

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

DATE: FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 2013
TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: SCOTT H. NEAL, CITY MANAGER
RE: FRIDAY REPORT FOR APRIL 19, 2013

FRIDAY REPORT



- 1. Residential Redevelopment** – As part of the Planning Commission’s ongoing study of the redevelopment of single-family homes within Edina, the Commission will consider a rough draft of a zoning ordinance amendment to address some of the issues at its April 24 meeting. The Commission will spend the rest of April and the first half of May crafting the ordinance with hopes of holding a public hearing and making a recommendation on a final ordinance to the City Council on May 22. The Council would then hold a public hearing and consider the ordinance on June 18.
- 2. Snow Removal** – It is another very busy snow removal day for Public Works Department crews. As it was last Friday, it is a very heavy, wet snow. Its weight and volume makes it hard to move. Plow drivers and mechanics are working well together and making good progress to get back to bare pavement as soon as possible.
- 3. Recodification Project** – City Clerk Deb Mangen and City Attorney Roger Knutson will have a legal conference with representatives of Municipal Code Corporation next week to review the recodification of the City Code in detail. This draft will reflect comments made by City staff late last year. After the legal conference, we should receive another proof in 60 days.
- 4. Braemar Arena** – The arena is gearing up for five weekends in a row of tournaments starting tonight, April 19. Braemar Arena’s non-prime time is mid-March to mid-September. In 2012, it sold 2,943 hours of non-prime ice time during that period. For 2013, it has sold 4,135 hours of non-prime ice time. That is an increase of 1,192 hours for a total ice rental, and a revenue increase of \$176,340. During the 2013 Youth Bantam AA and PeeWee AA State Tournament March 15-17, the Arena had thousands of fans cheering on their favorite youth in the stands. These fans spent \$12,000 on concession stand purchases over the three-day period. It was a very busy, yet very successful tournament for the Arena.
- 5. Neighborhood Street Reconstruction Projects** – Staff has scheduled meetings in the neighborhoods so residents can learn and talk about how the projects will directly affect their properties. All of the meetings are scheduled from 5 to 6 p.m. The Public Works multi-purpose conference room will be a backup location if we have inclement weather. The neighborhoods that are currently scheduled are Lake Edina, April 24; Braemar Hills B, April 29; and Normandale, May 6. The neighborhood meeting for the Mendelssohn A neighborhood will be scheduled once we know the construction timeline.
- 6. CTS Project Update** – The Communications & Technology Services Department is working to improve the cellular and handheld radio coverage in the Public Works & Park Maintenance facility. The installation of a new bi-directional amplifier and distributed antenna system, which will provide 98 percent of the building with cell and radio coverage, is under way. This project will improve the efficiency and availability of employees in this facility, many of whom are constantly on the go and rely on their mobiles for communication.

- 7. Board and Commission Vacancies** – The City has received three resignations from board members: Ross Davis, Heritage Preservation Board, term ending Feb. 1, 2016; Meg Newal, Human Rights & Relations Commission, term ending Feb. 1, 2015; and Nancy Ott-Pinckaers, Community Health Committee, term ending Feb. 1, 2015. In similar past situations, the Council made appointments from the most recent slate of applicants interviewed. If an appointment could not be made, then new applications were solicited and interviews held. City Clerk Deb Mangen will put the vacancies on the Council’s May 7 agenda for action. She will send Council Members a spreadsheet listing the applicants recently interviewed in February. If additional information is needed about the applicants beyond their names, please contact Deb directly.
- 8. Spring Load Restrictions** – Spring Load restrictions are in place. Public Works and CTS employees worked together to implement an online permit that can be received by those that need one. As you are aware, during the spring months, the City street system is at its most vulnerable and therefore trucks are limited to five tons per axle. They can receive a permit to go up to six tons per axle. We have issued 33 permits to date. Numerous requests to allow for 7 tons were received and we have been consistent in our message that we cannot allow that due to the potential damage that can occur on local streets. There has been one exception to that rule – for the house demolition of the hours on Green Farms Road that was destroyed by a fire last month.
- 9. SWLRT Public Open Houses** – Hennepin County and its partners are hosting open houses in April and May to engage the public in planning work around proposed light rail transit (LRT) stations for the Southwest LRT line. Station area plans are being prepared that will help communities and neighborhoods plan to take advantage of opportunities that are expected when the Southwest LRT line opens in 2018. For each of the 17 stations, initial concepts have been assembled that look at options for pedestrian, bike, bus and vehicular connections, as well as future land use and development opportunities. The intent is to create station areas that have a unique sense of place, while relating to the overall corridor. At each open house, participants will see initial station alternatives and can provide their reactions and comments to guide further planning efforts. Community members can also identify improvements to be made in the area surrounding the stations that would enhance existing businesses, support a full range of housing opportunities and encourage development. Each open house will have a brief overview about the Southwest LRT project followed by a presentation on the station area planning underway. The open houses are 5-7 p.m. Tuesday, April 23, at Hopkins Center for the Arts, 1111 Main Street, Hopkins (this open house will feature stations in both Hopkins and Minnetonka); 6-8 p.m. Thursday, May 2, at Bryn Mawr Elementary School (Auditorium), 252 Upton Ave. S., Minneapolis; and 5-7 p.m. Monday, May 13, at Eden Prairie City Hall, 8080 Mitchell Road, Eden Prairie.