

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

DATE: FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 2013
TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: SCOTT H. NEAL, CITY MANAGER
RE: FRIDAY REPORT FOR MARCH 22, 2013

FRIDAY REPORT



- 1. Pentagon Park** – Staff recently hired WSB to update the Alternative Urban Areawide Review (AUA) for the Pentagon Park area on West 77th Street. The Original AUA was completed in 2008 when the area was contemplated for redevelopment. The approved AUA requires an update five years after completion. The majority of the funding for completing the update (75 percent) will be made by Hillcrest Development, which owns the majority of the land within the study area; the remaining 25 percent would be paid by the City of Edina. WSB was the author of the original AUA. The time-frame for completion is three to four months. City Council review of the AUA would be expected in July.
- 2. Employee News** – 9-1-1 Dispatchers have voted to change their union representation from Teamsters to the Minnesota Public Employees Association. We expect the union will contact us shortly to resume negotiations for 2013. The group's current contract expired Dec. 31, 2012.

Former 9-1-1 Dispatcher Audrey Hodge passed away last week after a brief illness and admission to the hospital. Audrey started as a dispatcher in Edina in 1998 and left in 2010. Audrey received statewide attention for her handling of the Fir-star Bank Robbery in which Officer Mike Blood was shot numerous times. She will be missed by her many friends here at Edina City Hall.

Finally, we are down to one finalist candidate for our Facilities Manager position and two finalists for the Transportation Planner position. Final decisions on both positions will be made soon.

- 3. Final do.town Steering Committee Meeting** – The final do.town Steering Committee meeting to celebrate the last two years of hard work, collaboration and accomplishments within Bloomington, Edina and Richfield will be held later this month. We'll debrief the Champion's Summit that occurred Saturday, March 16, and have some short videos to share. There will also be time for each city's leadership to informally share their vision for health their city in 5, 10 or 20 years (your choice!). The meeting will be 9 to 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 26, at Crave in the Galleria. Please RSVP to Susan Howl today if you wish to attend.
- 4. Braemar Golf** – Braemar is utilizing its new point of sale system to create a brand new customer loyalty program for the 2013 season. The program is called Braemar's Fore! Loyalty Club. Members receive "Braemar Bucks" for each paid round of golf. Members get a sticker or key fob that is scanned when they pay. The "Bucks" can be used for a round of golf when they reach the level equal to the price of a round. Members can also sign up for our Birthday Club for a free round of golf for a period near their birthday or "half" birthday.

- 5. Wooddale Bike Lanes** – Staff are pursuing the Council’s direction to implement the proposed change to the advisory bike lanes on Wooddale Avenue. The proposed change will include placing a centerline, adding a dedicated south bound bike lane from West 50th Street to 56th Street, and placing sharrows (“share the road”) marking on the remaining portion of the roadway. Staff understands this direction to be conditional on agreement from officials at the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) that the proposed change will not affect the status of the federal grant that funded the project. If this proposed change does not affect our federal grant, then the Council must decide if the proposed change will be funded with local funds or MSA (state-aid) funds. If we fund the change with MSA funds, we will need to seek a variance from the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) to enable the proposed change because the resulting lane widths will not meet MnDOT standards for this classification of road. If the proposed change is funded with local funds, then staff will go forward with the proposed change endorsed by the Council at the March 19 Council meeting as soon as pavement temperatures are warm enough to accept paint.
- 6. Police Department Training** – During the last week of March and first week of April, our officers will once again use an Edina school for our workplace and school violence training. This will be a “live” drill that will include role players. Each of our officers will complete this training in a realistic environment. Earlier this year, we completed a similar training session, in unison, with Southdale Security at the mall. Last week, officers practiced a “hostage rescue” scenario at the old Metropolitan Ford building in Eden Prairie and hope to use the Edina Realty Building at 50th & France after the City takes possession in June.
- 7. Living Streets Initiative** – Assistant City Manager Karen Kurt and Director of Engineering Wayne Houle met with the Transportation Commission’s Living Streets Committee to discuss progress to date and next steps for the project. The goal is to have a living streets policy draft ready for Council review this summer and a more detailed living streets implementation plan completed in early 2014.
- 8. Food Trucks** – I have not received any input from Council Members on the food truck issue since I raised the subject at the March 5 City Council meeting. Staff will not do additional work on this matter unless it becomes a priority for the Council.