter. Join us for a tour of [Uber Technologies](#) Global Headquarters, one of the world's fastest growing startups. The tour will give participants a look inside Uber's creative workspace, and include remarks from Uber leadership that will include details on Uber's expansion around the world, a forecast of what's next for Uber after its 5-year anniversary, and information on the ways Uber can benefit your city. Uber is a technology platform that is evolving the way the world moves. By seamlessly connecting riders to drivers through apps, Uber makes cities more accessible, opening up more possibilities for riders and bringing more economic opportunities to drivers. From Uber's founding in 2009 to its launch in over 300 cities today, Uber's rapidly expanding global presence continues to bring people closer to their cities. [Tour limited to 150 participants.](#)

Once again, we strongly encourage you to register for the Tech Tours as soon as possible, using the following link:

<http://mayors.questmanager.com/tech-tours>

For more information, please call Stefanie Roumeliotes at [415 402 0303](tel:4154020303) or rsvp@sgrconsultants.com.

Thank you!

Mayor Edwin M. Lee

City of San Francisco

Heather Branigin

From: Stephanie K. Mullaney <stephaniemullaney@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2015 10:19 AM
To: Edina Mail
Subject: For Lynette - Letter to city council
Attachments: Quotes-from-Residents-2015.pdf

Please acknowledge receipt of this document and include it in the correspondence packet to the city council.

I have had problems in the past getting my documents into the packet on time, so I would appreciate an email that this was received and put in the packet today, Friday.

Thank you for your assistance.

Stephanie Mullaney

QUOTES FROM THE COMMUNITY

Since December 4, 2014

Compiled by Public Grandview

June 12, 2015

To the Edina City Council:

The following document provides public feedback about Grandview / a community center. The period of documentation is December 4, 2014 through June 11, 2015.

This information is being presented in a compilation to further demonstrate that the citizen voices about a true community center are not just from a small group of a few residents.

The following items are NOT included in this document.

- Letters to the Edina City Council – all letters should have been read at the time of receipt of the Correspondence Packets.
- Feedback Information resulting from the April 22 meeting – this was previously provided by Bill Neuendorf in the June 2 packet.

I am in the process of reviewing the information in Grandview update on June 2, as well as reviewing the numbers/calculations from the May 22 working session. Further documentation will be provided.

Stephanie Mullaney
Chair, Public Grandview
www.PublicGrandview.com

December 4 Meeting – First Public Engagement meeting

Answers to the “Opportunities” question

Opportunities

- Community/Rec Center (33)
- Art/Cultural Center/Theater (24)
- Green Space (23)
- Food/Retail/Cafe (22)
- Public Space/Gathering Space/Plaza/Square (21)
- Transit hub / station (20)
- Sustainable/LEED-certified (14)
- Indoor-meeting/gathering space (13)
- Parking: Hidden/Underground (12)
- Mixed-Use/Multi-Use (9)
- Outdoor Space: Four Seasons (9)
- Fitness/Health Club (or a part of community center) (7)
- Garden: Botanical (7)
- Indoor/Outdoor-Space (7)
- Walking-Paths/Bike (7)
- Access Improvements/Reconfigured network (6)
- Highly-Adaptive/Flexible (6)
- Multigenerational (6)
- Outdoor-Performance Space (6)
- Affordable Housing (5)
- Catalyst for Other Development (5)
- Catalyst-for-Development (5)
- Farmers/Flora/Art Markets/Pop-up-shops (5)
- Garden: Community (5)
- Parking (5)
- Performing Arts/Youth-Performance (5)
- Destination (4)
- Indoor-Walking-Paths (4)
- LRT (4)
- Non-Commercial (4)
- Outdoor-Recreation-Space – Playground, Archery, Tennis, Bocce (4)
- Parking: Ramp (4)
- Park/Small Park (4)
- Public Art Space/Walk (4)
- State-of-the-Art Architecture / Architecturally significant (4)
- Bioswales (3)
- Community-Center: Pre-K (3)
- Community-Indoor/Outdoor (3)
- Connection to surround businesses (3)
- Enclosed Indoor-Pool (3)
- Green-Roof (3)
- Museum (3)
- Pedestrian-Friendly (3)
- Senior-Housing (Reasonably priced) (3)
- Solar-Panels (3)
- Amphitheater (2) made with natural topography
- Attraction/Destination (2)
- Arcofurn (2)
- Bridge over RR (2)
- Community Center: Teens (2)
- Community-Performance Space (2)
- Highway-Cap/Bridge (2)
- Housing-Development: Low-Mid Density (2)
- Housing-Development: Mid – High Density with Views (2)
- Multimodal-Connections (2)
- Naturalized-Plantings/Grasses (2)
- Pedestrian Scaled Space (2)
- Private-Development- Income (2)
- Senior-Residence (2)

*December 4 Meeting
Opportunities Question
continued on next page*

Rainwater-Catchment (2)

Assisted-Living

Art-Gallery

Bicycle-Path

Bird-Sanctuary

Center for Entrepreneurs

Civic/Municipality-Connections

Community-Center: Seniors

Connect to Existing Parking via tunnel or skyway

Connection for Municipalities

Co-Op-Housing

Daycare

Day/Night-Activities

Exercise -Non-equipment based

Future Train Transit

History (Yancey family, Dun Patch line)

Integrated with SPANVIEW!

Innovative Adaptive Spaces

Large Scale Development

Microbrewery

Minority representation

Multuse-Center

New School Bus Garage

Not a Money Pit

Obelisk - World's tallest!

Oil Drilling Site

Outdoor fitness - yoga taichi

Patting Zoo

Rail connection

Reflective/ Quiet Space

Remove current parking ramps

Senior Center

Signature Statue/Fountain

Small Business

Rain garden

Tree Trenches

Pervious surfaces

Terraced

Unique Fossil

Visitor Center

Wood burning Fireplace

December 4 Meeting
Opportunities Question
continued on next page

December 4 Meeting
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Additional Comments:

The following are general comments left by participants on comment forms or highly specified responses in other activities:

- 1) *"Make sure this site is developed at proper level to fit in master plan"*
- 2) *"We need to input! Are you going to survey residents about this? Especially the ones that live close? We need to be able to have the ability to keep this land PUBLIC!"*
- 3) *"Be more explicit and direct on ground rules and protocol of meeting at the start of meeting"*
- 4) *"Would be good to lay out public/private dynamic at start of meeting – I was going off the impression that the site was a blank slate, that attendees could alter site use. Also, more direct questions about site use would be good, not pictures or combine/ define pictures."*
- 5) *In response to weaknesses: "City Government is not responsive to public opinion"*
- 6) *In response to weaknesses: "not valued by some decision makers for potential public use"*
- 7) *In response to weaknesses: "Already handed to ONE developer before city council decided with Edinians what we want built on the property."*
- 8) *In response to weaknesses: "some developer builds condo building by promising large tax input to city."*
- 9) *In response to opportunities: "We need a place for teens and young adults to gather an entertainment venue – a place to have DJ, dances, concerts, plays, "open mic" nights, comedy, etc. Edina is supposed to be such a great p-lace to raise kids but there is NOTHING for them to do once they reach teen years."*
- 10) *In response to opportunities: "A green space and cultural arts activity center. I would like it to be a place where adults and youth can learn the unusual skill or craft from elderly of this community. Take a trip to the City museum in St. Louis, MO. Amazing what's happening there. It's a place of total imagination. Visit the folk art school in Grand Marais. Amazing. Now through into this light rail and bike routes and green space around it and on the roof."*

January 15 Meeting – Edina High School

Answers to the "Opportunities" question

E.H.S. STUDENT RESPONSES

January 15th, 2015

OPPORTUNITIES:

Café/Restaurant (33)	Bowling Alley (4)	Commerce
Community-center (22)	Laser-tag (4)	Enclosed
Park (14)	Meeting-space (4)	Factory
Ice-rink (12)	All-ages (3)	First-robotics-workshop
Retail (12)	Archery (3)	Flexible
Sports/recreation (10)	Community-garden (3)	Garden
Walking/Bike-paths (10)	Connecting-businesses (3)	Gun-range
Communa-space (8)	Entertainment (3)	Homeless-shelter
Green (8)	Go-Karts (3)	Housing
Performance-space (8)	Gym (3)	Ice-rink (enclosed)
Mixed-use (7)	Multi-season (3)	Lake
Apartments (6)	Plantings (3)	LGBT-space
Attraction (6)	Storage (3)	Monument
Hub (6)	Air-purification (2)	Offices
Movie Theater (6)	Arena (2)	Open-area
Public-space (6)	Farmers-market (2)	Outdoor
Skate-park (6)	Gathering-area (2)	Private-development
Sustainable (6)	Lighting (2)	Revenue
Teen-recreation (6)	Multi-use (2)	Rock-climbing
Indoor/outdoor (5)	Museum (2)	Social-space
Parking (5)	Public-transit (2)	Zoo
Plaza (5)	School (2)	
Unique (5)	Sculpture-garden (2)	
WiFi (5)	Wellness (2)	
Art-Center (4)	Colorful	

Speak Up, Edina!

Ending February 28

IDEAS FOR REUSE

If the property is sold to developers, all infrastructure upgrades should be financed by the developer--no TIF to developers--nothings that comes back to Edina taxpayers in higher utility rates, property tax rates, etc.

All along the planning process, the public has asked for an innovative project that will enhance the quality of life for city residents, As I look at city needs, i see two big needs, First, Edina needs a state of the art community center - including the performing arts and fitness/wellness components, The current community center is extremely dated and noy even owned by the city. at some point, i believe the school district will reclaim this space, and the city will have nothing, Because the terrain is multi-level, one could build a multistory building, with entrances on the north and south. The city should have a redevelopment plan for the entire site, including a land bridge across Highway 100, acquire the bus garage and the small shopping center south of Davanni's. the second part of the project should be creating a new community for young creative types - both artists of all varieties and those who design software - along with affordable housing for young city employees, This would be an alternative for young people likely to start up new businesses, I call this EDINA COOL, a place for creative millennials, We should focus on this group rather than building additional high end housing for people who already live here, This generation will not ne in a good position to move directly into half million dollar houses, but in their single and young couple phase, want smaller spaces living next to people im their demographic, this would be suburban competition for Uptown. This kind of vision gives Edina competitive advantage it otherwise lacks.

I completely agree w/ above comment(sic). The current ECC is clearly outdated & the former public works site is an ideal location for a community center. 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.

The city needs a transportation hub at this side of Hwy 100. Whatever is built, I hope there will be thoughtful consideration for parking, bicycles and bus transportation to connect people to the Metro area. Additionally, I would hope that the city would provide an enjoyable WALKABLE area that has some shopping, recreation, arts, restaurants, --really ANYTHING so that the many seniors living in the nearby Grandview area would have a destination and a reasonably attractive place to get outside and walk. I am not one of those residents, although I live nearby and would look forward to using a transportation hub and and a walkable area myself.

Edina Public Schools has stated its goal to sell the bus garage site. Any Grandview plan should incorporate that space. In addition what I saw from Frauenshuh's initial presentation and all the presentations from the other developers was nothing more than an apartment building with a grassy open space for the public space and possibly a small community room as in the library. Even with plantings, paths and benches, that is not a significant public space. It is more like what many commercial buildings have. I don't see how we can let one of the last open public spaces be turned over to development in this way. Public property is for public use and enjoyment.

I echo above (sic) comment that public property is for public use and enjoyment. When the public works facility moved, it created an opportunity to do something great for the community on the site. Yet, the city hasn't sponsored a process devoted solely to exploring public uses for this property. My ideas for reuse: for the short-term, turn it into a park with grassy area and gravel parking lot. Creatively program the space for two to five years (popup markets, free outdoor movies or concerts, skating rink, food trucks) while attending to the transportation issues and exploring the idea of an indoor community facility. Spend some time identifying what would really add to our community and raise money for it. What I don't want to see on the property: Housing of any kind (there is the opportunity for other parcels to redevelop into housing), office building(s), or anything that takes our public land out of public hands.

If Edina really wants to consider itself a premier suburban destination, it needs to create a modern comprehensive community center, perhaps leaving the current community center and maintaining the arts and senior center in some fashion. Otherwise, we stay stuck in the past, watching our suburban neighbors pull ahead of Edina in the mind of the public.

People should know that a TIF district will likely be created to capture revenue from private development. TIF cannot be used for a community building. It can be used for parking, street improvements, and can be given back to the developer to cover eligible expenses. A TIF district takes revenue away from the school district and county for up to 25 years.

The sports dome, arena, liquor stores, etc. all compete against private business. The customer for a community fitness center is not necessarily the same person who would join the Y. Most consumers appreciate choices.

Until we know what something costs, we shouldn't assume taxes would have to be raised to pay for it. Let's not cut the conversation short before really exploring public uses for the site.

When the city moved public works to the new site, it opened up an opportunity to do something great for the community with this land. The comprehensive plan supports acquiring additional land for parks and recreation uses. This land is already owned by the city. It's a no brainer that we should keep it for public use.

A community garden above the park and ride site would create shelter for the cars and yet have all the benefits of building community while raising our own veggies. I like the idea of having open space for arts and games for at least a couple years, giving us the time to more carefully consider more permanent structures.

A January 2014 survey conducted for the City of Edina found that 66% of respondents agreed that publicly-owned land should be retained and used for public purposes only and 61% agree the city should not sell publicly-owned land. 68% agree the city should create more recreational opportunities for people of all ages, and 72% agree the city should create more arts and cultural opportunities. An October 2014 survey conducted for the City of Edina found that 73% of respondents would support a new community center on the former public works site. I believe, at least in my conversations and based on survey data and the comments that others have submitted, that a great many Edina residents favor keeping the site public and preserving it for public use. We don't have financial information at this point to know that a new community center would be a tax drain. The Edina Aquatic Center is profitable and a community center could be designed with profitability in mind. Further, a community center wouldn't have to be constructed immediately. Interim uses are an option while the idea of a community center is explored. As for private development on the site being a tax generator, the taxes would likely be collected in a TIF district for 26 years and used to pay back the developer for project-related expenses. The school district and county also wouldn't see property taxes on the development for 26 years.

An update was presented to City Council on Feb. 3, 2015. Based on the suggestions and comments collected to date, there appears to be shared interest in four types of community facilities on a portion of the site: New Community Recreation Center New Community Arts & Culture Center New Community Performing Arts Center New Multi-Purpose Community Center (welcoming to all ages with indoor and outdoor space)

So, pretty clearly the primary public purpose most people expressed an interest in is some kind of modern community center. That should be the first and best public use for the space. Given the terrain, it would be relatively easy to build a building with underground parking, accessible from the north and south end of the site. This parking could also serve a limited number of apartments (geared toward singles and young couples) and retail shops. At the time this is developed, the city might want to redevelop the shopping center just north of the site, as it has been characterized by heavy turnover. It is also the ideal time to talk with the school district about purchasing the bus garage and providing the school with land to build a replacement garage. It is not time to think small, but come up with a vital new part of the city.

A major portion of this publicly owned property should be devoted to the creation of a new community center for the 21st century. Edina needs to develop a stronger sense of community, or social capital, among our diverse--multigenerational, multicultural--populations. This happens best not at "events", although those have value, but when people interact together, in public space, in the normal course of daily life activities--such as coffee shops, small restaurants, meeting rooms, art galleries, exercise facilities. We have so much to learn from one another, and creating informal relationships of trust and reciprocity with our growing diversity would only enhance Edina's educational efforts, its business climate, and its general competitiveness as one of the nation's best places to live and raise a family.

The question of costs and financing are, of course, of critical importance. My parents taught me, and I taught my children, that if I wanted to achieve something strongly enough, and was willing to work hard for it, it would be accomplished. Surely, if this excellent community has a strong, united, and widely accepted vision of what a 21st century Edina Community Center would offer, we can make it happen.

The hour is late. We need to exercise our responsible citizen skills and participate in the planning sessions the City is offering. We need sufficient time, not sufficiently provided at the Exploration meeting, to ask questions and not only demand answers from officials, but contribute our own creative ideas.

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Along with the new community center, this could include space for a community garden and maybe a demonstration garden to promote gardening in Edina. If only a community garden, it could combine with gardening/environmental businesses or with the art center. A garden green space on top of the underground parking, possibly.

If a thriving bridge with shops is being considered over 100, I believe this area would be a charming spot for a Farmer's Market and Airstream open plaza cafe ground. There is already so much traffic from OLG, the library/senior center complex, and the neighboring condos/apts, that this would be a really nice outdoor space for gathering and socializing. And because you can rent out the lot, you don't have to look for anyone to build of pay. Add some generators and your basically good to go. This could be the upscale bohemian part of Edina. Look to other metropolitans with thriving 30-40 something's as an example.

Above comment (sic) sums up my feelings perfectly. Has anyone been to the Burnsville Heart of the City project where there is a large open plaza with seating/tables and natural play space/water features for families to splash in? The businesses around that space are absolutely thriving because 1) it's walkable and 2) the plaza is a green, beautiful, community gathering space where everyone wants to come and hang out. There is also a performing arts center located adjacent to the space. A beautiful public space will add value to the whole area.

The old public works property is unfortunately on the wrong side of the tracks for many reasons. I'd like to see a plan that makes it easier to access the existing amenities (shopping, library, etc.) AND a new community center without having to drive to each separately.

The city should consider the property currently occupied by the bus garage, Super America and the old Mr. Steak building as the best location for a community center. Parking could be provided on the old public works property, with a skyway or enclosed tunnel to the new community center. A walkway could also be built to Jerry's from the Community center which would greatly improve the accessibility.

I think any plan needs to be modular so that it can be adapted and remodeled as additional property around the community center (on the bus garage property) becomes available. The public works site has very limited adaptability.

Community Center on 100% public land. Keep it public.

I second the opinions of the writers above (sic). What is missing in Edina is a centrally, located (near transit) 21st century intergenerational community center. The uses JS suggests are not only appropriate, they are necessary to stay competitive with other communities, attract young families, give teens a safe, healthy gathering place and keep seniors fit and energized. Engagement of the entire community, not just a select few, is at stake.

In recent meetings, the City has called for a fresh start with GrandView. Citizens for a Better GrandView could not agree more. There is now data, collected by the City, to support a fresh start and let go of the pre-conceived notions of developer driven mixed-use on which CAT I, II and III were founded.

Here are the links to the City's recent data:

1. GrandView Community Residents' Survey January 2013 survey:
http://edinamn.gov/edinafiles/files/City_Offices/Community_Development/Planning/Grandview_District_Update/Grandview%20Res%20Survey%20Prelim%202-27-2014.pdf
2. City of Edina Comprehensive Needs Assessment Date Assessment:
<https://www.filesanywhere.com/fsiv.aspx?v=8b6e648e5f676fba6f98>
3. Confluence December 4, 2015 Report
http://edinamn.gov/edinafiles/files/City_Offices/Community_Development/Planning/Grandview_District_Update/January2015/FPW%20Expl%20Session%2012-4-2014%20Meeting%20Summary%20with%20appendix.pdf

All of the data comes to two main conclusions: 1. The overwhelming majority of residents wish for the former public works site at 5146 Eden Avenue to remain public. 2. A majority of residents are supportive of a new community center at GrandView.

The City will soon release the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. While no conclusions have yet been released, those of us in the community input meetings heard strong support for the preservation of public land and the creation of a community center in GrandView.

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PUBLIC ELEMENTS

One of the many attributes that make Edina such a great city are the opportunities for families to play together. Edinborough play park and Centennial Lakes are only two examples of the incredible family amenities in Edina. It would be wonderful to see another facility to bring families and the community together.

Adding to that, Edina doesn't really have a year-round pool destination (Edinborough works, but is oriented toward and older crowd). An example that works well is what is in Maple Grove - a pool with slides, a toddler area, etc. and it operates in the black.

Having an adjacent fitness center would be a nice addition too as there is not much else available in this area. Lifetime in SLP is 3+ miles away and is mobbed and the YMCA/Fitness options near southdale are less appealing given the distance. I know there has been some discussion around adding other amenities such as relocating the art center to share maintenance costs and I think this is a good idea.

Finally, the "Park & Hide" option for Metro Transit riders at 50th & 100 should shift to this location. Parking/walking in the current area is hazardous in the winter and there is no shelter from wind/rain/etc.

This property is publicly owned and should be retained as a public asset, at least in part. There are many days in MN when kids need to play inside, and the northern part of Edina doesn't have any destinations for drop-in play. An "open gym" facility would be a wonderful addition for families with young children. A soft climbing structure (like the one at Eden Prairie mall) would be great for very little kids, and a couple of basketball courts or sport courts would be great for older kids. Neither would be terribly expensive, but they would be much appreciated on days that are too cold or wet to take the kids outside.

Earlier I suggested a modern community center, Part one is arts oriented - a theatre (community theatre, musical groups like the Edina Chorale and the Souza band, a performing arts series, etc.), dance studios, visual arts - replacing the art center, and rehearsal space, Part 2 is classrooms for community ed, with the theatre/auditorium for large community meetings, Part 3 is fitness and wellness oriented - similar to what is found at health clubs like the Y. This could be done as a joint venture with the Y or another organization. Having such a multi functional space would allow families to do things together or pursue their different interest at the same space. The primary supporting public functions would be well planned streets, sidewalks and parking, allowing easy access for walkers, bikers, drivers and transit riders, Some have suggested public art as a priority, if working artists live there, it makes sense to have a artist's market where they can display and sell their work.

I think the combined Community Center -- fitness, Art Center, etc. -- is something that Edina is missing that neighboring communities have. For example Chanhassen has one facility with ice rinks, a gymnasium, fitness center, theater with stage, etc. Eden Prairie has ice rinks, pool and fitness center all in one building.

Edina has all those things, and more, but they're all separate facilities -- the Art Center, the Aquatic Center, the fitness center at Edinborough Park, the ice rinks at Braemar Arena.

I'm not sure whether that's good or bad. But bringing them all together as part of this project seems like not the best thing to do.

It seems like it would be a lot of effort and expense that doesn't really get us that much. If we want all the facilities in one spot (which has its pros and cons), it seems like that desire should be the driver. Then find a place with room for it all and go from there.

Public space needs to include a transportation hub so that commuters and casual riders have access and protection to travel throughout the Metro. We need walking space - not more parking lots. Other than Bredeson Park there really isn't much for people to walk to/around in the North of 62/West of 100 area. PLEASE include elements that encourage walking and riding bikes to this location.

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The Development Framework is a vision statement with guiding principles and very detailed implementation steps--such as transportation elements, issues of housing affordability, and the creation of sustainability guidelines--that have not been addressed. Yes, there's been a "community-led" planning process. The Community Advisory Teams and surveys have all supported public use of this public land and a broader public discussion of what the community would like to see on the site.

Nevertheless, a private developer team, Frauenshuh Commercial Commercial Real Estate Group was hired to create "mixed use" public/private development options for the site. They tightly controlled the recent "Exploration Session". Approximately 100 Edina community members attended. We were offered almost no time for discussion of whether some or any of this land should be privatized, and what sorts of public use structures we would like to see on the site. I heartily agree with above's (sic) suggestions. A Grandview Survey showed that 66% of respondents favor retention of this public land, and 73% favor a new community center along the lines suggested by above (sic).

I take big issue with the "seeking ides for a new facility that contains both public and private uses." At the Dec 4 meeting, I specifically asked the question about 100% public use, and it was stated that "all options are still on the table." The city is getting much feedback about keeping the land public, but it appears that it is a topic that is not up for a two way discussion??? If we are not discussing keeping the land public "at this time," when will that discussion take place?

When did the Council specify that they are seeking ideas for a "new facility that contains both public and private uses"? Does "facility" mean a single structure or building?

Answer to what types of activities should take place:

Same as current one, plus a place for a community theatre, which could also be used concerts. Also dance studios, fitness center. The list could be quite comprehensive.

It seems like the Council is interested in new tax dollars, which is the pressure to find citizens who want more commercial development. Until those people are identified it is wrong to assume that they exist.

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I see that this forum will be closed at the end of February. Has an email been sent out to those who were at the public input meeting letting them know that, if they want to respond, they need to do so soon?

We should build a community center including space for the Senior Center. If the Southdale Library is closed then it can be moved to the current Senior Center space below. The current Edina Library and that building becomes all Library. Then the city can negotiate with Hennepin County on the Southdale Library location and we have a great location for another major project.

Please no more ugly tall buildings. The city has so far succeeded in making France Avenue a concrete jungle of mostly ugly buildings. Time to get back to making Edina a top community with charm and a value placed on quality of life. Housing is not the way to go here.

A green outdoor community plaza with gathering spaces and water play features, which could be programmed or not, would drive customers to surrounding businesses. We also need indoor public meeting/gathering space for groups. We need multipurpose public space, not single-use facilities.

I love all of the ideas being presented, but the challenge I see with this location is that it's isolated and has absolutely no pedestrian access. The Grandview Square area would have been a better spot for a all inclusive community center.

Why can't the school bus facility be moved over to the former Public Works site, and then build a community center on that property with a skyway that goes over to the building that houses the senior center and public library? Better yet, why not build a parking ramp on the School bus property and then build the community center so that it's attached to the library, senior center, etc?

The land is public. I would like to see it stay that way. That land "belongs" to Edina residents, and we should have a voice in what is done with it. The large public meeting should have been held BEFORE the framework was formed.

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I would love to see this site reserved for public use, perhaps as a community center, with walkable space around it.

I was at one of the exploration meetings, and it seemed that 99% of the two hundred or so people present also said they wanted the land to stay public.

Yet every time someone said something having to do with public use, the city guy leading the meeting would chuckle, and say something like, "Yes, but we need to listen to everyone," as if there is some phantom group out there that is violently opposed to keeping the land public. Near the close of the meeting, the organizer responded to the obviously overwhelming support for public use by saying, "I see the same familiar faces here, but we need to take everyone into consideration." It was almost as if he didn't like what he was hearing, so he was going to dismiss it as the old sentiment of some radical fringe group that shows up meeting after meeting. (Personally, it was my first time at one of these city meetings. I talked to some of the people around me after the meeting, and the same was true with most of them.)

Oddly, the same bias seemed to exist with the consultants who have been hired to get feedback, and they said they were following the direction of the city council, which had insisted on at least some private development.

I'm not sure why this bias toward private development exists when it seems like the city voters prefer public use. Perhaps the city council members have been lobbied by private developers, or maybe they are seeking the private development tax money.

There was a survey that was referred to in which over 60% of respondents favored public use of the land. This seems like a rather impressive number given that these respondents did not even know what the public use would be at that point. Moreover, I imagine those who favor public use, favor it strongly. They are probably people who live in the north half of Edina, and desperately wish there were some common area (other than the library where you have to whisper). On the other hand, those who responded against private use, probably thought, "Well, we already live close to Edinborough Park and Centennial Lakes, so I guess we don't need any additional public land." That is, those not in favor of public use, may not have felt as strongly as those who favored public use. It would be interesting to see the exact survey questions that were read and the distribution of answers by city quadrant.

Regardless of the reasons for the bias toward private use, it does not seem like it should be there in the first place. I hope that our city leaders, and the consultants hired by them, will listen to the majority of voters, and retain this land for public use.

Indoor and outdoor spaces to gather and be active. An athletic facility with an indoor swimming pool and a real indoor track for people to meet and run/walk all year long with room for everyone--there could even be a lane for parents with strollers.

Outdoor gathering space for all ages with green space and amenities for everyone--kids, seniors & everyone in between. Outdoor spaces should include paths for walking/running and biking, adequate safe lighting, benches, available free drinking water to cut down on plastic water bottles (for example, bubblers or reusable water bottle refilling stations). The site should be accessible to pedestrians, cyclists and transit riders & accessible for all ages & all abilities.

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POST OTHER IDEAS HERE

If anything does get built on this site with tax dollars there should be tighter fiscal controls then the city has demonstrated in the past on public works building projects. The city should hire a construction project manager to oversee the project to keep track of costs and timeline. The city has demonstrated on several projects that they don't understand what winter does to construction projects and letting deadlines consistently slip should not be acceptable.

The land bridge over Highway 100. This would greatly increase the buildable space and create a city corridor from city hall to the new community center, Frankly, given how the project has been conceptualized and based on the choice of developer, the city seems to be repeating a pattern of doing projects without considering future city needs, we need to redesign the city not to satisfy those of us who will not be here in 29 years, but focus on those in the 18-44 age group, who have very different values and lifestyles than their parents and grandparents. They are more tolerant and more focused on relationships and community than their parents - also more collaborative and inclusive, A community center that brings people together rather than isolates them would have a lot of appeal to them, if done right.

This article above about prime land in Chicago is the way Edina has to start thinking. Prime land for public use- long run- the city and its residents and millenniums win! No more ugly big box buildings at a prime location.

Article was about Maggie Daley Park in Chicago

Why don't we build out the bus garage and give them the space, the face-lift they need & the updates that the bus drivers deserve. Then build up a beautiful building with some roof top activities, such as; lawn bowling, ice skating, event center, etc.

There have been lots of great suggestions for family-oriented community centers, which our "quadrant" of Edina lacks. As far as commercial use, it would be great to integrate a daycare center as there are no professional daycare centers in NW Edina either (all south of 62 or East of 100).

Something special for the residents of North Edina, that all Edina residents can enjoy. No more housing/ congestion needed. Do something for the long term good for the taxpayers and voters to enjoy!

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CITY COUNCIL BIAS? I favor a public use, such as a community center, for this publicly-owned property. However, it seems that the city council has been biased against this from the beginning. Perhaps that's due to the desire for more tax dollars, or perhaps they've been influenced by developers. Have city council members disclosed whether they receive campaign money from these developers? Are there special relationships that we should know about? (Where are the investigative journalists when you need them? Has the Star Tribune looked into this? What about the Sun Current or Patch?)

The most recent examples: I attended the "Exploratory Meeting." I thought the exploratory meeting was for "exploring" options, whether public, private, or a combination. Yet one of the consultants said that the city council had told him a completely public use for the public land was not an option. And guess who was leading the meeting? The city council appointed the Edina **Economic Development Manager** to lead the exploratory meeting. Wouldn't the Economic Development Manager have an inherent bias toward economic development rather than public development? (The meeting leader's title did not "sink in" until he responded to one of my postings in another forum. At first I thought that I must be misreading his title. Is it any wonder he kept talking down the public options for the land?)

I don't want to be paranoid, but the whole thing seems on the borderline of scandal. I really believe this issue is going to cost some city council members the next election.

This could be "active space" as early as this summer. Mow it. Put out some benches - nothing fancy. Maybe a tent and some tables this summer for temporary outdoor meeting space or a temporary stage. Try some stuff, cheaply. People are calling for public meeting and gathering space, recreational space and arts space. Give them a chance to put that idea to the test. But it doesn't need to be ugly right now.

We recently visited friends in Charlotte, NC who live walkable distance to public land that isn't being used for anything (at the moment), every single Friday night, all the food trucks pull into the lot in a big circle. There is an enormous crowd that gathers with people milling about eating food and listening to local bands that put on impromptu performances. It is SO fun! While not a long term solution, I definitely second Katherine's thoughts above that it could be an "active" (and not ugly) space this summer in this capacity. Yum.

I think this is a great idea if we can stop the private development and need the time to assess community needs. Have some fun summer gatherings on the public property.

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I hope we can "step back" from making quick decisions about developing this land. With the controversy about public vs public/private development, we need to see where the PUBLIC really stands on the status of this land. If it has to be a green lawn for a time period, then let it sit, but let's not throw away this last chance to save this land for future generation

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PUBLIC GRANDVIEW

www.PublicGrandview.com

Endorsers: 120

The following comments are from an **optional** field on the endorsing form.

- *I'm disappointed that the City Council seems more concerned about the interests of the developers than the interests of the citizens.*
- *Please keep this land public.*
- *We need a community center.*
- *Publicly owned land is too precious to turn over to private use. Generations before us paid for this land. There is no price adequate to compensate for this loss of a public resource. Once turned over to private hands, it would be all but impossible to recapture. If there isn't a current pressing public use for the site, plant trees and bushes and grass and make it a respite in this commercial zone until a public need is clearly identified.*
- *It makes a great deal of sense to me to retain public control over a portion of the development area, especially because of the central location of the project. On behalf of the public, that should be the option #4.*
- *In talking to other concerned citizens in the community, I ask that our opinions be listened to and respected. Land in this community is scarce and precious. Let us use it for OUR COMMUNITY and the citizens do this city. I feel strongly that it should NOT be sold for private development, under any circumstances. Please listen to those that elected you! Thank you.*
- *When my daughter was a Brownie, our troop went on a tour of Edina City Hall. One stop was the Council Chambers, where the very nice lady who took us on the tour explained to the girls what a city council was. She asked the girls, "who is the boss of the people on the City Council?" One of the girls replied, "our parents", and the women said, "that is exactly right! Our council is elected by the people of Edina and are responsible to them for running the city." I think if anybody were to ask that question today, the answer would be "the developers!" They are running the city of Edina, deciding what gets built, both residential and commercial. That is all I have to say about the direction of the city of Edina - ugly houses, ugly commercial buildings, lots of money in the pockets of builders, developers, and architects.*

- *Edina needs to look at the future needs of its current residents (taxpayers), which I believe a Community Center provides. The last thing needed is another condo/apartment building/ retail space.*
- *50 years from now your grandchildren will thank you for keeping this land public. Selling is such a shortsighted solution.*
- *I would like to see a convention type center with different venues, much like a fair, but all year long, with areas for people to get their hands dirty and clean up whether it be paint, plants, the library rooms are always busy group serviceability. Edina is central for many local area groups to meet, we could do us proud by creating a gathering of community this suburb doesn't have.*
- *I like the idea of a fitness center...but how much will this cost the residents?*
- *Edina has needed a community center for decades now is the opportunity to establish a facility on one of the last public lands available in the city. Hopefully city officials will accede to the wishes of Edina's citizens.*
- *As parents of a two year-old, with one more on the way, this community center is actually what our family could truly benefit from for many years to come.*
- *I prefer to keep the Grandview space public and available for public use.*
- *Favor public community center.*
- *The current private public approach lacks definition of the Pinlic amenity and as such gives no assurance that the needs of the Public will be met. Either set guidelines for the Public amenity expected or stop the current process.*
- *I endorse using this land for a community center. My previous comments on the city Speak Up pages were written when I believed the city had already killed this idea. I am hoping this groups efforts will be successful in convincing the city council to reconsider and vote to build a community center instead of allowing more business development on this parcel.*
- *Let's dedicate this public property to a public use.*
- *Public Grandview, please!*
- *We wish to see the public works site remain a public site and be used as a community space.*

- *Keep Grandview public! What was always public land should REMAIN the public's land.*
- *Edina is the community it is because of the strength of the people that call this place home, please listen to them! Please do not wholly depend on outside sources, so much is lost in those kind of decisions, it weakens the links.*
- *Unless the city clearly defines the Public use as a part of the RFP to developers I am opposed to the current track for Grandview. The current ambiguous request is a path fraught with problems and puts the citizens at risk for a bad deal.*
- *Keep Grandview land as public space. No more supplementing private business with taxpayer funds...*
- *The 3.3 acres of public land @ 5146 Eden Ave. deserves to be honored & preserved for the future generations. Creating a community center for all ages will enrich everyone who visits.*
- *Absolutely no privatizing please! Keep the entire property in public hands! It's a space that belongs to us all. Land in Edina will be extremely valuable in the near future, and why should our tax dollars make a few individuals billionaires. That land belongs to us and should stay in the hands of the public-- WE THE PEOPLE!*
- *As a citizen who worked on CAT 2 and was appointed by the Council to work on CAT 3, I am dismayed by the Council's vote to ignore the recommendations we were tasked to bring forth. Because they didn't agree 3-2) with us they disbanded us without letting us hire a consultant to flesh out needs and finances before a developer was hired. The reasons given by the 3 council members made no sense to me and indicated they had already made up their minds to either sell this public land or allow private development. I don't think the public realizes this parcel is only 3.2 acres. I also believe the current community center is not adequate for our future needs. It is dark, hard to navigate, difficult to access and uninviting. We can do better as a community and this parcel is a rare opportunity that may never present itself again.*
- *I fear there might be a lot of push-back on this idea from people who like the status quo, but I would love to see a community center that builds TRUE community by thinking about the perspectives of the more marginalized residents of Edina. How can we welcome recent immigrants? Homeless youth? People who are struggling to pay rent? I don't mean a social services space, but rather a community center where ALL residents of Edina are welcome -not just those who want another yoga class or theater venue.*

- *Handing the property over to a developer is simply a way of delivering public wealth into private hands. Let's at least consider other ways the land might be used to improve the quality of life in Edina -- the reason we live here -- before we sell it off.*
- *Public land should promote the common good, not private profit.*
- *Keep it public for everyone!*
- *Imagine the possibilities of a public facility at this central location! A community center, fitness center, art center, transit center, senior center could all be in one place, easily accessible, for the benefit of our whole community. It would be the heart of Edina's public, community life.*
- *This public land should be retained by the City and put to use for the public good. The location is ideal for a multi-use community center including educational space, arts space, senior center, fitness center, child care, and transportation hub. This opportunity will not come again, and if the City sells or develops this land with a private developer, a wonderful opportunity will have been lost. If there is not a budget for this facility at this time, just hold the property until it is financially feasible. The City has recently spent millions on sports facilities, and plans to spend millions more on golf facilities, all of which serve a tiny fraction of our population. A multi-use community center would serve all of our citizens, and should be built on this site.*
- *I support the construction of an Edina Community Center that provides recreational facilities for everyone, especially adults and seniors at the Grandview location.*
- *THE COUNCIL REPRESENTS THE PEOPLE: WHO HAVE MADE IT VERY CLEAR THEY DO NOT WANT A 12 STORY SKYSCRAPER. THEY WANT A CIVIC CENTER--FOR US !*
- *Seems to me that the process in deciding the future of this site has not taken into consideration many of the feelings of the Edina residents. The space should be used for the whole community, not just for developers.*
- *My family moved from Minneapolis to Edina 3 years ago because we wanted to start a family and desire community surroundings to help us shape our family. Specifically, the very reason we left Minneapolis and moved to Edina was to escape more private development and jump into a closer-knit community. The library, community center, parks, and fields of Edina -- the COMMUNITY CENTERS -- are where we spend our time. Please consider eliminating private development and using the Grandview space to bring us closer together!*

Speak Up, Edina!

After March 11 meeting ending March 31, 2014

SOUTH CIVIC CENTER COMMENTS

You put civic in the title and maybe 10% of the entire space is civic, with 64 parking spots. That is a nothing space - an afterthought in your standard commercial retail high end residential development, and probably basically a tenant amenity paid for by taxpayers that will get little use citywide. No mention of affordable housing - cannot expect developers to sacrifice profits. Every time the city allows multi unit development, it forgets its promise to provide more affordable housing. This does the wrong things, and not well.

I agree with all 3 scenarios are different iterations of the same concept. All give short shrift to the public and community aspects. In the March 11 'community feedback' meeting, the 3 scenarios were presented. Attendees were given dots to vote. There was no option to vote for 'none of the above'. Volunteers from Public GrandView and Citizens for a Better GrandView collected the dots of those who wished to have an option to voice their disappointment with the scenarios. We collected 130 dots, almost twice that of all the developer's scenarios combined. Here is a short list of some of the problems with this and the other scenarios: 1. No innovation--The framers of the GrandView process and majority of City Council members advocated for a Request for Interest for a Development Partner by saying it would provide innovation over a traditional RFP process. Where is the innovation in any of these scenarios? 2. No walkability, connectivity--These scenarios represent private, infill development and do nothing to foster walkability and connectivity for people of all ages as envisioned by the 7 Guiding Principles and the GrandView District Development Framework. 3. Not faithful to Neighborhood Center concept. These scenarios have converted 'neighborhood center' also put forward in the 7 Guiding Principles and the Framework to 'neighborhood commercial center'. 4. Buildings built to the street--All 3 scenarios push the buildings to the street creating shadows and a fortress-like atmosphere. As Joel suggests, the green public spaces are enclosed making them feel like private spaces regardless of what they are called. 5. Public space--In all 3 the public space is an afterthought, not designed first and foremost to serve as a catalyst for better private development.

Speak Up, Edina!
Ending March 31, 2014
continued on next page

CENTRAL CIVIC COMMENTS

Slightly more public space, but nothing close to what is needed for a community center. Really not at all different from the first proposal. You don't say what civic is, but get very specific with office, restaurant and office. Don't pretend this is a public-private project, particularly because the civic part will shrink or go away if the developer claims he cannot afford it

I completely agree with [redacted] that this is nothing close to what we need for a Community Center in Edina. The reason for this is that the City of Edina is asking a developer to design our community space. In so doing they are picking a number of square footage out of a hat based solely upon the developer's profit, not the community's need. Contrast that with a process designed by architects who specialize in public space in East Vancouver, WA. Starting with the intention to create 'a single destination, the Civic Campus [that] will enhance the quality of life, promote a sense of community and create a legacy for the city of Vancouver'. In 6 months (contrast that to GrandView's 5 years) the consultants working with the city and the public created a market analysis, programming [for the Center], site analysis, development of site plan alternatives, a preferred concept design and a phasing option. All in 6 months! A majority of Edina residents have said that they want to keep the land public and would support a community center. If the city is to carry out the wishes of the majority, it needs to take a step back, listen to the wishes of the residents and design a process that, using best practices, will create the best public facility possible.

Speak Up, Edina!
Ending March 31, 2014
continued on next page

NORTH CIVIC TOWER

I don't understand why this scenario has such a TALL building. Is it within the bounds of current city standards?

This is a place like around Southdale where tall buildings fit in, particularly considering the topography. I consider the space underbuilt - it should have 400,000-500,000 square feet, about double the current total, with no new street. Let people park underground and take elevators up. While the best of the three options, as it has more civic space, these three concepts are really only one concept with different sized boxes and no definition whatsoever of what civic is or what goes in the public space. All the thoughtful comments from the majority of people who have asked for specific public uses has been ignored. Not only is this not original or creative, it does provide anything tangible for people to respond to. It is all guess work and conjecture, giving the developer all the wiggle room they need. There is no statement of what the project is going to achieve, except quiet the people view tax avoidance their main objective. Those folks few but loud would like to sell the land or do nothing that is a true city investment in the quality of life of its residents. If City Council and staff want to keep their good relationships with city residents, please demand more from the consultant. This is C+ work even with a lenient grader.

My comments for the other two scenarios also apply to this. None of the 3 scenarios fall within the Comprehensive Plan Guidelines for height and density in GrandView. When I commented on this to the developer's representative in charge of developing the scenarios, he said he did not know the guidelines. His response demonstrates the developer's disregard for the Comp Plan guidelines. It also demonstrates a disregard for the Framework which consistently shows no more than 4 stories on the former public works site. There are several misconceptions that are being promoted by the City's Economic Development Manager and others associated with the process. One is that the citizens cannot come to agreement regarding what the public or community uses could be. Despite the data that says that the majority of residents want the land to stay public (66% in 2014 GrandView Residents Survey), there has never been a process to determine the public uses for the site. The most oft mentioned uses, (recreation/fitness, arts and culture, a multi-generational community center) cited in the City's recent presentations are all compatible (if not redundant) and could fit together on the site if the city allows the site to stay public for a public use. Furthermore, a community center is compatible with smaller private uses like a coffee shop, restaurant and co-shared work space. Well designed and managed community centers have the potential to generate annual operating income for the city and bring economic development to a community

Speak Up, Edina!
Ending March 31, 2014
continued on next page

Having spent the last 3 winters visiting various other communities Community Center's I believe the city of Edina is at a true disadvantage. We need to have a centralized community facility that serves all members of our community and also drives income. Having a community theater, pool, gyms and a work out facility are just some examples of what I have seen other communities have. Some of the centers have the space for art fairs and fundraisers. Edina does not have enough community gym space to serve all of the youth sports that we take so much pride in. We have spent the money on the gollers for the dome and the hockey folks for the ice center, now let's give something to the entire community. I am saddened to see only one response on this theme other than mine. Edina has an Apathy problem more than anything else. We don't need more housing and business in this locale, it's already congested at certain times of the day. Who will this housing serve? Existing Edina residents who will be paying to have it built or attracting more people to our already taxed community? Please give the residents who already live here something for our dollars. Please listen to your voters and not your paid consultants

I think that this is a great opportunity to make a for a community center. 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 the winter time. A theater, a pool, a gym, a safe place to run around and play (again especially when it is cold out.) Even another indoor ice rink would be fine with us as we would love more free skate time. But something that everyone can use that will bring us together. A meeting place. These are the things that make a community great. These are the places that bring communities together and create the connections that make you feel like you and your family truly belong to a community.

I agree with the previous comments. This is a wonderful opportunity for a community center in Edina that would serve all of our residents. I would like to see a space for a variety of uses - an aquatic center, meeting spaces, and gyms would all be a benefit. In the past, we've gone all the way up to Maple Grove's Community Center because Edina does not have a similar offering. It would be a waste to sell this public land when Edina could put it to good use serving the current residents

OTHER COMMENTS

Back to the subject. When the majority of the project is not public, why is the public only asked to comment on the public portion, as the merits of the overall proposals are what are being discussed. The Sun Current suggests a fully public opinion wasn't considered because a majority of a subgroup of a 50 member citizens group didn't favor it? Was that even 10 people, when the public survey had the strongest support for things barely addressed in this modal. And housing was the lowest priority. Don't bother with broad public input if you have no intention of using it. We read about putting in another street (saw no mention of transit or foot traffic) and a bunch of small buildings, rather than a denser and taller project. Basically what I see is a single vision with different shaped boxes, which reflects little to no creativity. Just more same old-same old rather than the landmark creative design that a premier city like Edina should be seeking.

Speak Up, Edina!
Ending March 31, 2014

Opinion

Letter: Why would the city sell our public land at Grandview?

By Sun Current

February 15, 2016 at 9:00 am



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To the editor:

The city of Edina has been developing a plan for the former public works site (behind Jerry's Foods) for years. Like most Edina residents, I was not part of that process or aware of the issues until last fall.

The first general public meeting about Grandview held on Dec. 4 was tightly controlled with little opportunity for two-way discussion.

I pointed out the handout showed the Grandview plan would result in public-private development. I asked if a 100 percent public option was still viable and was told "all options are still on the table."

The meeting demonstrated an overwhelming desire by attendees for the city to build a community center with fitness-recreation, arts, a community gathering space and sustainable components.

My foremost concern is letting go of public land. As taxpayers, we "own" that land and should have a voice in decisions about its future.

I am dismayed that the city is ignoring citizen requests to keep the land public. I have seen no evidence that the majority of residents want a private-public development at Grandview.

Time is running out to advocate for keeping Grandview public.

Visit publicgrandview.com to learn how you can speak up on this matter.

Stephanie Mullaney

Edina

Opinion

Letter: Privatization of public assets at Grandview in Edina

By Sun Current

March 9, 2015 at 11:13 am



To the editor:

I was disappointed by the two letters to the editor in the Feb. 19 Sun Current ("On the Grandview subject" and "We do not need a community center at Grandview") urging privatization of the Grandview public land site.

Is this the best we can do?

We hold this public land as a community, for the common good. When public assets are privatized, we put private preferences and individual advantage ahead of the common good.

The architecture of the current community center is all wrong. It may have activity space, but within a static, old architecture of classroom separation – not one of flexibility and integration.

The first thing you confront through most entrances is a wall of metal doors – not an open and welcoming gateway into community.

Finally, it is owned and operated by Edina Public Schools.

Edina needs a centrally-located, 21st-century community center, with access to multiple modes of transportation.

Increasing diversity and an increasingly large, aging population are two great challenges in the years ahead. We can best meet these challenges in this climate by creating indoor and outdoor space that promotes both structured and informal interaction across age, race/ethnicity and socioeconomic lines. Fitness, arts and cultural space would be a vital part of the mix.

In 2014, a city-sponsored survey showed that 66 percent of residents favor public ownership, and 73 percent want a new community center.

Despite the Grandview Citizen Advisory Team's 6-2 majority for hiring an independent consultant, the city hired a private developer, Frauenshuh Companies, to lead planning that will result in "mixed use" privatization of the site.

If you care about keeping this last significant and undeveloped land in the public domain, and the possibilities offered by a new community center, please attend the March 11 Grandview Discovery Session and visit the publicgrandview.com website.

It's just a piece of land, but so much more. What this community does with it will speak volumes about who we are.

Hope Melton
Edina

Opinion

Letter: Voices of residents who want all-public Grandview option should be heard

By Sun Current
March 21, 2015 at 6:00 am



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To the editor:

The city of Edina and its development partner intend to take a rare parcel of public land and turn it into a mediocre mixed-use development with high-density housing, offices and privately-owned 'public' space.

That's the conclusion from the March 11 Grandview redevelopment "Discovery Session" – the most recent meeting in the city's public engagement process.

At the meeting, the city and developer presented three development scenarios for the public's land at 5146 Eden Avenue (the former public works site).

Each scenario, including one with a 12-story tower, showed a mix of "civic" (publicly-programmed, but not necessarily publicly-owned) space; "public" outdoor space (also not necessarily publicly-owned); and private space (high-density residential, offices, and a small amount of retail).

No scenario clearly suggested that the city would continue to own the land or own any part of the development.

Attendees were given three dots (stickers) to use to vote on their preferred scenario or scenarios. People who didn't like any of the scenarios were advised to keep their dots in their pockets. Voting for "none of the above" was not an option.

Two citizen groups, both at the meeting, believe everyone should have a voice in this process. For that reason, volunteers collected dots from attendees who did not support any of the scenarios presented. Each dot was their vote for 'none of the above.'

Our volunteers collected 130 dots – more than double the number of dots for all three scenarios combined.

Telling citizens to "put your dots in your pocket if you don't like any of the scenarios" is illustrative of the entire Grandview process. If citizens do not think our public land should be privatized for offices and high-density housing at the expense of public space, the city says we can keep our votes to ourselves.

Citizens who wish to weigh in before this land is sold off to a private developer should write to the city council and tell them to stop the current redevelopment process, keep the land public and start an authentic process to identify our public needs and wants for the site.

Kim Montgomery

Opinion

Letter: None of the three Grandview options are preferred

By Sun Current

March 28, 2015 at 9:00 am



To the editor:

According to the city's own survey, 66 percent of residents agreed that "publicly-owned land should be retained and used for public purposes."

In 2014, of letters to city council about use of publicly-owned Grandview land, 48 favored a community center-public use and only four opposed a community center-public use.

Edina residents clearly favor public use for public land, but the council has favored private use for Grandview.

This bias is why the council hired a firm to draft three plans for the land, all of which are dominated by private use (e.g. apartments, offices).

At a March 11 meeting, the firm unveiled three obviously-biased plans. Attendees were told to vote for which of the three plans they liked most by placing stickers on the corresponding placard.

The idea was that then the city council could proceed with one of the three plans and say it was "publicly-endorsed."

As upset people headed for the door, one woman took a manila folder and said, "Here's for none of the above!" People started placing their stickers on the folder.

One of the developer's plans received 13 stickers, a second plan received 14, a third one received 26 and the "none of the above" option received 128.

I'm not against partnership with restaurants or retail, like Tin Fish inside Braemar Golf Course, but the Grandview plans were so uncreative and private use-dominated that nobody at the meeting was happy.

Amy Minge

Edina

Opinion

Letter: Privately-owned Grandview options are not legitimate

By Paul Groessel

April 5, 2015 at 8:00 am



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To the editor:

A current question for Edina planners is whether or not to use the Grandview site for public purposes, as preferred by most residents.

Attendees at a crucial meeting were told to vote for plans that were comprised of private property and unclear "civic" property, so that the city council could say that the public "endorsed" a private use plan.

In Edina, that kind of process is called "community input." In other parts of the country, it's called, "the fix is in."

This country was founded on many sound ideas, one of which is that the nature of government process matters. If the public is only allowed to vote on options that the powers-that-be endorse, then that is a bogus vote. Let's grow up and manage a real democracy, OK?

Donna Callender

Edina

Opinion

Letter: Questions about the Grandview development ideas

By Sun Current

April 5, 2015 at 8:00 am



To the editor:

It is time for the Edina City Council to press the reset button, and without consultants, develop a new and fresh vision for the use of the former public works property. It is important that the vision consider the impact of the traffic that would result by the proposed use.

According to the Sun Current, the three mixed-use development proposals would include retail shops, restaurant space, housing (presumably in highly-built buildings) and commercial and office spaces.

Those uses would generate a significant increase in the traffic using the adjacent streets, Eden Avenue and Brookside Avenue.

Accordingly, I pose this query: How many more cars can those two-lane streets accommodate without causing rush hour traffic jams?

Another aspect of that vision should include: What is the best use of the property for those who live here? Do we really need more buildings for business-related purposes – and housing is business-related – when we already have abundant, similar businesses throughout Edina? I also pose this question: What's wrong with low-density uses, including a building for the Edina Historical Society? Presently, the administration along with the historical materials are crammed in an old house the Arneson's gifted to Edina many moons ago.

Richard C. Johnson

Edina

Opinion

Letter: How, why the Grandview process has been flawed

By Sun Current

April 12, 2015 at 8:00 am



To the editor:

The Grandview development process has gone on for five years. Residents fall into two camps: either they don't know about the process or suffer from "Grandview Fatigue." I was in the first camp until last fall. Once I realized the risk of losing public land, I decided to dive in. By reading public documents and working with residents who have participated in this process since 2010, I have learned:

- The leaders of the three Community Advisory Teams (CAT I, II and III) never allowed consideration of 100 percent public ownership-use of the land.
- CAT I created a set of vague guiding principles, which have been misused by city officials.
- CAT II created a 66-page framework showing a community building and public green with housing; those elements fell within the four-story comprehensive plan guidelines. The city never completed the series of year-one implementation steps, the most important of which was programming for the community building.
- CAT III suggested (6 to 2 majority) the city determine the community's needs before hiring a development partner. The city ignored the majority, and hired Frauenshuh.
- The development partner held two poorly run "community input" meetings Dec. 4, 2014 and March 11, 2015. On March 11, Frauenshuh presented three scenarios that do not adhere to the community feedback and instead, privatize the site.
- The city has ignored data from the Grandview Residents Survey, Community Needs Assessment, over 100 letters to the city council, public comments on Speak Up, Edina! and input from the two above meetings. Data show that over two-thirds of residents want to keep the land public and would support a community center on the site.
- There has never been a financial analysis of costs and revenues of private vs. public development. If designed and managed properly, public amenities can create more economic development than private over time.

Residents must come forward now and let this council know that it is unacceptable to give up our public land. The community deserves better.

Email the council at mail@edinamn.gov. Read more on the Public Grandview community group's website, publicgrandview.com.

Stephanie Mullaney

Opinion

Letter: Grandview proposals leave land uses undefined

By Sun Current
May 10, 2015 at 9:00 am



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To the editor:

Edina is on the precipice of developing the public's land at Grandview and yet has not defined its land use. Through citywide surveys and collected data, the public has consistently asked for multi-generational community places for recreation and fitness. What the developer, Frauenshuh, has shown to-date is a high-rise commercial center, not what the many planning processes envisioned.

Edina has been surpassed by other cities' flourishing community centers. These centers attract the growing number of people who seek active, healthy, inviting places to exercise and gather. Nationally, 80 percent of all cities have community recreation centers, averaging one center for every 25,000 residents.

This city's current reliance on commercial fitness facilities does not serve Edina well, as it causes us to lag behind in our ability to compete to attract young people, actively engage aging residents, embrace an increasingly diverse population, include people of all incomes and offer facilities and programming for people with special needs and disabilities.

Residents have said they use city facilities based on location. Edina needs a centrally-located fitness facility; ours are concentrated south of Highway 62.

While the council does not think that the general public needs fitness facilities, they recently approved \$218,000 for a city hall workout area and locker room for themselves and employees in the capital improvement plan. The city recognizes the value of fitness and recreation for its employees, why not for the general public?

Grandview's 3.3 public acres offers us a rare opportunity to build a 21st century, centrally-located recreation center accessible to transit. Because we already own the land, there likely will never be a less expensive way for Edina to build it.

That center can have an integrated culture and arts component, leased restaurants and other shops. Well-designed and managed community recreation centers are profitable economic drivers for cities.

Residents should ask this council to analyze the cost/benefits of a facility that serves the widest number of residents, fulfills an expressed public health need, insures open indoor and outdoor recreational space and creates a social gathering place for all.

Ellen Jones

Edina

Opinion

Letter: Public-private ratio unequal in current Grandview options

By Sun Current

May 10, 2015 at 9:00 am



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To the editor:

With regard to development of the Grandview district, my preference has been toward public-use scenarios, possibly in partnership with limited private enterprise (such as the partnership between Braemar Park and Tin Fish).

However, I recognize and understand that the final Grandview district may have more private use than I originally imagined. Yet I am concerned about the type of private development and the extent to which it has come to dominate the three proposals put forth by the current consulting firm (under the city council's direction).

For instance, one proposal includes 40,000 square feet of office space and a 10-12 story residential tower. Residential use and office space would, on average, take up over 80 percent of the new interior space, while only about two percent of that space would be devoted to restaurants and retail, generally squeezed into a corner of the development. (In the case of Grandview, "private development" is not about small shops and restaurants intermingled with public gathering spots, but is more about apartments, offices and pavement).

Meanwhile, interior space reserved for public use is, on average, only about 15 percent in the proposals. (Compare this to 40 percent in the 2012 Framework proposal.)

Although I understand the need for compromise, it seems that the pendulum has swung way too far in one direction and continued to swing up to, well... the height of a 12-story building.

Amy Minge

Edina

Opinion

Letter: Grandview meeting in April was merely rude lip service

By Paul Groessel

May 19, 2015 at 9:00 am



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To the editor:

I attended the April 22 open house about the Grandview development proposals. I found that whoever was running it showed contempt and rudeness to me and my fellow voters (residents).

Twenty minutes after the session was supposed to begin, one unidentified man provided a summary of the project after another unidentified man started the open house.

After the summary, the man asked for questions from voters (residents). After a very few pointed questions about density, who would own what, and traffic concerns (for which he had no answers), the man abruptly announced that question time was over and we should go look at the posters until a second group of residents arrived.

A henchman in the back of the room started applauding, as if to signal that our participation was ended. I call him a henchman because I heard the two of them talking about it just before the meeting started.

And just like that, the community was dismissed. I still don't know who these people were. I looked around for Rod Serling to tell us we were in an episode of the "Twilight Zone," but he wasn't there. I don't blame him.

This contempt for community input shows how bogus this process is. When those in charge only offer "input" on options chosen by themselves, in a forum that was advertised as a discussion but was immediately shut down when people started to discuss, we're not dealing with democracy.

I'm thinking that we need a city council who practices democracy instead of giving it flaccid lip service. This lack of transparency and prohibition of open discussion of issues is not, in my opinion, good enough for any American community. I'm still waiting for a response from any of the council members I contacted about this.

The contempt and rudeness shown to voters (residents) is shameful. No one is buying this clumsy farce. I would suggest that, next time, include the community for real and respect us as the reasonable voters (adults) we are. I was going to suggest it, but this is one farce over the line.

Donna Callender

Heather Branigin

From: Alan <alankorn@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2015 10:29 AM
To: Edina Mail; jhovland@krausehovland.com
Subject: Abbey's Hope WLSL: Media Advisory
Attachments: WLSL Media Advisory Draft.6.12.15.docx

Mayor Hovland,

Katey & Scott Taylor wanted me to send your this media advisory about an Abbey's Hope event this coming Thursday. I believe you came last year. We would love to have you stop by again this year. We are expecting double the crowd. WCCO and KTSP will be there and I am sure KARE also (they always cover our events).

Alan Korn
Executive Director
Abbey's Hope Charitable Foundation



Contact: Brendan Kearin
McFarland Communications
(612) 598-7667

Brendan@mcfarlandcommunications.com

Sam Carolus
Abbey's Hope
(952) 303-5421
sam@abbeyshope.com

MEDIA ADVISORY

World's Largest Swimming Lesson - Thursday, June 18, 2015

Who: Abbey's Hope Charitable Foundation, and other top water safety organizations worldwide are going to be hosting The World's Largest Swimming Lesson for the third year in a row, in hopes to beat the leading cause of unintended, injury related death of children ages 1-5. Several hundred kids and families will be on site at Edina Aquatic Center to participate in this global event.

What: The World's Largest Swimming Lesson Guinness World Record attempt for the largest simultaneous swimming lesson ever conducted.

When: Thursday, June 18, 2015
Doors open: 9:30 AM
Lesson begins: 10:00 AM

Where: Edina Aquatic Center
4300 W 66th Street
Edina, MN 55435

Why: The World's Largest Swimming Lesson was created to spread the word that swimming lessons save lives. Tragically, drowning is the second leading cause of unintended, injury-related death for children ages 1-14. Last year there were over 300 participants. This year there is expected to be over 500 participants to break the world record!

Interview:

- Katey Taylor, Abbey's Hope Co-founder and President
- Alan Korn, Abbey's Hope Executive Director
- Lindsey Mondick, Associate Director of Aquatics at YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities
- Kate Lundsten, Head Coach of Aquajets Swim Team

Visuals:

- Children participating in the world record attempt
- Examples of good and poor drains and drain safety
- Trainer-led pool safety tips
- Water watchdog pledge and tag

Affordable homes for workers is city's goal

St. Louis Park policy mandates percentages for developments.

By JOHN REINAN
john.reinan@startribune.com

Developers who get a helping hand from the city of St. Louis Park will now be required to give one back.

The city has adopted a new "inclusionary housing" policy requiring developers who get financial aid from the city to include affordable housing in their projects. That includes tax increment financing, or TIF, a popular funding mechanism that allows tax revenue generated by a new development to be reinvested into it. The City Council approved the policy last week.

Although many cities in the metro area encourage the inclusion of affordable housing in city-assisted projects, relatively few require it, housing policy experts said. Minneapolis has a long-standing inclusionary policy, requiring two out of every 10 units on city-assisted projects to be affordable for households earning less than half the median income in the metro area.

Tim Brausen, a St. Louis Park City Council member, said that the city's booming housing market of recent years was almost completely focused on luxury and near-luxury apartments and condos.

"Even though we added hundreds of new units in the past five to 10 years, we hadn't added any affordable housing. It's clear the need was there," he said. "The question was, how were we going to address it?"

Brausen said affordable housing is important to maintaining the vitality of the city.

"The bottom line is, people who go into affordable housing — that's a family of four living on \$52,000," Brausen said. "That's not people making subsistence wages. These are working people — our firefighters, our teachers — that really need

See HOUSING on B2 ▶

6-9-15

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Edina Human Rights and Relations Commission
City Hall
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Dear Neighbors,
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Sanford Berman

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St. Louis Park mandates affordable housing units

◀ HOUSING from B1
housing in our community.

"The way the market has changed, I couldn't afford to buy my house in St. Louis Park today," Brausen said of the home he bought 18 years ago.

St. Louis Park's policy will require any city-assisted rental project of 10 units or more to make 8 percent to 10 percent of its units affordable to families making less than \$51,960 a year. For-sale developments must include at least 10 percent of units that are affordable to families making \$65,800 or less.

"Affordable housing in St. Louis Park means your average St. Louis Park family can afford to live in some of the new high-end developments in the city," said Council Member Jake Spano. "We want to make sure all sorts of folks have opportunities to

enjoy living in St. Louis Park."

State law requires cities to provide affordable housing opportunities. The Metropolitan Council establishes how much affordable housing the region needs overall, and allocates a share of that need to communities throughout the region so they can plan for sufficient land to make affordable housing possible. State law does not give authority to the Council to "force or compel the building of affordable housing," said Met Council spokeswoman Bonnie Kollodge.

St. Louis Park has been working on its inclusionary housing policy for several years, said Council Member Anne Mavity.

"Things take a while to come to fruition, but I'm so excited about this," she said.

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