

# Council Connection



## Upcoming meetings:

- Heritage Preservation Board, 7 p.m. March 8
- Park Board, 7 p.m. March 8
- Energy & Environment Commission, 7 p.m. March 10
- City Council and Planning Commission, 5 p.m. March 15
- Community Health Committee, 6:30 p.m. March 15

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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](http://www.CityofEdina.com).



## A summary of the March 1 Edina City Council & HRA meeting

**Council meets with Commission to discuss work**  
At a work session prior to its regular meeting, the Council met with the Transportation Commission to discuss the scope of the advisory body's work.

The Edina Transportation Commission Policy was developed several years ago as a supplement to the City of Edina's 1999 Transportation Plan. The purpose of the policy is to guide the Transportation Commission in the identification and evaluation of traffic and transportation issues in the community and the prioritization of projects and improvements to the transportation system. The Council asked staff and Commission members to review the Neighborhood Traffic Management Process to determine why it has been used so infrequently since the policy was adopted.

Also during the meeting, Commissioners suggested requests denied by the Traffic Safety Committee, a committee of staff members, go to the Commission for consideration of alternatives. Finally, the group suggested that a "complete streets" policy be developed.

### **Council approves Grandview plan process**

The Council approved a community-led small area plan process for the Grandview area.

In 2010, a Community Advisory Team (CAT) led a process to determine the future of the old Public Works site on Eden Avenue and the area surrounding it. The CAT met several times and developed seven guiding principles for the area, which were adopted by the Council in late 2010. At that time, the Council also agreed to embark on a small area planning process for

the area, retaining ownership of the City's Public Works property until after the study is complete. A Livable Communities Demonstration Account grant will defray the costs of the study.

Planning Commissioner and CAT Leader Kevin Staunton presented the proposed process, which was built around the following concepts:

- Organize first, engage consultants later.
- Strike the proper balance between deliberation and completion.
- Ensure participation and productivity.

Organizers suggested a year-long process, broken into four three-month stages. Organizing and framing the work plan would be completed before the end of June. Consultants would be retained and a development framework and implementation plan drafted between July and September. The public would be asked to react to the plan for refinement from October through December. The final plan would be drafted in early 2012.

### **Council agrees to additional downtown parking permits**

To keep premium parking spaces available for patrons, the City Council approved a recommendation to require all employees of Edina businesses at 50<sup>th</sup> & France to hold parking permits in order to park in the ramps.

Vehicles can park in the ramps for a maximum of five hours. However, employees working on the Edina side of the commercial area may purchase parking permits to park in designated areas for more than five hours. Approximately 200 employees buy parking permits from the City.

If part-time employees work less than five hours, they do not need to buy a parking pass or even park in areas intended for employee parking. Association staff members have observed employees parking in all sections of the ramps, not necessarily in the permit-only areas, taking premium spots away from patrons of the shops and restaurants in the area.

Association staff recommended that all employees of Edina businesses at 50<sup>th</sup> & France be required to purchase parking passes, regardless of full- or part-time employment status. They argued that it would allow the Police Department to more easily provide enforcement to those who violate the parking requirements in the three ramps.

The Council agreed to the parking permit rule change, but encouraged the Association to continue to look for commuter options and off-site parking locations for employees of area businesses.

2011 permits must be purchased before April 1 by those employees who park in the ramps.

### **Kostuch appointed to Commission**

The Council made an appointment to the Energy & Environment Commission.

A recent ordinance change eliminated a dual membership between the Planning and Energy & Environment commissions, thereby creating an opening. Kevin Kostuch was appointed to the Energy & Environment Commission for a term expiring Feb. 1, 2013.