

Council Connection



Upcoming meetings:

- City Council executive session, 5 p.m. Dec. 13
- Park Board, 7 p.m. Dec. 14
- Heritage Preservation Board, 7 p.m. Dec. 14
- City Council & HRA, 7 p.m. Dec. 21
- Art Center Board, 4:30 p.m. Dec. 23

City Contacts

City Manager
Scott Neal 952-826-0401

City Clerk
Debra Mangen 952-826-0408

Park & Recreation Director
John Keprios 952-826-0430

Finance Director
John Wallin 952-826-0410

Assistant to the City Manager
Ceil Smith 952-826-0402

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 Dec. 7 Edina City Council & HRA meeting

Creek-based trail route approved

The Edina City Council approved a route for the Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail.

The concept for the Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail was established over 10 years ago as part of a larger initiative to lay the foundation for development of multi-use regional trails in the first-ring suburbs. The regional trail is envisioned to provide a critical connection with the existing Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail in the cities of Hopkins and Minnetonka. It would run east-west through the City of Edina, extending into the City of Richfield, and providing a connection to the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge in the City of Bloomington and Grand Rounds Trail System at Lake Nokomis in the City of Minneapolis via the planned Inter-city Regional Trail.

Several alternative trail route segments are under consideration and include routes adjacent to roads and along the Nine Mile Creek corridor. The Park Board recommended Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail be developed with a creek-based route through Edina.

The Council heard several hours of testimony from residents, then voted unan-

imously to approve the creek-based route with some restrictions and conditions:

- The trail will keep to the south side of Walnut Ridge Park.
- Three Rivers Park District will work to explore reasonable ways to minimize the amount of boardwalks and the noise they generate.
- Three Rivers Park District will provide homeowners with homes with 25 feet of the trail edge the option to have buffers of fencing or vegetation where reasonable at Three Rivers' expense.
- A deadline will be established for the easements offered to Three Rivers Park District to complete the project within a reasonable time frame.

Council holds public hearing on 2011 budget and levy

No one testified at a public hearing on the City's 2011 operating budget and levy.

In September, the Council adopted a preliminary levy that would have increased the total of all City levies by 2.3 percent. Since then, the budget was modified to reflect a lesser 1.15 percent increase, though the Council could still opt to increase the total of all lev-

ies by 2.3 percent.

The Council will meet in an executive session Monday, Dec. 13, to discuss the challenges of implementing an arbitrator's Dec. 8 decision to give the patrol officers' bargaining unit a 3 percent base pay increase in 2010 and another 3 percent base pay increase in 2011.

The Council is expected to adopt a budget for 2011 at its Dec. 21 meeting.

Council approves 2011 fees and charges

The Council approved park and recreation, ambulance and Fire Department miscellaneous fees and charges.

Most park and recreation fees remain the same in 2011. Non-resident patron cards at Braemar Golf Course are decreasing \$20, to \$90 per card. Birthday party packages at Edinborough Park will increase \$5.

Ambulance fees will increase \$5 to \$15.

The Council granted first reading to an ordinance amending certain fees for 2011, reflecting slight increases in a few categories. The ordinance will be considered again at the Council's Dec. 21 meeting.