

REPORT / RECOMMENDATION



To: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Agenda Item #: VIII. A.

From: Debra Mangen
City Clerk

Date: November 19, 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: J. Drake Hamilton <Hamilton@fresh-energy.org>
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2013 8:51 AM
To: Edina Mail
Subject: Request from Fresh Energy: Support from Minnesota elected officials for President's Climate Action Plan
Attachments: Public Officials Sign-on Letter - President Climate Plan[1].docx

Importance: High

Dear Mayor Hovland,

Fresh Energy is asking Minnesota elected officials to consider signing on in support of this letter to President Obama, thanking him for his Climate Action Plan. I've attached the letter, and would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

We would be proud to have you as a signer.

Thank you in advance for your consideration,

J.

(Ms.) J. Drake Hamilton
Science Policy Director
Fresh Energy

651.726.7562 (direct)
www.fresh-energy.org

Dear President Obama,

As public officials concerned about our constituents' well-being, we thank you for your leadership to date on addressing climate change. We enthusiastically support the Climate Action Plan you have put forward. Climate change threatens the health of our families, our communities and the ecosystems on which we depend, and we are ready to work with and support you and your Administration. Together, we can implement a comprehensive approach to reduce carbon pollution while building resilient communities with strong local economies, reliable and affordable energy choices, and that are well-prepared for the impacts of climate change now and into the future.

As you know, the many communities that we represent are already feeling the effects of climate change now. We recognize, and are already seeing the economic and environmental benefits of a shift to clean energy that avoids the harmful emissions that cause global warming. We are also working to protect our communities with resilience strategies, but we also look forward to a strong partnership with the federal government to help us make our communities even stronger.

Under your leadership, we can help you achieve the key pillars of your plan to reduce carbon pollution, especially the first-ever national limits on carbon pollution from power plants, increases in the energy efficiency of our built environment, and smarter investments in our country's renewable energy infrastructure. By committing to clean up power plants with a stakeholder process similar to that which was used for other Clean Air Act standards, you are once again demonstrating your commitment to commonsense solutions that takes the challenge of climate change seriously. This move, combined with the strong efficiency and clean energy goals also outlined in your Climate Action Plan, is key to putting America on a path to a future powered by homegrown clean energy.

However, as you have rightly acknowledged, it is not enough just to reduce carbon pollution, we must also prepare and adapt to the impacts that are here today and those that are expected, including stronger and more damaging storms, flooding, heat waves, prolonged drought, more frequent wildfires, and other extremes. Therefore, we applaud your plan's commitment to identify and remove barriers to climate-resilient investment, to remove policies that increase vulnerabilities. We are particularly supportive of your pledge to provide targeted support and assistance to local governments as we work together to reduce our risk from climate change in a post-Superstorm Sandy world.

We are ready to stand up in support of this bold action to ensure our communities and our health are protected and that we are doing our part to take action to fight climate change. Thank you again, Mr. President, for your leadership in addressing the largest environmental crisis of our time.

Sincerely,
[Public Officials]

From: Steven J. Timmer <stimmer@planetlawyers.com>
Sent: Monday, November 18, 2013 9:27 AM
To: Edina Mail
Cc: 'Toby Muse'; ppasko@sehinc.com
Subject: Location of footprint of redesigned 54th Street

Good morning, Lynette, would you please forward this message to the people identified? The SEIH representatives are copied separately. Thanks, Steve

Memorandum

To: Dept. of Engineering, SEHI, Transportation Commission, City Manager Neal, Mayor Hovland & Members of the City Council

From: Steve Timmer

Re: Location of footprint of redesigned 54th Street

Date: November 18, 2013

One of the nettlesome concerns for homeowners about the 54th Street project is where, exactly, the south edge of the project will be located. No one can tell me this. This surprises me, frankly, given the state of the art in GPS surveying and the number of iron monuments around. But I do know that location of the back side of the curb *vis-à-vis* the face of a utility pole is one consideration in locating the project itself. As is the replacement of ageing utility poles – at least the worst ones.

Examining the second issue first, it is clear that there are legitimate questions about the poles, even apart from their location.



This is a photograph of the utility poles between Oaklawn and Wooddale. (The leftmost pole is midblock on Oaklawn.) You can see that the pole at the corner of 54th and Kellogg leans significantly to the north. Whether it is from frost heave or rot, or a combination of the two, I cannot say. The other utility poles are, I believe, of the same vintage.

It seems shortsighted to base the footprint location decision on utility poles that will not, almost certainly, last anywhere near as long as the concrete curb.

It also seems that the utilities whose services the poles carry ought to pay for their replacement.

Burying the utilities, as some have suggested, is really not a solution that gets rid of utility poles, because, of course, the mid-block poles are necessary for the distribution of power, phone and cable to individual homes.

Moreover, the "rule" we've been quoted of 2' from the face of a utility pole to the face of a curb (18" from the face of the pole to the back of a curb) is honored as much in the breach as in the observance.

My neighbor Mark Epple has provided several photos to you of examples where this "rule" is not observed, just in the vicinity of 54th Street. Driving around the city you can see many other examples of road construction, old and new, of utility poles closer to curbs than the rule, including this one of recent road

reconstruction at 44th and Wooddale (NW corner of the intersection). (This is also a Mark Epple photograph.) It's wide – or rather narrow – of the mark by more than a foot.



Mark has also asked for the source of this “rule,” but to my knowledge, he has not received a response from engineering or SEHI.

Since laying a curb is like squirting toothpaste from a tube these days, it seems technically possible to place it anywhere you want, right up the pole itself, as the photo above demonstrates, rather convincingly.

Many of us press for the centering of the footprint of this project in the right of way; I hope that the discussion here will be of assistance to you.

Thanks, Steve Timmer

Steve Timmer
5348 Oaklawn Avenue
stimmer@planetlawyers.com

Deb Mangen

From: Dale Rasmussen <rasmussen.dale15@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 17, 2013 3:06 PM
To: Edina Mail
Cc: jonibennett12@comcast.net; Mary Brindle (Comcast); joshsprague@edinarealty.com; swensonann1@gmail.com; a2t2@comcast.net; wlindholm@gmail.com; cmilner@EdinaMN.gov; Jill Rasmussen
Subject: Birchcrest B Sidewalk Project

Dear Mayor Hovland;

I am sending this Email regarding the 2008 Transportation comprehensive plan for sidewalks. This states that sidewalks should go to school zones to business districts, parks and other community activity areas.

The majority of the homeowners that are directly impacted by the sidewalk issue see no need for a sidewalk eventually going to Hansen Road which we feel is not a desirable destination that adds value to our community.

All the properties in the Birchcrest A, B, C community are modest ramblers with approximately 35 feet from the curb to the front step. There are no elaborate homes or landscaping such as in Rolling Greens, Indian Hills or the County Club areas that would entice me or my neighbors to walk this "sidewalk to no where".

My wife and I walk Centennial Lakes or Lake Harriet which is far more picturesque and desirable than Valley View Road.

Our neighborhood is very opposed to the sidewalk project in this area and would like the opportunity to discuss this with City officials.

Regards,
Dale Rasmussen
952.920.4457

From: John Currie <john@currieworks.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 17, 2013 6:25 PM
To: Edina Mail
Subject: THE SHAME OF IT ALL: An open letter to the Edina City Council

Dear Edina City Council:

I am speaking about the City Council's vote to wrest the Hooten Cleaners building from its long-time owners, Soon and Jenny Park, and replace it with a parking ramp and a liquor store.

I want to believe that you, Joni Bennett, Josh Sprague, and Ann Swenson, voted to impose eminent domain because you thought it truly was for the greater good of our community.

I want to believe that the three of you truly felt that ignoring the desires of this couple--who have been an active, friendly and economically positive part of our community for over twenty years--was somehow the right thing to do.

I want to believe that you really feel that ignoring their specific valuable contribution to our Edina, tearing down their building and their plans and security for their future, and substituting in its place a swath of grey concrete and a new liquor store, was really going to benefit all of us.

I want to believe that your sense of right and propriety took into foremost consideration their proven devotion to our community and what the value of their building would be to them over the years of retirement, not just the lowest price the city could get away with paying in the short term.

I want to believe that you see them as I see ALL Edina residents, as people first, with all the needs and feelings and hopes and desires that we all share, and as mere occupants last.

I want to believe that if the other members of the City Council decided that my needs as a long-time Edina resident would be better served by condemning YOUR homes and turning them into three small public green spaces, essential for improving the quality of life for all Edina residents and better connecting us with the natural world and with each other, you would accept whatever offer the city made for your homes and pack up and change your plans for your family's entire future without protest. And be happy that this would contribute to the greater good.

I want to believe that you three gave them every possible consideration.

I want to believe that you gave them adequate notice of all hearings and discussions, and when their time came to be before the Council, you gave them as much time as they requested to express themselves and to make their case.

And I want to believe that now that your decision has been cast, you can see that for whatever good you thought that you were doing, you now realize that you were wrong, and that rescinding your decision, or holding another vote, or paying to them the price that they sought is now the thing to do, restoring their feelings and their trust that the city of Edina is more than a pretty place to live and is, in fact, a compassionate community where the lives and needs and aspirations of its member citizens matter before all things and serves as its absolutely essential foundation.

But I don't.

What I believe is that somehow, you decided that none of these things really matter.

What I believe is that you don't see the lives of individual Edina residents as very important, certainly not as much as the short-term benefit of a lower price payout from city coffers.

What I believe is that you that you failed to do your due diligence, that you think that somehow, by moving the municipal liquor store a few blocks, it will magically have a dramatic improvement in its business, ignoring the ever more competitive liquor store category and the two new low price stores added within less than five miles from this spot.

What I believe is that what is theirs is theirs first, and ours second, that individual rights and freedoms, the very cornerstone of EVERYTHING in our nation's Constitution, and that no matter how much you or anyone wants it, it is up to

them to decide what to do with it.

What I believe is that we live in a society and an economy where if you want what someone else has, you may offer to buy it from them, and if you want it badly enough, you will be willing to pay whatever price they ask. If you think that it costs too much, don't buy it. It's that simple. That's the free market economy.

What I believe is that you acted like a bully, forcibly taking away from them what you could not convince them to sell to you at an agreed-upon price.

What I believe is that you are probably now willing to spend Edina city monies to pay outside attorneys to investigate this further, cover court costs and defend your actions, money that could be used instead to help pay the Parks.

What I believe is that many of us are sorely disappointed in the three of you. We are ashamed at what the three of you have done, and that we are equally proud that Mayor Jim Hovland and council member Mary Brindle voted against what you so readily supported, that their values and their respect for our neighbors greatly exceed your own.

What I believe is that you have failed in your role on the council and you have failed us.

What I believe is that there is a growing groundswell of Edina resident anger with you and support for a change.

And I believe that our patience and remaining quiet about this and your failings are about to come to an end.

John Currie
4929 W Sunnyslope Road
Edina 55424
Resident since 1996



Lee Blons
Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative
2610 University Avenue W. Suite 100
Saint Paul, MN 55114
LBlons@beaconinterfaith.org
651-789-6260

November 11, 2013

Mr. Jim Hovland
Mayor of Edina
4801 W. 50th St.
Edina, MN 55424

Dear Mayor Hovland,

On October 22, 2013, over 85 people across the community came together at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Edina to discuss how we will bring supportive housing to the West Metro for our youth experiencing homelessness.



They made a commitment to take action by hosting a presentation to bring awareness about this issue in our community, attending a tour of Nicollet Square, or contacting their elected official about their passion for homeless youth.

Senator Melisa Franzen spoke passionately about making supportive housing in our community a priority for homeless youth. There was also deep discussion about the lack of resources and the urgency to bring these resources to our community so youth can stay closely connected to their mentors and friends. There are many constituents in your city devoted to making this happen.



We want you to know that we appreciate your interest in our work at Nicollet Square. It is clear that more Nicollet Squares are needed in our community for our teens. We invite you to continue working with us in our mission to end youth homelessness in western suburbs throughout the development.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lee Blons".

Lee Blons
Executive Director

Enclosed are some of the special messages from your constituents.

Dear Mayor Hobland,

I am a pastor at Shepherd of the Hills in Edina. I am writing to you for you to consider supporting any initiative that prevent and supports youth who are living in homelessness. It is our call to care for all. This is one critical endeavor we must take on as children of God.

God bless you in your vocation
Karen Treat, Intern Pastor

I am also excited to work toward a better solution for homeless youth today. I would welcome supportive housing for homeless youth & young adults in my City.

Thank you!

Pastor Joanna Mitchell
Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran

Dear Mayor Jim Houland,

I hope that you will be a part of the solution to ending youth homelessness in the West metro. When I was a teen our family housed one of my sister's friends for almost a year. At the time I never thought that he in fact was homeless. I was glad to provide a warm home then and

Dear Mayor Houland,

I am delighted that your church, ECLC, is spearheading an effort to build supportive, affordable housing for homeless youth. I would welcome such housing in Edina!

Sincerely,

Jackie Prince
7200 York Ave S. #602

Mayor Houland

I encourage you to continue your support for Youth Housing in the Western suburbs. I appreciate your efforts. I am encouraged by the growing support for this initiative.

Thank you,
Mark Swiggum

Dear Jim,
You know how excited EQLG is about

the opportunity to help build a facility for homeless youth in one of the western suburbs. At the Beacon breakfast this morning there was so much enthusiasm for this possibility! What a wonderful legacy it would be to have that facility in Edina.

Thanks for all you do
for your leadership —
Sue Gardner

Edina City Council and Mayor
Hovland;

I have become aware of the
problem of youth homelessness in
the West Metro. I would like to
be part of the solution and would
welcome support for housing for
homeless youth and young adults in
our community. Let's work together
to find ways to support our youth.

Thank you
Peggy Bell
5707 Zenith Ave S
Edina

Mayor Howland -

Homelessness is a problem in
Minnesota - even in Edenia.

Please support the ECOC effort
to create housing for
homeless youth in Edenia or
the Western Suburbs.

Thank you!

Linda Woodstrom
4109 MorningSide Pt Edenia

Mayor Howland —

I support housing for
homeless youth in Edenia.

Raymond J. Wiehe
5812 Jeff Place
Edenia

Jim,

I would welcome supportive housing
for homeless youth and young adults
in Edina.

Blessings on your work,

Catherine Malottey
a member of Edina Community
Lutheran Church

Mayor Howard —

October 22, 2013

I attended Beacon's program this morning
highlighting the need for ending youth
homelessness in the West Metro area. I want
you to know that I support youth affordable
housing in Edina.

Jackie Snelson
6832 Gleason Road
Edina 55439