

Council Connection



Upcoming meetings:

- Aviation Noise Meeting with Congressman Keith Ellison, 5:30 p.m. Aug. 27
- Human Rights & Relations Commission, 7 p.m. Aug. 27
- Planning Commission, 7 p.m. Aug. 28
- City Council, 7 p.m. Sept. 3
- Public Art Committee, 4 p.m. Sept. 5

City Contacts

City Manager
Scott Neal 952-826-0401

Assistant City Manager
Karen Kurt 952-826-0415

City Clerk
Debra Mangan 952-826-0408

Economic Development Manager
Bill Neuendorf 952-826-0407

Community Development Director
Cary Teague 952-826-0460

Transportation Planner
Mark Nolan 952-826-0322

We'd like to hear from you ...
If you have any comments, call Communications & Technology Services Director Jennifer Bennerotte at 952-833-9520. The text of this publication will be available online at www.EdinaMN.gov.



A summary of the Aug. 20 Edina City Council meetings

City hires firm to plan parking improvements at 50th & France

The City Council voted to retain a consulting firm to plan parking improvements in downtown Edina at 50th & France.

Building off of work done in 2012 by Walker Parking, Kimley-Horn will identify strategies for increasing the efficient use of parking spaces; determine appropriate streetscape improvements to update and unify the shopping area; study expansion options of the North Ramp, including new commercial space on the street level; and study options for improving the South and Middle ramps.

In addition to completing a feasibility study, the firm will develop design documents for priority repairs and lighting improvements to be completed yet this year.

The maximum cost of the work will be \$260,000, which will be assessed back to the commercial properties in the area.

It is anticipated that if the feasibility study is approved, Kimley-Horn would be hired again to prepare design documents so that the preferred solutions can be implemented and constructed in 2014 and 2015.

Council adopts Living Streets Policy

The Council approved a Living Streets Policy.

Living Streets balances the needs of motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists and transit riders in a way that promotes safety and convenience, enhances economic vitality, creates opportunities for active living and sustains the environment.

Just over two years ago, the Edina City Council authorized the Edina Transportation Commission to draft a Living Streets Policy and implementation plan. The City Council

approved that policy at its meeting Aug. 20.

Now, Transportation Planner Mark Nolan will work with an advisory group to draft content for the Living Streets Plan. The Plan will address how the policy will be implemented with detail on street design, traffic calming tactics, bike facilities, landscaping and lighting, as well as best practices for community engagement during the design process.

Council OKs plans for 'Vernon Avenue Housing'

The Council approved a new housing development – Vernon Avenue Housing – for northwest Edina.

The City Council recently approved the redevelopment of three lots located at 5109 to 5125 W. 49th St.

The developer, Hunt Associates, plans to tear down the existing single-family home and two apartment buildings on the site and build a new 16-unit attached housing development. The properties total 1.43 acres in area, so the proposed density of the project will be 11 units per acre.

The developer has two years to start construction.

Council denies subdivision

The Council voted against a subdivision on Tracy Avenue and directed the City Attorney to prepare findings of fact to support a denial.

Rodney Helm, on behalf of Tom and Gretchen Shanight, proposed subdividing the property at 5612 Tracy Ave. into two lots. The existing home would be torn down, and two new homes built. To accommodate the request, a subdivision would be required, as well as variances for lot width, depth and area. Both lots would gain access off Tracy Avenue by a shared driveway, utilizing the existing driveway to the site.

Among other things, the Council

was concerned about the shared driveway and voted against the proposal.

Council reviews sketch plan

The Council reviewed a sketch plan for a change in building use on Edina Industrial Blvd.

The Council reviewed plans to change 5801 Edina Industrial Blvd. from office uses to retail uses including a drive-through. Currently, the building on the site contains a real estate office, hair loss treatment center, telecommunication switching site and a small vacancy formerly occupied by a builder office/showroom. Frauenschuh Commercial Real Estate Group would like to repurpose and remodel the existing building with neighborhood retail services.

To accommodate such a proposal, the site will need to be rezoned to Planned Commercial District-2 (PCD-2) and the Comprehensive Guide Plan would have to be amended. The property lies just west of Highway 100 and is located across the street from retail uses that are zoned PCD-2. Uses include a gas station, Burger King and a small retail strip. North and east of the site are office/light industrial uses.

Because the proposed uses of the property would be consistent with the existing land uses to the south, and because the site is within an area of the City that was designated as a "Potential Area of Change" within the 2008 Comprehensive Plan, Council Members were generally supportive of the idea.

Frauenschuh Commercial Real Estate Group will now need to formally apply for rezoning and the Comprehensive Guide Plan amendment and go through the approval process.