

**MINUTES
OF THE WORK SESSION OF THE
EDINA CITY COUNCIL
HELD AT CITY HALL
JUNE 21, 2011
5:36 P.M.**

Mayor Hovland called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m. in the Community Room of City Hall. Answering rollcall were Members Bennett, Sprague, Swenson and Mayor Hovland.

Staff attending the meeting included: Jennifer Bennerotte, Communications & Marketing Director; Kaylin Martin, Communications Assistant/Crime Prevention Coordinator; Scott Neal, City Manager; Joyce Repya, Associate Planner; Ceil Smith, Assistant to the City Manager; and Cary Teague, Planning Director.

Mayor Hovland said the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the concept of City support of organized neighborhood associations.

Manager Neal introduced Marney Olson, the City of St. Louis Park's Community Liaison, who provided a historical overview of St. Louis Park's program, reporting that the block captain and Neighborhood Home Watch program began in St. Louis Park in the 1980s. In 1992, a Neighborhood Revitalization Commission was established. In 1996, a pilot grant program was initiated to provide some funds to organized neighborhood associations. In 1998, a full-time staff position was created to support the work of the program.

The program was established to create a stronger sense of community within neighborhoods, improve the appearance of neighborhoods, improve security and help residents achieve a high quality of life, according to Olson.

The City of St. Louis Park established boundaries for 35 different neighborhoods that include all of the households in the city. Of those, Olson said approximately 27 of the neighborhoods were organized. Neighborhoods vary in size from 200 or so households to more than 2,000. The St. Louis Park Comprehensive Plan calls for plans by neighborhood and the Police Department tracks calls by neighborhood.

The City of St. Louis Park prints newsletters and fliers, provides speakers as requested at neighborhood events and meetings, provides a standardized web page on its City website, erects signage in the neighborhood and gives associations free use of park building and public facilities for meetings and events. In addition, neighborhoods can apply for grants to pay for such things as mailings, websites, service project materials and community-building events. Olson said that \$31,000 was made available in grants in 2011.

Neighborhoods must have bylaws and at a minimum hold an in-person annual meeting in order to be eligible for the City of St. Louis Park's program.

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Council members asked questions about neighborhood association bylaws, grants and insurance. Mayor Hovland said it was important for the City to understand how many Edina neighborhoods were already organized or interested in organizing.

Council members indicated their general support for City support of organized neighborhood associations in Edina and directed staff to report back with a proposed structure of City support, a process for defining neighborhood boundaries and timeline.

There being no further business, Mayor Hovland adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Bennerotte, Communications & Marketing Director

Minutes approved by Edina City Council, July 5, 2011

James B. Hovland, Mayor