

Council Connection



Upcoming meetings:

- Human Rights & Relations, 7 p.m. Feb. 22
- Art Center Board, 4:30 p.m. Feb. 24
- City Council and Edina Board of Education, 5 p.m. Feb. 28
- City Council and Transportation Commission, 5 p.m. March 1

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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 Feb. 15 Edina City Council & HRA meeting

HRRC to co-host anti-bullying forum in April

The Human Rights & Relations Commission plans to tackle the issue of bullying in 2011.

At a work session prior to its regular meeting, the Council met with the Human Rights & Relations Commission, which shared its plans for the year. The Commission plans to launch an anti-bullying initiative.

In April, the Commission, along with Connecting With Kids, the Edina Community Foundation and Edina High School Gay-Straight Alliance, will host a screening of the film "Bullied" and a forum on the topic. It is hoped to be the first of several events dedicated to the topic in 2011.

Council approves block grant funding

The Council approved a 2011 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) budget for submission to Hennepin County.

The CDBG program is a U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development entitlement program that charges Hennepin County with overseeing the distribution of funds in its communities. The funds are to be directed toward improving housing opportunities and providing a suitable living environment for people with low and moderate incomes.

Edina's 2011 budget for planning purposes is \$173,786. The final budget will be announced in May, and might reflect a slight increase or decrease.

Fifteen percent of the funding may be used for public services. The Council approved allocations to Housing and Outdoor Maintenance for the Elderly (HOME) for \$17,789, Community Action Partnership for Suburban Hennepin (CAPSH) for \$5,624 and HOME Line for \$2,654.

The remaining funds must be directed toward community development projects. The Council agreed to distribute \$82,000 to the West Hennepin Affordable Housing Land Trust for its Homes Within Reach program, which provides an affordable homeownership opportunity using the Community Land trust model for one homebuyer.

Council OKs grant agreement for rehab of townhome complex

The Council authorized a grant that will be used for the rehabilitation of a local townhome complex.

The City, on behalf of CommonBond Communities, was awarded a \$250,000 Metropolitan Livable Communities Act Grant from the Metropolitan Council to rehabilitate and preserve Yorkdale Townhomes at 7401 York Ave.

The existing townhomes include 10 one-bedroom units, 56 two-bedroom units, 20 three-bedroom units and 4 four-bedroom units. All units are affordable to households earning 50 percent or less of area median income. As a result, the units are counted toward the City's affordable housing inventory.

The rehabilitation project will include exterior and interior improvements, including new windows, siding, lighting, closet doors, kitchen cabinets, appliances, countertops, floor coverings and bath surrounds.

Council makes appointments to advisory groups

The Council appointed a dozen residents to its advisory boards and commissions.

The following appointments were made:

- Dana Lappin, Art Center Board
- Jeff Johnson, Board of Appeals & Equalization
- Julie Mellum and Mary Ellen LaVelle, Community Health Committee
- David Anger, Jean Rehkamp Larsen and Robert Schwartzbauer, Heritage Preservation Board
- Steven Winnick, Human Rights & Relations Commission
- David Deeds and William Lough, Park Board
- Nathan Franzen and Ann Braden, Transportation Commission

Appointments to the Art Center Board, Board of Appeals & Equalization and Community Health Committee are one-year terms, expiring Feb. 1, 2012, as are the terms of Rehkamp Larsen, Schwartzbauer and Lough. The terms of Winnick and Franzen will expire Feb. 1, 2013. The terms of Deeds and Braden will expire Feb. 1, 2014.