

Council Connection



Upcoming meetings:

- Heritage Preservation Board, 7 p.m. Feb. 12
- Park Board, 7 p.m. Feb. 12
- Planning Commission, 7 p.m. Feb. 13
- Energy & Environment Commission, 7 p.m. Feb. 14
- City Council, 7 p.m. Feb. 19

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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.

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A summary of the Feb. 5 Edina City Council meeting

Council meets with State Representative

At a work session prior to its regular meeting, the Council met with Rep. Ron Erhardt.

The Council met with Erhardt to discuss current and proposed legislative matters, including discussions about transportation funding, gun control, sales taxes, Sunday liquor sales, aviation noise issues and a proposal to allow city governments to allow their city employees to have health insurance benefits for their domestic partners.

Council reviews sketch plan for Morningside homes

The Council reviewed ideas for a housing redevelopment on the Edina-St. Louis Park border.

Frank Sidell has three subdivision alternatives for the Morningside Neighborhood property located in between Littel Street and Morningside Road. Sidell presented the sketch plans to the Council. Sketch plan reviews allow applicants to obtain feedback from the Planning Commission and City Council before they proceed with formal applications.

The Council heard ideas for the subdivision, dubbed "Acres DuBois" in honor of Franklin DuBois Sidell, for 4412 Morningside Road and 4232 Oakdale Ave. Members provided feedback and

encouraged Sidell to advance the plans for the "Modified Original Proposal" to the Planning Commission for formal approval.

Council continues talks of neighborhood boundaries

The City is continuing work to determine boundaries for Edina's neighborhoods.

A Neighborhood Identification Steering Committee led the "Name Your Neighborhood" project to determine neighborhood names and boundaries. The group of residents also helped staff draft a policy for establishing and interacting with City-recognized neighborhood associations.

Once approved, residents in each neighborhood would have the option to voluntarily form a City-recognized neighborhood association. Some goals of voluntary associations are to foster communication between neighborhoods and the City, promote community and civic engagement, and ensure neighborhood safety and security.

Some Council Members expressed concern that the policy would prohibit neighborhood boundary changes from being made for three years. Name changes can be requested within the first year of a neighborhood being recognized, but would not be allowed after that period of time.

The City Council will continue its discussion on the initiative at a work session in April.

City to purchase downtown property

The City Council, acting as the Housing and Redevelopment Authority, authorized the purchase of the building at 3930 W. 49 1/2 St.

Edina Realty currently leases the two-story office building, but plans to relocate to the nearby Pinehurst Building. The City will pay \$2.65 million dollars for the property.

The City has studied parking in downtown Edina and found that additional public parking is needed to support the continued success of the district. The study confirmed that the existing ramp on West 49 1/2 Street – known as the "North Ramp" – can be expanded. Acquiring the Edina Realty building could allow for a seamless expansion of the ramp.

Construction of additional parking at the North Ramp could compensate for the temporary loss of spaces during a possible renovation of the Middle and South ramps.

Edina Realty's lease goes through May 31. The City will close on the property June 3 and will raze the building sometime later this year.