

Council Connection



Upcoming meetings:

- Heritage Preservation Board, 7 p.m. March 13
- Park Board, 7 p.m. March 13
- Neighborhood Identification Steering Committee, 6:30 p.m. March 14
- Planning Commission, 7 p.m. March 14
- Transportation Commission, 6 p.m. March 15

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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 March 6 Edina City Council meeting

Council adopts new precinct boundaries

The Council adopted new precinct boundaries.

Following every decennial census, the legislative boundaries are reviewed and adjusted as necessary to keep balance between Minnesota's Congressional, State Senate and House districts. In late February, the 2012 redistricting plan was released. In Edina, the court followed the school district boundary line when establishing the boundary between Districts 49A and 49B east of France Avenue. The 49A/49B boundary splits the buildings at 7200 and 7220 York Avenue. City staff has requested special legislation to correct the problem.

So that Hennepin County can complete its redistricting, the City Council adopted new precinct boundaries for the city in early March. Following the enactment of special legislation, the Council may then adopt another resolution adjusting only the line between precincts 17 and 18 where 7200 and 7220 York Avenue vote.

Council continues mulling France Avenue project

The Council continued its review of a redevelopment on France Avenue.

FE 70 has proposed tearing down the gas station at 6996 France Ave. and rebuilding an 8,260-square-foot office and retail building. The building would include a 3,000-square-foot retail space for Vitamin Shop and a 5,260-square-foot

office for a financial firm.

To move forward with the project, the property must be rezoned as a Planned Unit Development and the Council must grant final development plan approval.

The Council reviewed the developer's sketch plan for the project in July. The design of the building changed since that time. Because Council members preferred the sketch plan, they tabled action on the matter, asking the developer to revise the building's elevations to look more like the first drawings they reviewed.

The Council is expected to take action on the matter at its March 20 meeting.

Council approves reconstruction of Tracy Avenue

The Council approved the reconstruction of Tracy Avenue from Benton Avenue to Vernon Avenue.

The roadway will be widened from 36 to 40 feet to allow for a parking lane on the east side of the street and five-foot bike lanes in either direction. Tracy Avenue was identified as a primary bike route in the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Because the intersection is offset and could present safety issues near Countryside Elementary School, staff proposed a roundabout for the intersection of Tracy and Benton. Since no accidents have been reported there and several residents testified in op-

position to it, Council members did not include it in the project.

The overall cost is estimated at nearly \$1.3 million. Funding for this project will come from a combination of utility funds, special assessments and State gas tax funds.

Along with the rest of the City's 2012 street reconstruction projects, the reconstruction is expected to begin this spring, with substantial or complete construction by fall.

Council grants probationary liquor license

The Council approved a probationary liquor license for a restaurant at 50th & France.

Local law requires that all establishments holding liquor licenses within the City of Edina maintain a ratio of food-to-alcohol sales of 60 percent food to 40 percent alcohol. At the time Cocina del Barrio submitted its application for renewal, its ratio was 51:49.

The Council fined Cocina del Barrio \$500 and granted them a 12-month probationary on-sale intoxicating and Sunday sale liquor license, effective April 1, 2012 through March 31, 2013. The restaurant owner said he has developed strategies to increase food sales and is willing to work with City staff in order to do so. City staff will complete a monitoring visit after six months.