

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

DATE: FRIDAY, NOV. 14, 2014
TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: SCOTT H. NEAL, CITY MANAGER
RE: FRIDAY REPORT FOR NOV. 14, 2014

FRIDAY REPORT



- 1. Credit Rating Confirmations** – Our ‘Aaa’ credit rating has been reconfirmed for the upcoming bond refinancing on Tuesday, Nov. 18.
- 2. Sidewalk Plan Meetings** – The meetings requested by the Council at its Nov. 3 meeting have been set. Because of the accelerated timeframe to collect and present this feedback to the Council at your Dec. 2 meeting, our flexibility to schedule the meetings was limited. The schedule is as follows: Northwest Edina, 6-8 p.m. Nov. 17 at the Senior Center; Southwest Edina, 6-8 p.m. Nov. 17 at the Public Works & Parks Maintenance Facility; Northeast Edina, 6-8 p.m. Nov. 19 at Edina City Hall; and Southeast Edina, 6-8 p.m. Nov. 19 at the Public Works & Parks Maintenance Facility.
- 3. Braemar Field** – The Braemar Field dome was inflated on Sunday, Nov. 9, slightly ahead of schedule due to the much-anticipated snow storm. Asphalt and concrete were scheduled to be poured this week. Unfortunately, snow and cold temperatures will prevent this work from being completed this fall. Insulation, lights and emergency exit signs are being installed in the dome this week.
- 4. Redevelopment Proposals** – The Planning Commission reviewed two redevelopment proposals at its Nov. 12 meeting. The first was the final development review and rezoning for Aurora Investments, LLC to build a 195-unit, five-story senior housing and care center at 6500 France Ave. The building will include a skyway connection to the Fairview Hospital parking ramp. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the project. The second project was a preliminary development review of a proposal to build a 160-unit, five-story apartment building with 20,000 square feet of retail space at 7200 France Ave. The project requires Comprehensive Plan amendments for height, density, and floor area ratio. The Planning Commission recommended denial of the project. Members believe the project proposes too much building on the site, and is too much of a departure from the Comprehensive Plan. The Commission further recommended that a small area plan be done for the area west of France that is guided “Office/Residential” in the Comprehensive Plan. The City Council will consider both of these projects at its Dec. 2 meeting.
- 5. Comprehensive Plan Updates** – The Metropolitan Council has approved two recent Comprehensive Plan amendments approved the City Council. The amendments allow senior housing and affordable housing in the city’s Regional Medical District. This is the area generally south of Crosstown and 65th Street, east of Valley View Road, west of York Avenue and north of 66th Street. The amendments accommodate the senior housing project at 6500 France Ave. and the Beacon project at 3330 W. 66th St.

- 6. Employee Update** – Sandra Arciniega started her job here on Monday, Nov. 10, as the Assessing Specialist for the Assessing Division. Sandra most recently worked for St. Paul Public Housing Agency as a Section 8 Occupancy Technician. She is a graduate of the University of Minnesota with a bachelor’s degree in Housing Studies with a concentration in Community Development and Policy.
- 7. Bridge Inspections** – Inspections of the structure integrity of our bridges are required on a regular basis. Our bridge consultant completed inspections of eight bridges that were required this year. All eight are structurally sound. There were some general maintenance recommendations such as caulking joints and removing graffiti for staff to consider in 2015.
- 8. 50th & France Update** – All new dynamic wayfinding signs at 50th & France are now operational. The owners of Hooten Cleaners have resolved the outstanding issues with their title, which means the City is anticipated to purchase the property by Nov. 30.
- 9. Pamela Park Project** – The snow and unseasonably cold temperatures stopped construction at Pamela Park for the year. The artificial turf field will be completed next spring. It will take approximately one week to finish this field. The sand peat field will be completed and seeded in early spring, weather permitting. Trails, parking lots and entrance drives will be completed in the spring. The shelter building will be demolished and a new one constructed by the end of July 2015.
- 10. GIS Update** – This week staff received a presentation by Geographic Technology Group on the GIS inventory and story map developed for the park system. This information will provide a tremendous amount of data for staff, but will also provide valuable information to our residents about the park system. The information will be available on our website by the end of the year and will also be used in the park strategic planning process.
- 11. Great Places Awards** – Centennial Lakes is one of 15 nominees for the second-annual Great Places Award sponsored by the Sensible Land Use Coalition. The award ceremony is Wednesday, Dec. 10 from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Hopkins Center for the Arts. If you are interested in attending the event, please RSVP through Heather Branigin.