

REPORT / RECOMMENDATION



To: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Agenda Item #: VIII. A.

From: Debra Mangen
City Clerk

Date: June 18, 2013

Subject: CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED AFTER PACKETS

Action
Discussion
Information

Action Requested:

Attached is correspondence received after the packets were delivered to you.

No action is necessary.

Deb Mangen

From: James Hovland <jhovland@krausehovland.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2013 1:32 PM
To: Deb Mangen
Cc: Scott Neal
Subject: FW: Xerxes barriers in parking lane

Apparently for the Council as well.

James B. Hovland, Esquire
KRAUSE & HOVLAND, Chartered
310 Groveland Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55403
jhovland@krausehovland.com
Phone: (612) 874-8550
Fax: (612) 874-9362
Cell: (612) 961-6192

From: SJGLBG@aol.com [<mailto:SJGLBG@aol.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2013 12:36 PM
To: James Hovland
Subject: Re: Xerxes barriers in parking lane

To: Mayor, Transportation employees and City Council and Planning Commission:

These barriers continue to confound everyone in our neighborhood! In the months since they were placed we have seen no more than **three parked cars between the barriers**. We drive this street most every day and wonder why tax money may be spent for such a negative project??

The residents 6000-6100 Xerxes all have long driveways and garages. On Saturday traffic was backed up to 59th & Xerxes and those wanting to get onto the 62nd Crosstown were all burning precious gas and wasting time trying to get to businesses to spend dollars (and enhance our tax base.) I say let's keep traffic moving and encourage returning customers to our businesses instead of turning them off because of long lines of congestion

If the people who live in these houses do not like the traffic or ??, having made a choice to buy these homes, we should suggest they find a place to live where their problem is no longer there. What we see is that our government, local or county, have bought into solving the mistaken choice they have made choosing a home and are now spending outrageous amounts of tax dollars caving into them. For them I see more stopped cars burning more gas and polluting the air around their yards & homes.

With building the new housing projects on the Southdale property and the one across from the hospital (which most surely will bring in more & more traffic), please explain how cutting out a traffic lane will be an asset to people getting to and from more and more businesses and housing projects that our government continues to approve being built.

Please pass this on to the above people who might be in on the decision of this project. In the meantime we hope and pray that it will be rethought about and cancelled.

Thank you.

Scott & LaVonne Garoutte
6105 Abbott Avenue South
Edina, MN

Phone: 952-920-0853

In a message dated 5/10/2013 6:32:52 P.M. Central Daylight Time, jhovland@krausehovland.com writes:

Scott and Lavonne,

Thanks for your email. I know there may be periods of time when you will experience driving frustration on Xerxes, especially this summer with the Penn Avenue traffic diverted, but that project will be over in October so it will be a summer filled with the need for extra patience, I believe.

As far as the barriers that the County has put up in the parking lane on the west side of Xerxes, they are there for educational purposes as the plan over the summer is to make it clear to drivers that Xerxes was designed as and will remain a two lane County road. Over time, the parking on the Edina side will be more clearly delineated between 60th and the Crosstown with defined parking bays and there will be lane separation occurring near the Crosstown to facilitate southbound, eastbound and westbound movements onto the Crosstown.

This is a joint effort between the County, the City and the neighbors that we hope will slow traffic and potentially affect the volume on this street. Therefore, I do not expect to see the County remove those barriers from the parking lane until the work on the bays is completed sometime in the future.

I know you may find this frustrating but the fact that Xerxes had become a de factor 4 lane road over time greatly impacted speeds and created safety conditions deemed unacceptable to both the County and the City and especially the residents living on Xerxes.

James B. Hovland, Esquire

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No virus found in this message.

Checked by AVG - www.avg.com

Version: 2013.0.3345 / Virus Database: 3199/6407 - Release Date: 06/13/13

Susan Howl

From: Lynette Biunno on behalf of Edina Mail
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2013 8:18 AM
Cc: Susan Howl
Subject: FW: air traffic changes



Lynette Biunno, Receptionist

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

lbiunno@EdinaMN.gov | www.EdinaMN.gov

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

From: Floyd Keith [<mailto:robinkeith3@aol.com>]
Sent: Monday, June 17, 2013 9:02 PM
To: Edina Mail
Subject: air traffic changes

Dear Mayor Holvand,

We recently read that the Minneapolis Airport Commission and the FAA are considering re-routing air traffic in a manner that increases traffic over the Lake Harriet/Lake Calhoun area.

This makes no sense. A few years ago we were reading that the airport spent several hundred million dollars to build a new runway to route air traffic over the unpopulated Minnesota River Valley to relieve the noise burden over the rest of Minneapolis. Now that runway gets light use and the noise will increase over our neighborhoods.

As an elected representative in our area we think it's your responsibility to see that the new runway is used for the purpose for which it was built. We would not be the only airport in the nation to have runways with crossing traffic.

Sincerely,

Robin and Linda Keith
5129 Morgan Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55419
612-927-4126
robinkeith3@aol.com

5437 Woodcrest Drive
Edina, MN 55424
June 13, 2013

Mayor Jim Hovland
The City of Edina
4801 W. 50th Street
Edina, MN 55424

Dear Mayor,

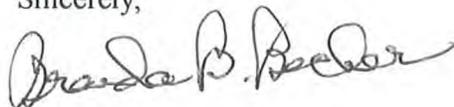
Because I understand you are a member of the Edina Community Lutheran Church, I wanted you to have a copy of the letter I wrote today to your church community. This morning, ECLC held an informational meeting with a few of its neighbors with adjacent/adjoining property to address some of the many concerns and questions we have regarding your proposed expansion.

My letter is my personal view of the situation. I feel with the current expansion plans that ECLC will have a long and arduous fight on its hands in trying to obtain the necessary permits and the goodwill of its neighbors. I would strongly urge your church community to step back and perhaps take a different look at what it is you are trying to accomplish and how you might accomplish that goal. I got the feeling from listening to ECLC people this morning that you do not truly have a concrete goal in sight.

Nothing good should be this painful to so many. And we neighbors are in absolute agony over what we feel are plans that do not settle gently, safely or harmoniously into the existing physical, cultural or environmental landscape.

Thank you for taking the time to read my viewpoint. While it is mine alone, I know many of my neighbors share similar views. And as a group, we are passionately opposed to your current plans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Brad B. Beber".

5437 Woodcrest Drive
Edina, MN 55424
June 13, 2013

Edina Community Lutheran Church
4113 W. 54th Street
Edina, MN 55424

Dear Church Community,

This morning, your people held an informal meeting in your church parking lot in order to address the many questions and concerns of your surrounding neighborhood in regard to your expansion plans. There was a large turnout, as your plans have sparked a fervor of dissent among your residential neighbors.

I had never stood in that parking lot before, but it was an inspiring moment for me when – as everyone was discussing the various aspects of how ECLC plans to address its need for “breathing room” - I was struck by the irony of it all: You have a cathedral in your backyard. One that was built by the head of your church. It is magnificent. It is soaring. It is peaceful. It is home to many of God's creatures.

And yet your plans turn away. Your plans are to tear down. Build retaining walls. Dig water retention pits. Cut down stately trees. Add more impervious ground cover in the form of asphalt to accommodate yet more cars in the ONE SPOT where you should have your focus. A visitor from outer space might surmise that cars were the things being worshipped here.

I suspect you are so very close to the situation that you literally cannot see the forest for the trees. You sit on what is likely the most incredible, most amazing, most beautiful church site anywhere in the western suburbs. And yet all you can think about is breathing space. Your plans virtually turn their back on God's creation, those beautiful Minnehaha Woods. Your proposed elevations have no decks or patios, no panoramic woods views, no easy and inviting egress plans that call your community outdoors. No plans for landscaping or woods plantings. It's as if the woods weren't even there. You've forgotten – turned your backs, even - on the most important part of your expansion!

Why not start once again. **Perhaps have a different set of architectural and spiritual eyes review the situation.** Sometimes, when a problem just doesn't seem solvable, taking a step back and then looking at it from a different perspective provides the solution. Read things like *The Not So Little House*. Consider bible passages that talk about the role of nature in faith (and I am sure you know that list is endless). Consider the potential for teaching your young people about carbon footprints and the necessity for *green* living, the need to leash in our country's rampant consumerism, the physical and emotional importance of green space, the values and lessons to be learned from nature, the need to respect a community's existing cultural and architectural values, to challenge the accepted “Bigger is Better” axiom, the importance of becoming an integral part of one's community, and on and on. What wonderful opportunities there are to teach your young people about how to get along in tomorrow's world!

If breathing space is what you are about, you might consider selling your property and moving to a commercially-zoned property where you can be assured all the breathing room you need, now and for decades into the future. And nobody would object to a 30-foot lighted cross to top off your wonderful, spacious environment, nor would anyone object to a building designed solely for that purpose.

If you are more than just about breathing space – and I truly believe you are - you have a unique opportunity here that I do not believe you recognize. You could enhance your ministry and your reputation within your community by simply embracing and embellishing what you have. Expansion? Sure. Done aesthetically and with a positive environmental impact. Done in a way that says, “We honor our earth and our community.” After all, *Community* is your middle name ...

Have you considered a Woods Ministry? Take your youth on silent meditation walks through your woods. Offer overnight camping in small groups (my neighbors camp there, but have you ever?). Create a small gathering space in the woods for weddings and small summertime outdoor services. Offer Holy Yoga on a beautiful deck overlooking your woods? Offer a nature photography class. The list is endless. Invite your neighbors to participate and to suggest ideas for how your woods could be incorporated into Christian worship. I would participate in a heartbeat. So would others I know.

My church, Mt. Olivet, was not so fortunate to have such a gorgeous woods environment but they felt a strong need to worship in a natural setting, and so they purchased Cathedral in the Woods. And it offers church-related and community activities year-round and is booked months in advance. It is one of the most popular programs offered at Mt. Olivet and a continual source of new members as well.

You have your own Cathedral in the Woods. If you could shift your focus somewhat away from what you don't have to what you DO have, I believe you would find this entire neighborhood on your side instead of fighting what you plan to do. We want you here, but we don't want what you want to become here.

Sincerely,

Brenda B. Becker

Susan Howl

From: Jennifer Bennerotte
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2013 11:28 AM
To: ED Everyone; Ann Swenson; James Hovland (jhovland@krausehovland.com); Joni Bennett; Josh Sprague; Mary Brindle (Comcast)
Subject: May Website Report

Good morning!

We use Google Analytics to monitor activity on our website. Activity on the City of Edina website reflected the following activity during the month of May 2013:

Total visits: 68,465
Number of unique visitors: 47,556
Average time of each visit: 2 minutes, 36 seconds
Total page views: 203,881

About 44 percent of visitors came just one time. More than 56 percent visited more often.

Besides the home page, the most visited page was the Braemar Golf Course home page with 10,965 page views. Other top pages included the following (with number of page views):

Edinburgh Park – 8,153
Centennial Lakes Park – 7,401
Edinburgh Park General Info – 4,497
Edinburgh Park Adventure Peak – 3,901
Edina Aquatic Center – 3,393
Calendar – 3,285
Braemar Golf Course Rates – 3,210
Centennial Lakes Park Attractions – 2,711
Edina Art Center – 2,668

The most frequently accessed PDF among visitors was the park facilities map. Other frequently downloaded files included the following:

Section 850 of the City Code (Zoning)
Chapter 6 of the City Code (Fire)
Flowchart of Phase 1 Rezoning Development Review
Dan Patch Rail Study
Planning Commission Variance
April Braemar Arena calendar
Flowchart of Phase 2 Rezoning Development Review
Community Street Map
May Braemar Arena calendar

The most popular blog category was the Parks & Recreation Department, followed by City Manager Scott Neal's and Police Chief Jeff Long's blogs. The most popular blog posts were "A Straightforward Discussion: Coyotes Are Here to Stay," "Uncomfortable Medical Procedures and Corporate Success," "Make Your Bed and Fold Your Clothes," "Adult Softball Teams" and "Single-Sort Recycling."

The most searched for terms to get people to our site were "City of Edina," "Braemar Golf Course," "Braemar Golf," "Edinburgh Park," "Centennial Lakes Park," "Edina MN," "Edina Art Center," "Edinburgh Park," "Edina Aquatic Center" and "Edina." The most searched for words or phrases people used once people arrived at our site were "flood plain," "jobs," "zoning map," "employment," "recycling," "tennis," "permits," "building permit," "water" and "search."

Speak Up, Edina

Activity on the "Speak Up, Edina" website reflected the following activity during the month of May 2013:

Total visits: 342

Number of unique visitors: 265

Average time of each visit: 1 minute, 5 seconds

Total page views: 948

More than 67 percent of visitors came just one time. About 33 percent visited more often. Much of the site's activity was centered around the residential redevelopment discussion.

Ecommerce

Ecommerce on our sites totaled \$68,904.28 in May. Top sellers were Aquatic Center season passes, \$23,295.49; building permits, \$12,866.20; Art Center classes, \$8,552; Braemar Arena skating lesson registration, \$5,430; and golf lesson registration, \$3,845.

Webstreaming

We have been streaming video on our website through Granicus for several years. In May, there were 341 views through Granicus. The most requested videos on Granicus in May were the May 7 City Council meeting, 77 views; May 8 Planning Commission meeting, 44; April 25 Transportation Commission meeting, 29; April 16 City Council meeting, 28; May episode of "Beyond the Badge," 23; April 17 City Council meeting, 23; April 24 Planning Commission meeting, 16; April 2 City Council meeting, 14; Feb. 22 Planning Commission meeting, 7; and Nov. 15, 2011 City Council meeting, 6.

We have been streaming all programming on YouTube since January 2011. In May 2013, there were 4,042 views for an estimated 10,879 minutes on the City's YouTube channel. The most requested videos on YouTube in May were the Public Works building demolition time lapse, 337 views; May episode of "Enterprise Edina," 162; "The Detective" public service announcement about water leaks, 141; 2013 LeagueAires community concert, 135; 2012 4th of July parade, 120; "Agenda: Edina" early May segment on the Police Officer of the Year, 119; Edina Aquatic Center commercials, 95; early May episode of "Agenda: Edina," 94; May 9 Rotary Club of Edina meeting, 92; and "What's Up with the Weather?" discussion, 85.

Suggestions, Comments

Please continue to review our new website and think about ways to improve it. If you have suggestions or questions, contact me. If you have things that need to be fixed, please write to helpdesk@EdinaMN.gov.

Thanks! Have a great day!



Jennifer Bennerotte, Communications & Technology Services Director

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JBennerotte@EdinaMN.gov | www.EdinaMN.gov

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