

# Council Connection



## Upcoming meetings:

- Human Rights & Relations Commission, 7 p.m. July 24
- Planning Commission, 7 p.m. July 25
- Art Center Board, 4:30 p.m. July 26
- Public Art Committee, 4 p.m. Aug. 2
- City Council, 7 p.m. Aug. 6

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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](http://www.EdinaMN.gov).



## A summary of the July 17 Edina City Council meeting

### **Council reviews YTD financials, work plan progress**

The Council reviewed the City's year-to-date financials and progress made on its work plan at a work session prior to its regular meeting.

General Fund revenues total about \$14.3 million through June 30, 2012. This amount represents 47.5 percent of total budgeted revenues for all of 2012, which is slightly lower compared to 48 percent a year ago at the same time. However, license and permit revenue increased \$204,380 from last year due to increased permit activity during the first quarter. Permit revenue for the second quarter of 2012 was very similar to the second quarter of 2011. Through six months, the City is on pace to collect more permit revenue than was budgeted for 2012.

Total General Fund expenditures are 47 percent of budget so far this year, which is higher than the 44 percent rate from a year ago. Generally, the City spends 25 percent of its budget each quarter.

The Council previously developed a "work plan," identifying six themes for the 2012-13 biennial budget to guide staff in identifying projects and prioritizing work in support of the City's mission and vision. Additionally, City leadership identified six themes for the biennial budget related to internal City operations.

Staff reported several accomplishments related to the work plan, including completion of the GrandView development framework and Southdale redevelopment agreement, adoption of unified bylaws for boards and commissions and reorganization of City staff. Other successes include the launch of a new City website, hiring of several key positions, and work on various do.town efforts.

The Council plans to hold quarterly business meetings to review financials and work plan progress. The

next such meeting will be held in October.

### **Council turns down redevelopment project**

The Council did not support plans for a new retail and medical building on France Avenue.

Mount Properties proposed tearing down the existing office buildings at 4005 W. 65th St. and 6500 France Ave. to build a new six-story, 81-foot tall, 102,406-square-foot medical office and retail building with a detached five-level parking ramp. The project is proposed to be developed in two phases. The first phase would be the construction of a four-story, 69,456-square-foot medical office with a three-level detached parking ramp. The second phase would add two levels to each structure.

The first floor of the new building would contain 7,000 square feet of retail space including a coffee shop, barber shop and medical supplies. The next four levels would contain 62,310 square feet of medical office.

Several Council members indicated concerns with the proposed height of the building. The Council directed staff to prepare findings for denial to be presented at its next meeting.

### **Council approves construction of Hornets Nest**

The City Council approved the construction of the "Hornets Nest" at Braemar Arena.

The two-story expansion will include new locker rooms and associated space for the Edina High School boys and girls hockey teams. The Hornets Nest will also include a General Sports retail store and Velocity dryland training facility.

Private donations are making the project possible. Approval of the \$3 million project was contingent on the "Drive for the Hive" advocates raising nearly \$800,000 in

private contributions. Edina Public Schools will cover expenses associated with operating the locker rooms and the Edina Hockey Association and Braemar-City of Lakes Figure Skating Club will pay a \$20 annual surcharge for each of their participants for 20 years. Those sources, along with lease revenue for the training facility and retail area, are meant to cover the costs of the project.

The addition is expected to be complete by Dec. 1.

### **Council finds ways to improve cost recovery at Edinborough**

Because Edinborough Park operates in the red, the City Council approved some changes to improve cost recovery there.

Edinborough's featured amenities – including Adventure Peak, swimming pool, fitness facilities, Birthday Party Plateau and Great Hall – will remain intact, but most of the park's trees will be removed. Once the trees are removed, horticultural staffing will be reduced and the lighting replaced with a more energy-efficient system. The lower level of the grotto will be filled in to create a larger and more usable and accessible space.

All park user fees, including admissions, birthday parties and pool rental, will be increased.

The changes will result in cost recovery of 80 percent or more, which is a significant increase over the park's current cost recovery of about 70 percent.

To better market the swimming pool and fitness facilities, the Council will consider renovating and expanding the locker rooms if agreements with area homeowners and businesses can be extended. The current agreements, which require them to pay fees to help with park upkeep in exchange for use of the facilities, expire in a few years.