

Council Connection



Upcoming meetings:

- Human Rights & Relations Commission, 7 pm. Oct. 23
- Planning Commission, 7 p.m. Oct. 24
- Art Center Board, 4:30 p.m. Oct. 25
- Transportation Commission, 6 p.m. Oct. 25

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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 Oct. 16 Edina City Council meeting

Council focuses on future of Art Center

At a work session prior to its regular meeting, the Council met with the Art Center Board to hear the results of a study and plan the future of the facility.

Sutton & Associates recently finished a study of the Art Center's operations and organizational structure. Consultants recommended the City hire a permanent director for the Art Center, focus on raising funds that will allow the facility to expand its offerings in visual and performing arts and other artistic forms, and give careful consideration to any proposals to enhance the Art Center building, as it might benefit from being at a different location.

Art Center Board members will solicit feedback from the community on the facility's mission, draft recommendations based on the study and forward them to the Council before the end of the year.

Council OKs zoning ordinance amendment

The Council amended the City's zoning ordinance to allow for a new produce stand.

Fairview Southdale Hospital requested a zoning ordinance amendment to allow produce stands in the Regional Medical District, similar to those allowed in the Planned Commercial District. As a part of the *do.Town* initiative, Fairview Southdale Hospital would like to have a very

small farmers market at the northeast corner of 65th Street and Drew Avenue, to primarily serve its employees. The market would consist of no more than five vendors selling fruit, vegetables, herbs and fresh-cut flowers. The market would only be open one day per week, on Tuesdays from 2 to 5 p.m. from June through October.

With no concerns, the Council approved the zoning ordinance amendment.

Council gets first peek at plans for new restaurant building

A developer presented his idea for an upscale restaurant on France Avenue.

Frauenschuh Commercial Real Estate Group presented a sketch plan to develop the northeast corner of 7700 France Ave. with a single-story 7,500-square-foot building for a restaurant. The 7700 France property totals 17 acres and contains a six-story, 319,000-square-foot office building and a 7,623-square-foot, single-story office building used by a bank in the southeast corner of the site.

The restaurant would be designed for seating up to 250 people and would provide 93 dedicated parking spaces in addition to the shared parking with the office building. Planning staff believes shared parking might work well since the restaurant and office would have different peak time operations.

The proposed restaurant would be made of high-quality stone, glass and metal. An area for outdoor dining is envisioned, though it might not be used.

Council members were generally pleased with the concept and recommended the developer seek Planned Unit Development rezoning.

Council adopts utility franchise fees

The Council approved new utility franchise fees to create a new revenue stream to accelerate the construction of sidewalk, trail and non-motorized transportation projects around the community.

The utility franchise fees are estimated to generate more than \$1 million in new revenue every year. In addition to construction costs of sidewalks and trails, the franchise fee revenues will be used to fund lighting, right-of-way acquisition, consulting and staff costs. One new staff position will be created to oversee the projects.

The franchise fee for a residential utility account is \$1.45 per month for both Xcel and CenterPoint Energy customers, for a total of \$2.90 per month. The addition of the proposed franchise fees raises the monthly bill in each case by approximately 1.6 percent. There are higher monthly fees for commercial accounts.