

Council Connection



Upcoming meetings:

- Heritage Preservation Board, 7 p.m. May 10
- Park Board, 7 p.m. May 10
- Energy & Environment Commission, 7 p.m. May 12
- Community Health Committee, 6:30 p.m. May 17
- City Council and HRA, 7 p.m. May 17

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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.



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A summary of the May 3 Edina City Council & HRA meeting

Council receives request for financial assistance for Southdale Center

At a work session, Simon Property Group asked the City Council for financial assistance for a second phase of improvements at Southdale Center.

Southdale Center recently announced that Herberger's will move in to the former Mervyn's space this fall. Interiors demolition is under way. Tied to those plans is a relocation of the mall's third-floor food court to the second floor in the JC Penney wing. Also, a first-floor corridor from Center Court to JC Penney will be relocated from between Ann Taylor and Abercrombie & Fitch to between Ann Taylor and Victoria's Secret.

Simon Property Group has labeled Southdale Center one of its "transformational properties" and has estimated basic renovations of the mall to cost \$7.3 million. Officials recommend a more aggressive \$12.6 million renovation, so they are asking the City for the difference of \$5.3 million. The second phase of improvements would include a new main entrance to the mall, lighting, signs, improved restroom facilities, parking deck rehabilitation and a children's play area.

Members of the Council suggested Simon Property Group sell a parcel on the site to the City and use the money from the sale to invest in the shopping mall. The City might use the property for a water treat-

ment plant to serve the area or a transit hub.

Simon officials left the meeting after saying they would research the feasibility of a land sale. City Council members said they would continue to think about the value of a public investment in the private facility.

Police Chief reports on local coyote population

The Council directed the Police Chief to continue researching ways to manage coyotes in Edina.

Coyotes are known for roaming rural stretches. Some naturalists suspect the ranks of urban coyotes may be swelling as they migrate from the open spaces of the West and Southeast toward the Midwest. Coyote sightings are not new in Edina, but last month, a dog was attacked by one on Kelsey Court.

Experts say that in more heavily populated areas, coyotes are drawn to the ample rabbits, rodents and small house pets that are easier for them to hunt than catching fawns in the forest. Well-tended residential areas provide a good food source and cover.

The Edina Police Department is working with other area agencies and considering ways to manage the metro coyote population. Police Chief Jeff Long reported that he refers concerned residents to private wildlife management companies and does not recommend the Police Depart-

ment kill or trap the animals. Some Council members indicated that they would like to see the City take a more aggressive approach and asked Long to continue exploring management techniques and alternatives.

As always, residents are urged to take precautions in areas where coyotes have been seen. Food scraps and dog food should not be left outside. In areas where coyotes have been spotted, pets should be kept indoors.

Council certifies delinquent utilities, moves toward shutting off dry cleaners' water

The Council certified some delinquent utilities and directed staff to begin the process to shut off the water of a local business in arrears on water payments.

Three utility accounts for water, sanitary sewer, storm sewer and recycling with delinquent balances of more than \$2,000 were notified in April of the pending certification to Hennepin County for collection. The Waldorf-Nevens Cleaners account for the property at 7075 Amundson Ave., however, had a balance of nearly \$117,365.

The Council directed staff to certify the accounts to the County for collection and to begin the proceedings to shut off water at Waldorf-Nevens Cleaners, whose account has been certified to the County in the past.