

Council Connection



Upcoming meetings:

- Public Art Committee, 4 p.m. Jan. 5
- Transportation Commission, 6 p.m. Jan. 9
- Heritage Preservation Board, 7 p.m. Jan. 10
- Park Board, 7 p.m. Jan. 10
- Planning Commission, 7 p.m. Jan. 11

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We'd like to hear from you ...
If you have any comments, call Communications & Marketing Director Jennifer Bennerotte at 952-833-9520. The text of this publication will be available online at www.CityofEdina.com.



A summary of the Jan. 3 Edina City Council meeting

Council hears Edinborough expansion possibilities

At a work session prior to its regular meeting, the Council met with the Park Board to hear consultants' recommendations for increasing revenues at Edinborough Park.

In 2011, the City hired ATS&R, Planners, Architects and Engineers, with consultant Ballard*King, a recreation consulting firm specializing in recreation and wellness center feasibility studies, to study opportunities to increase revenues to meet operational expenses at Edinborough Park.

Among the consultants' recommendations are to close the swimming pool, track and fitness area and repurpose those spaces with additional children's activities, birthday party locations and office space. New children's activities include a soft play area and "challenge," or ropes, course. In addition, the consultants recommended up to two-thirds of the park's plants be removed and the grotto filled in so that interactive technology play areas could be constructed there.

The Council and Park Board will meet later this winter to further discuss the proposal and other options.

Council approves neighborhood street projects

To update aging infrastructure, the Council approved two neighborhood street reconstruction projects.

As part of the Viking Hills neighborhood street reconstruction project, Arctic Way, Glacier Place, Gleason Court, Polar Circle, Vernon Court and Vernon Hills Road will be reconstructed and improvements made to the

water main, sanitary and storm sewer systems.

As part of the Valley Estates neighborhood street reconstruction project, Balder Lane, Creek Valley Road, Nordic Circle and Scandia Road will be reconstructed and improvements made to the water main, sanitary and storm sewer systems.

Each project is estimated to cost \$1.05 million, which includes City-owned utility repairs. Funding for the roadway cost will be from a special assessment of 100 percent of the roadway cost. All City-owned utility repairs will be paid from the respective utility funds.

Bids for the projects are expected to be awarded in March or April, with construction beginning later in the spring. Construction should be complete in the fall.

Council gives staff green light to make minor changes to site plans

The Council approved an ordinance amendment defining when changes may be made to approved site plans.

"Minor changes" had not been defined in the City Code, leaving the ordinance unclear. Over the past several months, the Planning Commission worked to draft an ordinance amendment patterned after the City of Bloomington's regulations that would allow staff to approve minor changes to a site plan one time. The Council approved the amendment, under which changes are considered minor if:

- There is no increase to the proposed number of dwelling units; and
- Any proposed increase in the floor area of the structures on

the site does not exceed 5 percent of the gross floor area; and

- All proposed revisions comply with City Code requirements; and
- There is no change to any condition required in a site plan approval, including building materials and color; and
- The property is not an Edina Heritage Landmark or in an Edina Heritage Landmark District.

All other plan modifications will be acted on, reviewed and processed by the Planning Commission and Council in the same manner as they reviewed and processed the site plan.

Council sets hearing to consider TIF expansion

Council members, acting as both the City Council and the Housing & Redevelopment Authority (HRA), called a public hearing for Feb. 6 to consider expanding a tax increment financing (TIF) district.

To help with projects in such commercial areas as 50th & France and Southdale Center, the Council previously directed staff to investigate the process necessary to expand the Centennial Lakes TIF District. A public hearing is necessary to amend the district in a manner that will expand the geographic size where the City can expend funds from the Centennial Lakes TIF District.

The Council will consider an expansion that extends from southeast Edina near Centennial Lakes to 44th Street and France Avenue, encompassing several regional and neighborhood commercial areas. After the hearing, the Council could choose a lesser area than proposed.