

Council Connection



Upcoming meetings:

- Art Center Board, 4:30 p.m. Sept. 27
- Planning Commission, 7 p.m. Sept. 27
- City Council, 7 p.m. Oct. 2
- Public Art Committee, 4 p.m. Oct. 4

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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 Sept. 19 Edina City Council meeting

Council approves two-year firefighters' contract

The Council approved a two-year contract with IAFF 1275 representing Edina's firefighters.

Highlights of the new agreement include a 1 percent cost of living adjustment in both 2013 and 2014 and a new lower cap on the amount of paid vacation leave that employees can earn. Also, new health insurance benefit language was agreed upon. The employer health insurance contribution will now be equal to all other full-time employees.

Council upholds Planning Commission decision

The Council denied a neighbor's appeal of a variance in northwest Edina.

Daniel Wagner and Lindsey Gerrity own the property at 5000 Schaefer Road. It is a corner lot located south of Interlachen Boulevard and west of Schaefer Road. It consists of a one-story home with an attached two car garage built in 1954. Last month, the couple proposed adding a garage stall and mud room onto

the west side of the existing garage. The existing garage does not conform to setback rules from Interlachen Boulevard.

On Aug. 22, the Planning Commission voted 6-1 to approve a variance for the project, based on the limited opportunity for expansion on the property given the required setbacks. On Sept. 4, a neighbor appealed the variance.

Council Members indicated their general support for the couple's expansion plans and denied the appeal.

City vacates ROW

The Council vacated a portion of a public right-of-way in the Morningside Neighborhood.

Matt and Jennifer Samuel asked the City to give up a portion of the unimproved public right-of-way adjacent to their property at 4166 Monterey Ave., so that they can build a new home in a way that uses the land "in the most effective manner consistent with the original plat." They argued that the topography and location of the easement made it difficult to design a home.

The Council agreed that the Samuels' plans were sensitive to adjacent homeowners and would not injure any of the City's future development plans. The City is left with an easement large enough to one day be used for a bike path or sidewalk.

Council urges voters to vote 'no'

The Council approved a resolution expressing opposition to the proposed "Voter ID Amendment."

On Nov. 6, Minnesota voters will be asked to vote on the question "Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to require all voters to present valid photo identification to vote and to require the state to provide free identification to eligible voters, effective July 1, 2013?"

Members of the Human Rights & Relations Commission say that constitutional amendments should not be used to stifle, prevent or restrict voting in any way. Commissioners recommended the City Council approved a resolution expressing opposition to the proposed amendment.